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Rabbi Sherre Hirsch Featured Speaker at Federation's 15th Annual Spring Lecture

The 15th Annual Women's Spring Lecture, presented by the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, will take place Thursday, March 14, at Temple Beth El. The guest speaker is Rabbi Sherre Hirsch, well known as the "relationship rabbi" and author of *We Plan, God Laughs: What to Do When Life Hits You Over the Head*.

The Spring Lecture is the Women's Division largest campaign and outreach event. "We are so excited about the Spring Lecture because it's always a great evening," said co-chairs Randi Lan and Stacey Schanzlin. "This year there are some wonderful surprises in store for our guests." Serving on the Spring Lecture Committee with Randi and Stacey are Talli Dippold, Sara Kulbersh, Mallory Miller, Elaine Moody, Debbie Porter, Jenny Rosenthal, and Stephanie Townsend.

The Federation appreciates the generous support of the Spring Lecture corporate sponsors: Ditesheim Cosmetic Surgery,

Melanie Rowe Catering, and North Carolina Bank and Trust. Additional sponsors are Erica Coblenz and Gabi Gorelick, Creative Events, Jill Halverstam and Randi Lan, Mallory and Kevin Miller, REACH, and Dr. Aviva Stein, Charlotte OB/GYN.

Born in Dayton, Ohio and raised in Southern California, Rabbi Sherre Hirsch was a high school cheerleader and an accomplished college tennis player headed to medical school when, driven by a desire to deepen her understanding of her faith, she began studying at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

After a detour through Asia, where she studied eastern philosophy, Rabbi Hirsch was ordained in 1998. She spent the next eight years as the first woman rabbi at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, the largest Conservative synagogue in the western U.S. It was during her tenure at Temple Sinai that Rabbi Hirsch first stepped out from behind the formal podium to move among the congregation, building

a more personal relationship with her audience.

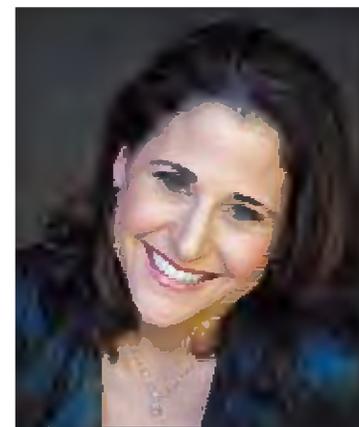
Since 2006 she has been sharing her intimate and friendly story with people in all kinds of "pulpits," from "The Today Show" to a small Baptist church in Alabama. She has served as a regular guest on "Naomi's New Morning," "The Tyra Banks Show," and PBS' "Thirty Good Minutes." Widely known as the "relationship rabbi," she is the go-to person for outlets as diverse as ABC News, Joan Hamburg, and Telepictures Productions. Rabbi Hirsch also serves as the spiritual life consultant and lecturer for the Canyon Ranch Companies in Arizona and Massachusetts.

Her first book, *We Plan, God Laughs: What to Do When Life Hits You Over the Head* was published in April 2008. The book reflects a theme in Hirsch's own life and she expertly guides readers through a spiritual and introspective journey toward reaching their divine potential. Her second book will be published by Random House in the Spring of 2013.

The evening will begin with dinner at 6:15 PM in the David

Silverman Social Hall at Temple Beth El and the lecture will take place at 8 PM in the Blumenthal Sanctuary. A dessert reception and book signing will follow the program.

Spring Lecture tickets are \$40 for the dinner and lecture, or \$18 for the lecture and dessert only. A minimum pledge of \$50 from each woman attending the Spring Lecture will assist us in our efforts to raise \$3,300,000 for our 2013 Annual Campaign. The money raised by the Federation Annual Campaign enables the Jewish Federation to make a difference everyday in the lives of millions of people in Charlotte, in Israel, and in seventy countries around the world. The campaign dollars provide financial support for programs that feed the hungry, care for the elderly, educate the young, provide assistance for the troubled, and intervene on behalf of families in distress who are unable to meet their basic needs.



Rabbi Sherre Hirsch

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit the Federation website at www.jewishcharlotte.org or call 704-944-6757. ☆



Melanie Rowe Catering

The Charlotte Jewish Film Festival begins March 2 and runs through March 17. For the full schedule of films, dates, times, and ticket prices, see page 16.



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