

Levine JCC's Distinctive Member Event at The Foundation for the Carolinas

The venue for this year's Distinctive Member Event on Tuesday, April 24, was The Foundation for the Carolinas. This beautiful and unique setting was the perfect backdrop to express our gratitude to our philanthropic members for their generosity and commitment to the Levine JCC.

The evening began with hors d'oeuvres along with selected wines provided by Porcupine Provisions. Our guests were able to mingle, getting to know long standing, new and prospective members of this special program. The event was greatly enhanced

by the magnificent art on display throughout the Lusk-Gorelick Center for Philanthropy. These extensive collections are made possible by families including the Luskis, the Gorelicks, the Skluts and of course, Sandra and Leon Levine, among other prominent representatives of the Charlotte business community.

The Levine JCC Distinctive Member Program is one that allows our members to help provide scholarships for the many families that could not otherwise



Judy August and Philip Berman

afford to be a part of our JCC family. There are various levels of the program, each contribution touching a family and truly making a difference in their lives. Alison Lerner, Chairperson, spoke fondly of all that the "J" has meant to her since she was a child growing up on Charlotte, participating in various programs here and even meet-

ing her husband Mark on the StairMaster 19 years ago. Alison remains an active leader in our community and encouraged us all to remember how important it is for us to provide for those around us in need.

David Van Glish, President of the Levine JCC Board of Directors, introduced Issac Luski, whose generosity and vision along with his wife Sonia, as well as Patty and Bill Gorelick, have made possible the new Lusk-Gorelick Center for Philanthropy which opened last year. David indicated that he hoped that the passion and commitment that was clearly evident by their wonderful example will inspire us all to continue to make Tzedakah a part of each of our lives - ensuring the building of a strong community for future generations.

If you would like more information about The Levine Jewish Community



Alison Lerner, Mark Lerner, Russell Hughes (in background profile), David Van Glish, Michael Baumstein

Center Distinctive Member Circle, please contact Karen Maniloff at 704-944-6801 or karen.maniloff@charlottejcc.org.★



Honor • Celebrate • Embrace

Save the Date

Annual Memorial Service

Sunday, Sept. 23, 10:30am



Steven Cohen, Isaac Luski, Moses Luski, David Cohen



Kim Wojnowich



Hebrew Cemetery
of Greater Charlotte

Sandra Goldman, Director
704.576.1859
hebrewcemetery.org
5007 Providence Road • Suite 105
Charlotte NC 28226

Baha'i Woman Finds Freedom in U.S.

By Karen Brodsky

It was 1979. The Iranian monarchy of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi had been overthrown and the shah and his family exiled. It was replaced with an Islamic republic under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the leader of the revolution. Women lost the

social gains they made under the Shah, and were forced to wear head coverings and full-body cloaks called chadors. Non-Muslims still suffer under the new regime.

Felora Sadkhoravi was born into a Baha'i family in Karaj, a suburb of Tehran in 1971. The revolution forced her family to leave their home and move to another city. "The environment was harsh for my parents and my siblings at work and at school just because of our Baha'i faith," she said. "Women's rights were very limited, and Baha'is were not allowed to go to university."

Even at a young age, Felora knew something had changed, and she wanted to do something about it — or leave her country.

After selling her car to obtain cash for two train tickets, Felora and her teenage son embarked on the long trip to Turkey. They rented an apartment in a small suburb of Ankara for 13 months; Felora took in sewing to support them. She applied for refugee status; they appeared for all their interviews and medical appointments and, "joyously," she said, they were approved. In 2007, they are resettled in Charlotte by HIAS/NC, now Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency (CRRRA).

"From then on, it seemed I got exactly what I needed from the agency — especially because I am a single mom," said Felora. She and her son lived in an apartment rented and furnished by HIAS/CRRRA. In the apartment complex she met people from all walks of life — many refugees from different countries. She was surprised and happy that everyone got along so well, while in Iran, people lived in fear and did not get



Felora Sadkhoravi

along because of government sanctioned discrimination.

Iran remains a repressive regime built around an anti-Western ideology.

Jews, Christians, and other religious minorities escaping religious persecution in Iran come to the U.S. They do so with the assistance of the Lautenberg Amendment, which was originally enacted as part of the 1990 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. The bill established presumption of eligibility for refugee status for certain persecuted minorities from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) and Southeast Asia seeking to resettle in the U.S. Today, the Lautenberg Amendment facilitates the resettlement of Jews, Christians, Baha'is, and other religious minorities fleeing Iran. They were added to the Lautenberg Amendment in 2004. Lautenberg continues to assist religious minorities from the FSU. The Amendment was extended in late 2011, but is set to expire on October 1, 2012 and must be renewed again.

Among the worst human rights violations is the way women are treated in Iran.

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