

Tracy Brown Receives Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award at International Lion of Judah Conference

Eight Lions of Judah traveled to New York City September 10-12 to attend the International Lion of Judah Conference. The conference, which drew 1700 of the world's leading Jewish

women philanthropists, was held at the Marriott Marquis Times Square.

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Lions of Judah and welcoming some of the world's most influential leaders and philanthropists as speakers, the International Lion of Judah Conference brought together Lion of Judah women worldwide involved in the highest echelons of leadership and philanthropy in their own Jewish communities. The Lions of Judah are a diverse group of women philanthropists giving \$5,000 or more in their own names to their local Federations.

This year's conference featured Norma Kipnis-Wilson, co-founder of the Lions of Judah, who took part in an awards presentation honoring winners of the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award. The award is named after Kipnis-Wilson and Lion co-founder Toby Friedland, z"l – and recognizes extraordinary women who have set a high standard for philanthropy and volunteerism.

The Jewish Federation of

Greater Charlotte is proud to name Tracy Brown as Charlotte's winner of the 2012 Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award. She follows in the footsteps of three dynamic leaders who were our previous honorees – Bobbi Bernstein, Jill Newman, and Stacy Gorelick.

Tracy Brown is an inspiration to others. She believes in empowering women who have the ability to make a difference and encourages them to step outside their comfort zone to become philanthropic leaders. She is a woman who found her niche in volunteerism and making the world a better place.

After graduating from Brown University in 1986 and Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1991, Tracy worked as a labor/employment lawyer in New York City before moving to Charlotte, NC in 1994. She and her husband Larry have three children – 19 year old Sammy, 17 year old Annie, and 14 year old Katie.

In 2000, Tracy became a Ruby Lion and an advocate for women's philanthropy. In 2008, she saw the need to bring young women into the Lions' Den. As co-chair of the Lion of Judah 2008 Campaign, she brought in 11 new Lions during her first year, and increased the number of Lions by 33% during her three years as co-chair. During that time, Tracy hosted intimate parlor meetings in her home encouraging other young women with capacity to step up their philanthropic giving at the Lion of Judah Level. "You don't have to be a certain age to become a Lion," Tracy emphasized. Today, as Major Gifts chair, Tracy continues to lead by example, and is an extraordinary role model for her family and her community.

The motivation for many of her volunteer projects stems from her love of children, her love of learning, and her desire to instill a love of Judaism for current and future generations. Inspired by the 2010 International Lion of Judah Conference "Day of Service," Tracy set out to provide a deeper meaning for our Lions through social action. Tracy has a leadership role in the newly implemented Shalom Park Freedom School, the first Jewish sponsored Freedom School in the country. Tracy served first as Harambee Chair engaging Lions and community leaders as greeters and readers, and spearheading the effort to provide swim bags and backpacks full of supplies for each of the 50 underprivileged children enrolled. Tracy co-chairs the Freedom School's first ever Teen Board, which is a model



Tracy Brown

for communities throughout the country. She also volunteers weekly as a language arts tutor at one of the elementary schools served by the Freedom School program.

When her children were at the Charlotte Jewish Day School, Tracy served on the board and ran the annual fund. Motivated by her love of learning and her children's enthusiasm for their Jewish studies, Tracy proudly became an adult bat mitzvah ten years ago. She also worked side by side with her daughters assisting them with their b'not mitzvah projects - knitting blankets for the Levine Children's Hospital; and raising funds for Soccer for Peace in Israel.

A board member of the Jewish Book Council, an organization that promotes reading, writing, publishing, and distribution of quality Jewish content books, Tracy chairs the Children's Illustrated Book Committee. This spring, Tracy combined her love of Jewish books with her mission to add a deeper meaning to the Lion of Judah pin, by bringing new author Wayne Hoffman to Charlotte for Charlotte's first Lion of Judah Appreciation Event.

Tracy's leadership, past and present, extends to the boards and committees of other community agencies such as the Jewish Federation, the Jewish Preschool on Sardis, Temple Beth El, and Temple Israel. A graduate of the Bernstein Leadership Group, the first chair of the Jewish Federation's Main Event, and a three year chair of the Spring Lecture, Tracy's volunteer efforts have enhanced the entire Jewish community.



From Left to Right, Tracy Brown, Stacy Gorelick, Alison Lerner, Gail Baron, Sue Worrel, Dana Ditesheim, Amy Augustine and Nancy Kipnis

Joining Tracy Brown in New York City were co-lions Amy Augustine, Gail Baron, Dana Ditesheim, Stacy Gorelick, Nancy Kipnis, Alison Lerner, and Sue Worrel. ☆

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SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2012
7:30 PM, TEMPLE ISRAEL

The Main Event of the
2013 Annual Campaign

"AN EVENING WITH A.J. JACOBS"

A.J. Jacobs is the editor at large at Esquire magazine and author of three New York Times bestsellers: *My Life as an Experiment*, *The Year of Living Biblically* and *Drop Dead Healthy*. His mind, body and spirit trilogy will be the central theme for this year's Main Event. According to other communities who have hosted him, A.J. Jacobs is witty, charming, hip and just basically fabulous.

For more information, please contact the Federation office at 704-944-6757.

Event Co-Chairs:
Wendy and Adam Petricoff

