

The Charlotte JEWISH news

An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

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We Answer the Needs of the Jewish World

Through our Annual Campaign, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte joins with 153 Federations across North America to answer the needs of the Jewish world.

When a child needs a Jewish education, a subsidy to participate in a Jewish experience like Jewish summer camp or a BBYO leadership conference, Federation is there. When a family loses its income or an entire community is devastated by a disaster, Federation is there. It's a pledge we live by.

We are there to help a distressed family regain its footing; to rescue and rebuild after a catastrophe. We make sure a Holocaust survivor isn't deserted, and that no one who is disabled is without assistance. Federation holds out a

safety net. And we'll never let it fall.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte has been supporting, sustaining and revitalizing Jewish life for 75 years. Today our work is far from finished – and we need your support to meet our 2015 Campaign Goal of \$3,700,000 ... much needed dollars to help us meet the needs of our entire Jewish community.

Your contribution enables us to use your gift wherever it's needed most. 70% of our Annual Campaign is allocated to nearly 50 local agencies and programs in Charlotte; while 30% of the campaign is allocated to our partner agencies in Israel, and in 70 countries around the world.

Help us answer the needs of the Jewish world by making your

pledge to Federation today.

We pledge to answer the needs but we can only do that with your help. If you have already pledged to the 2015 Annual Campaign, we

thank you. If not, please consider a meaningful pledge today. For a complete list of our 2015 allocations, or to donate online, please visit www.jewishcharlotte.org. All

pledges are payable and due by December 31, 2015.

Thank you for making a difference! ☆

Members of the 2015 Campaign team are hard at work taking "Selfies" with Federation donors during face-to-face solicitations.

Want to have your selfie featured in the Charlotte Jewish News?

Contact Sue Littauer, Director of Development, at the Jewish Federation, 704-944-6758 or sue.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org



Julia Greenfield and Elise Kosofsky take a selfie.



Selfie by Shari Abrams and Jill Blumenthal



David Van Glish and Joe Zucker show how selfies are done.

Shalom Park Environmental Initiative Begins

By Amy Krakovitz

Walk around anywhere in Shalom Park and you will witness the usage of energy. Electric lights shining, water fountains bubbling, computers whirring, music playing, and more. With a property the size of this park, you can bet the "carbon footprint" is enormous. And it is well known that reducing this "footprint" would be advantageous, both in the practical sense, as it would reduce energy costs, and in the spiritual sense, as it would be part of tikkun olam.

Adam Levy of Temple Beth El sees this, too. As a former business associate of Jay Faison, he was asked to serve on the advisory board of Faison's non-profit organization, ClearPath. His "compensation" for serving on the board is the opportunity to grant \$50,000 to any climate related cause he wants.

"I really wanted to create a local experiment to see a grass roots effort," Levy explains. "So I offered the grant to the Foundation of Shalom Park to bring awareness on a local level."

It's no surprise that a project of this size requires a huge effort on the part of the organizations in Shalom Park. There is a Steering Committee to oversee all the aspects of the project, chaired by Bette Andrews of Temple Beth El. There are three subcommittees tasked with the following:



Carbon Footprint Reduction Committee, left to right: Lisa Shpritz, George Cronson, Bette Andrews, Ken Katz, and Kevin Levine

1) **Carbon Footprint Reduction** – this subcommittee is chaired by Kevin Levine and has already held their first workshop (report from this below).

2) **Education** – to be spearheaded by Rabbis Jonathan Freirich and Noam Raucher.

3) **Community Garden** – the garden will act as an activity and learning hub for families, school classes, seniors, and camp groups. Environmental education will be injected into the activities surrounding the community garden. Some education will be based on Jewish values. Garden yield will be donated to Jewish Family Services or sold to create funds for JFS.

Carbon Footprint Reduction Committee

The Carbon Footprint Reduction Committee created a mission

statement at its workshop: "To assess the current energy/water/waste usage in Shalom Park and report; to evaluate, prioritize, and recommend changes to the three main properties on Shalom Park; to assist in implementation and measurement from baseline to end of year (and forward from year to year) to assess progress."

They have already begun their assessment by engaging North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light to provide a free energy audit of Temples Beth El and Israel.

NCIPL's focus is to help faith-based organizations across North Carolina to understand ways to cut their energy costs. Results have not been reported yet.

The committee also heard a presentation from the US Green Building Council that educated them on energy and atmosphere, indoor environmental quality, water efficiency, sustainability, materials and resources, location and transportation.

Professional Staff

The Shalom Park Environmental Initiative also hired its first professional part time Project Manager, Lisa Garfinkle. "My hope is that this whole project increases the Park's awareness of

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CAMPAIGN 2015: AT A GLANCE

Goal: \$3,700,000



Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE. THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

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