

## Levine JCC 2014 Annual Meeting

The 28th Annual Meeting of the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center was held October 7. The event was chaired by Jon Simon, Vice President, and celebrated the dedication of lay leadership, volunteers, and staff to the Levine JCC. Roni Fishkin gave an inspiring D'Var Torah to over 130 guests and staff members, reminding them of all the things that bring the community together at the "J." Roni emphasized to us all of the extraordinary vision of Shalom Park founders, as she took us back in time to the inception of the LJCC, sharing tales of humble beginnings. These visionaries followed the simple rule - "if you build it they will come" and come they did. Roni also reminded us that the LJCC has anticipated and met the needs of the Charlotte Jewish community in subsequent years and we need to continue this legacy of outreach and good stewardship so that the Levine Jewish Community Center will continue to attract Jews to Shalom Park for generations to come.



Phil Berman, LJCC CEO with the retiring Board of Directors: Mark Lerner, Judy August, and David VanGlish

with and often goes above and beyond these 12 hours, providing transportation and support during off-hours.

Judy August, Past President and long-time Board member, received the coveted President and Executive Director's Award for being an integral leader of the Levine Jewish Community Center since 1994. Barbara Zeigler was

given the privilege of speaking about Judy and spoke of her many accomplishments to our community and the Levine JCC in particular. Many were unaware that Judy, along with Linda Goldsmith, was the founder of Jammin at the J, which has attracted over 54,000 middle school children throughout the years. Notably, Judy was key in getting our Butterfly Project "off the ground," leading a fund-raising program that raised over \$320,000 for the building of the Margaret and Louis Schwartz Garden and creating educational workshops for Holocaust education.

Phil Berman, CEO, spoke of the value, importance and commitment of the staff in every facet of the Levine Jewish Community Center. He expressed his appreciation to all staff members for their skill and dedication. He and Karen Maniloff, Associate Executive Director, recognized the following staff milestones and achievements:

**Five Year Anniversary** - Lyn Addy and Elsa Safir

**Program Awards** - Bob Alensworth (Tennis), Cathy Bennett (Fitness), and Susan Gundersheim (Fine Arts)

**Outstanding Employee 2014** - Patty Torcellini (Miss Patty)

In closing, Jon Simon thanked everyone for their continued support of the LJCC and for their participation in the evening's festivities. ✨

ments that, although loyalty to the Jewish community might motivate Jews to join a JCC, it is the staff as well as a beautiful and well-maintained facility that inspires them to actually come. As examples, Elise spoke of the Aquatics Complex as destination place for young Jewish families to connect along with ensuring that we maintain our "home away from home" to the highest of standards. Our "TOGETHER WE CAN" capital campaign will allow the LJCC to continue to serve our Jewish community in the enhancement and enrichment of their lives.

Program Service Awards were then presented to Alan Goldberg, Mindy Kirshbaum, Judy Marco, Len Marco, Bill Schwartz, and Lori Semel for their outstanding volunteer efforts on behalf of the Butterfly Project. Benjamin Schwartz, Jeff Turk, and Rick Willenzik were given Program Service Awards for their volunteer leadership of the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival. Camp Soar volunteer Mike Lieberman was honored for his dedicated work, as was "the JCC's official photographer," Peter Safir.

Senior and Adult Director Jodie Iagnocco presented the Volunteer of the Year to Andrea McCleary.



Volunteer of the Year; from left to right - Phil Berman, Andy McCleary, and Jodie Iagnocco

Outgoing Board Directors, Judy August, Justin Lan, Mark Lerner, Elaine Moody, and Chantal Rubin were honored for their service to the LJCC. Each was presented with a beautiful ceramic mezuzah created by Gwen Orland.

The 2014-2015 Nominating Committee members, George Cronson, Jill Dinerman, Stacy Gorelick, Scott Menaker, Staci Mond, and Mark Perlin were thanked for their diligence and success in selecting a strong slate of candidates for the Board of Trustees. The proposed slate of Officers and Directors presented to and unanimously approved by the general membership were Officers Elise Kosofsky (President), Michael Baumstein (VP), Glenda Bernhardt (VP), David Cohen (VP), George Cronson (Treasurer), Jon Simon (VP), David Van Glish (Past President), and Directors John Box, Jonathan Brackis, Jeremy Davids, Stuart Goldstein, Scott Gorelick\*, Julia Greenfield\*, Annie Lord\*, Raizel Kahn, Penny Lipsitz\*, Staci Mond, Mark Perlin, Andrew Rosen\*, Larry Schwartz, Rebecca Stern\*, Jeff Turk\*, and Robert Valenstein (\*New Directors).

Elise Kosofsky, President, spoke of the Levine Jewish Community Center as the Jewish connection for every Jewish family in Charlotte. She shared her senti-



New Board of Directors; from left to right - Jeff Turk, Andrew Rosen, Rebecca Stern, Penny Lipsitz, Annie Lord, Scott Gorelick, and David VanGlish

Andrea grew up in Charlotte and returned to her home city three years ago. She has been volunteering to work with our seniors ever since, averaging 12 hours of service each week. Andrea is deeply invested with the well-being of the seniors she works

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Scott is a long time community volunteer, leader, and sponsor in the Jewish community since 1985. Both he and Tricia, along with their dental team, volunteer their time and expertise to make a positive impact in our community.

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