

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Vol. 39, No. 8

Elul 5777-Tishrei 5778

September 2017

**FEDERATION CAMPAIGN SURPASSES GOAL!**  
Achieves Highest Level of Annual Giving Ever -- \$3,933,117

## Thank You!

IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING. THAT'S WHY THERE'S FEDERATION.

One gift to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is a gift to the whole community. On behalf of the people whose lives you will change this year, thank you. We are grateful for your continued support of our Jewish Federation and for caring about fellow Jews in Charlotte, Israel and around the world.

Visit us at [WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG](http://WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG)



Turn to page 11 for Jewish Federation's annual listing of donors.



## A Surprise Received in the Mail

### A Letter of Remorse to a Victim of the Holocaust

By Amy Krakovitz

It wasn't uncommon in Nazi Germany during World War II for Jewish families to be forced from their homes without any compensation, and for "Aryan" families to take possession of these homes. However, it is extremely and uncommon for one of those displaced Jewish families to receive a letter years later from a descendant of the Nazi sympathizers who received their home – a letter full of pain and repentance in acknowledging the past.

Such an experience happened to the family of Charlotte's Judy August. Judy's grandparents, Claire and Julius Hirschmann, built the home at Eichendorfs-trasse 15 in Nuremberg, where Judy's father, Henry (z"l) and her uncle Peter Hirschmann, now age 92, were raised. Recently, Hirschmann was surprised by a letter that came from Germany. The author, Doris Schott-Neuse, wrote about her desire "to contact the family who owned the house ... where my Mum, Karin, and

my aunt, Helen Muhr, grew up and lived." She continued, "I am deeply ashamed for what us [sic] Germans did to yourself [sic], your family, and to your friends and relatives and to the members of the Nuremberg Jewish community. It is hardly bearable to start thinking about the details – what a horror and nightmare it must have been to live through this."

She went on to admit deep remorse at the crimes committed against the Hirschmanns and all Jews. A recent visit to Israel's Yad Vashem and participation in a Bavarian-Israeli initiative inspired her to learn more about her family's history. "There is no way to say 'it is all past,'" she admitted. "[We] Germans need to deal with remembering. I do think that this is the task for my generation,

handed down from the grandparents – 'we did not know' – generation via the parents 'we were not allowed to know' – generation to us ... with this comes the obligation to remember and not stay away any longer from tough questions." She included current pictures of the home, which her family no longer owns, for Hirschmann to see.

Hirschmann's response to Schott-Neuse was equally as moving. "I have lived a long life," he wrote, "and you are one of the finest human beings I have ever encountered. Your letter brought tears to my eyes for many reasons. First, because it called to mind the undeserved suffering of my family and so many families like mine, and the loss of my beloved childhood home. But it saddened me also to think that of you, who are blameless."



Doris Schott-Neuse's letter to Peter Hirschmann.

He expresses appreciation for all of her research and her quest for understanding, "You had the option to ignore it and instead you confronted it. My tears reflect the fervent hope that the humanity,

(Continued on page 19)



PRRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT # 1208  
CHARLOTTE, NC

5007 Providence Road, Suite #112  
Charlotte, NC 28226  
Change Service Requested