

The Charlotte JEWISH news

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May 2012

An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Jewish Federation Annual Meeting Guest Speaker, Jerry Silverman, President and CEO of JFNA

The Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte will take place on Monday, May 14 at 7 PM in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts at Shalom Park. Please join us to honor Outgoing President,

Sam Bernstein and welcome Incoming President, Alan Kronovet.

During the Annual Meeting, the 2012-2013 slate of officers and Board of Trustees will be presented, and an election will be held.



Jerry Silverman

Anyone contributing at least \$36 to the Annual Campaign is considered a voting member.

Special guest speaker will be Jerry Silverman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). Silverman is a longtime leader in the North American Jewish community and a former corporate executive with more than 25 years of experience at companies including Levis and Stride Rite.

He joined JFNA in September 2009, after serving as president of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, the only non-profit national organization dedicated to raising awareness and support of non-profit Jewish resident camps, where he oversaw a major expansion. The Jewish Federations of North America represents 157 Jewish federations and 400 Network communities, which raise and distribute more than \$3 billion annually for social welfare, social services, and educational needs for Jews in the United States, in Israel, and around the world. Silverman will speak about "Possibilities and Opportunities of Our Jewish Community in the Next Decade."

We look forward to seeing you on May 14th. For more information, please call the Federation office at 704-944-6757. ☆



Outgoing president
Sam Bernstein



Incoming president
Alan Kronovet

It's Not Just Tay-Sachs

There are now tests for more than 25 diseases of concern to people of Jewish heritage. The Jewish Genetic Disease Consortium (JGDC), a New York based organization, urges couples with one grandparent of Jewish heritage to be screened prior to beginning a family. The JGDC consists of geneticists, physicians, rabbis and families who have been affected by one of the genetic disease. It was created in 2005 and gives one voice to many that share the common goal of increasing awareness and carrier screening for genetic diseases found more frequently in the Jewish population.

For decades, it has been common for Jews to be tested for Tay-Sachs, a degenerative disease that is usually fatal by the age of four. However, many other disorders that are found in the Jewish community are less known, but just as devastating.

There are different genetic concerns for people of Ashkenazi Jewish background (Germany or Eastern Europe), and persons of

Sephardic or Mizrahi Jewish background (Mediterranean, Iran/Persia, or Middle East). There are currently 19 diseases for which Ashkenazi Jews can be screened. Screening for Sephardic or Mizrahi Jews is dependent on country of origin and requires consultation with a genetic counselor. These diseases are autosomal recessive, which means that both parents must be carriers of the same disease to have an affected child. If they are both carriers, each pregnancy has a 25% chance that their child will be affected with that disease. Carrier status can be passed down through many generations without anyone being aware.

The JGDC recommends screening prior to conception as this affords the couple many more options. Genetic screening panels are now affordable and often covered by insurance. These diseases can now be prevented through preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD).

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SLATE OF OFFICERS & TRUSTEES AS NOMINATED BY THE BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

NOMINATED AS OFFICERS FOR 2012-2013

President	Alan Kronovet
Vice-President	Holly Levinson
Vice-President	Stacy Gorelick
Vice-President	Lisa Blau
Treasurer	Brad Winer
Secretary	Larry Schwartz
Past President	Sam Bernstein

BOARD MEMBERS — TERM ENDING 2013

Amy Augustine	Elise Kosofsky*
Rich Osborne	Jason Spiegler*

BOARD MEMBERS — TERM ENDING 2014

Steve Cohen	Jill Dinerman*
Alec Natt*	Stacey Slomka

*Nominees

BOARD MEMBERS — TERM ENDING 2015

Tracy Brown*	Nancy Kipnis*
Brad Rabinowitz*	Mark Weintraub*

CONSTITUENT AGENCY DESIGNEES: George Cronson, Jonathan Howard & Harry Sparks
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES: Harry Lerner & David S. Miller

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Todd Gorelick, Chair
Jeffrey Bierer, David Epstein, Mark Lerner, Scott Menaker, Wendy Petricoff & Stacey Slomka

Program Schedule May 17:

8-9 AM Grand Rounds CMC Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. "Jewish Genetic Diseases: A Changing Paradigm," open to the entire Charlotte medical community, Speaker Rebecca S. Usadi, MD CMC Center for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

10:30-11:30 AM - Couples Aware Clergy Training Program, LJCC Boardroom. Kosher coffee and pastries.

7-8:30 PM - Community Talk "It's Not Just Tay-Sachs: What You Need to Know about Jewish Genetics" - LJCC Gorelick Hall. Panel discussion with physicians, genetics counselor, and medical geneticist. Moderated by Shari Ungerleider, Program coordinator, JGDC. Open to public. Kosher dessert and coffee served.

This program is presented with the assistance and support of the Levine Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Services, the Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah, CMC Women's Institute, and the Jewish Genetic Disease Consortium.

Special features in this issue ...

Celebrate Rabbi Murray Ezring's 18 years at Temple Israel, see page 21.

Op-Ed Page: The Vote on Amendment One, see page 27.

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