

# Dr. Ronen Hoffman Speaks About the Peace Process

The Jewish Federation's Community Relations Council (JCRC), welcomed Dr. Ronen Hoffman on Tuesday evening, February 2. Dr. Hoffman has a long list of bona fides that qualify him to speak about the Israeli peace process. He has a Ph.D. in War Studies from King's College in London and served on defense,

foreign affairs, and public diplomacy committees while a member of the Knesset. He served as adviser to both the Ministers of Defense and Health on the subject of international co-operation. He was personal assistant to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and coordinated the Israeli delegation that negotiated peace with Syria. And

he is the co-founder of the International Policy Institute for Counter-terrorism.

All of which is a long way of saying simply, he has the experience to know and understand the challenges Israel faces in foreign policy implementation.

Hoffman's simple thesis when he addressed the Charlotte Jewish

community is that Israel's use of military and intelligence personnel in pursuing peace could be augmented and improved by using psychological and intellectual means. By understanding the underpinnings of the thought processes of the local Arab states, Israel could be in a better position to negotiate peace.

He outlined many historical events that led to where the Middle East is today, including the Iranian Revolution of 1979, the victory of Osama bin Laden over the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, and most recently, the "Arab



Dr. Ronen Hoffman speaks at JCRC event in Shalom Park.



Yael Rosenberg-Osovski, a former student of Dr. Hoffman's at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, who now lives in Charlotte.

spring." And while Jordan and Egypt obtained their own treaties with Israel, the PLO has never been "authorized" by any of the nations in the Arab world to negotiate a final peace with Israel.

Currently, Hoffman sees that there is common ground being cultivated between Israel and many of her neighbors because they want Israel on their side against ISIS. But Israeli negotiators need to understand how the prevailing culture impacts the psychological and intellectual demeanor of her future partners in peace. ☆



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## Impact 365 5th Annual Comedy Night

Nearly 100 young adults spent Saturday evening, January 30, enjoying the hilarious comedy of Steve Hofstetter, tunes by All Out Blues, and mingling with friends old and new. Impact 365 Comedy Night co-chairs are Eric Cohen and Zack Schwartz.

Impact 365 Comedy Night was generously sponsored by Fifth Third Bank and Center City Partners. Delicious food was donated by Luciano's Ristorante Italiano.

Impact 365 is a giving society for young adults donating a-dollar-a-day (\$365) to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign. ☆



Comedian Steve Hofstetter and Zack Schwartz



Capacity crowd at Impact 365 Comedy Night



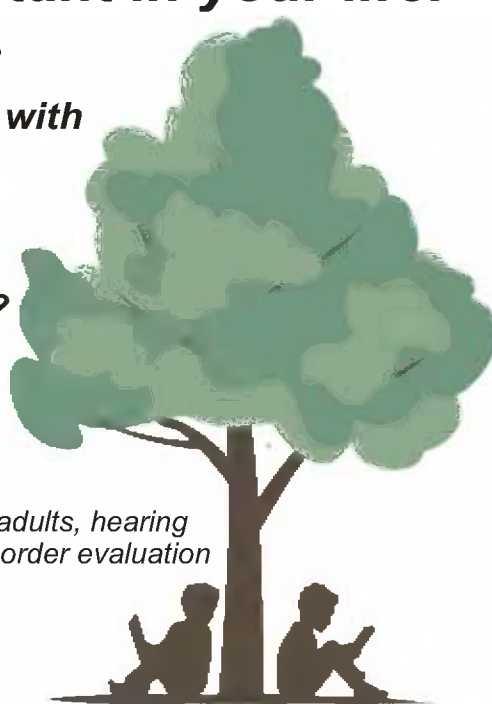
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