

More Than 400 Attend Spring Lecture with Judith Viorst

The 14th Annual Spring Lecture "From Single to Seventy" sponsored by the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte was held on Thursday, March 22 and featured prolific author Judith Viorst.

The event was co-chaired by Jill Halverstam and Aviva Stein who led a very talented and dedicated team of volunteers which included Amy Augustine, Tracy Brown, Talli Dippold, Randi Lan, Beverly Perkins, Debbie Porter, Jenny Rosenthal, Stacey Schanzlin, and Stephanie Townsend. The committee not only worked on the overall planning of the event, but also on securing sponsorships to underwrite the cost of the event.

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Jill Halverstam welcomed over 280 women who attended a dinner in the David Silverman Social Hall at Temple Beth El. The room was beautifully decorated by Creative Events with blue, lavender and white wooden flowers, and the delicious dinner was catered by Melanie Rowe Catering. Lowes Foods generously donated all wine for the event. The audience was filled with women of all ages and in all stages of their lives. Many thanks go to the 36 table captains for all of their efforts in filling the room.

After dinner, guests moved into the Blumenthal Sanctuary where they were joined by an additional 70 women attending the "lecture and dessert only" portion of the evening. Goody bags filled with promotional items provided by each of our event sponsors awaited each guest at her seat. Belk SouthPark, a sponsor of the Federation's Women's Professional Network, also generously donated items for our goody bags.

Aviva Stein and Jill Halverstam introduced the evening which took the guests on a journey through the different stages of women's lives. Six women from "Single to Seventy" touched everyone's hearts as they told personal stories of connection to the Jewish Federation. Many thanks go to our wonderful speakers Nancy Lyons, Randi Lan, Lisa Blau, Cindy McManus, Jenny Rosenthal, and Judy Morganstein.

Judith Viorst, a beautiful woman in her 80's, explored the journey women take from kid to grown-up, from innocent to experienced, from young to not-so-young to I'm-too-young-to-be-seventy. By combining serious thought-provoking points, humorous anecdotes and poems, she demonstrated how laughter helps us cope through the different stages of our lives. At the conclusion of her speech, Mrs. Viorst received a rare standing ovation from our audience.

The evening concluded with a dessert reception in the Archer

Atrium featuring a wonderful display of delicious dessert "shots," and a book signing in Don and Bobbi Bernstein Recognition Hall. There Mrs. Viorst signed copies of her books *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* and *When Did I Stop Being Twenty and Other Injustices*.

If you would like to get involved or share ideas for the 15th Annual Spring Lecture, please contact Sue Littauer, Development Director at the Jewish Federation, by calling her at 704-944-6758 or emailing sue.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org.

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is to raise and distribute funds to support and enrich the lives of Jews locally, nationally, in Israel and worldwide. Through education, planning and community building, the Federation's mission ensures that Jewish values, goals, traditions and connections are preserved for current and future generations. ✧



Event co-chairs Aviva Stein and Jill Halberstam with guest speaker, Judith Viorst, center.



Marcie Jacobs, Debbie Agisim, and Barrie Morganstein.



Sara Citron, Anita Shapiro, Wendy Pake, and Stacey Schlesinger.



Stacey Schanzlin and Amy Augustine



Andrea Davids, Juliana Graham, Risa Mucatel, Keri Cheifetz, Randi Lan, and Jessica Abrams

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