

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

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## Join Federation, and Be the Start of Something Powerful!

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.

Whether nurturing and sustaining Jewish identity for future generations or supporting our brothers and sisters in Israel, Federation is where our community comes together as one; where we, as a community, develop innovative responses to critical issues; where anyone who needs help can get it; where an energized Jewish community grows and celebrates; and where everyone can make a difference.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte has been supporting, sustaining and revitalizing Jewish life for more than 75 years. Today our work is far from finished – and we need your support to meet our 2018 Campaign Goal of \$4,000,000 ... 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 2018 Annual Campaign, we thank you. If not, please consider a meaningful pledge today. For a complete list of our 2018 allocations, or to donate online, please visit [www.jewishcharlotte.org](http://www.jewishcharlotte.org). All pledges are payable and due December 31.

So join us, and be the start of something powerful. We can't do it without you. ☆

## CAMPAIGN 2018: AT A GLANCE

Goal: \$4,000,000

950 Donors

45% Complete

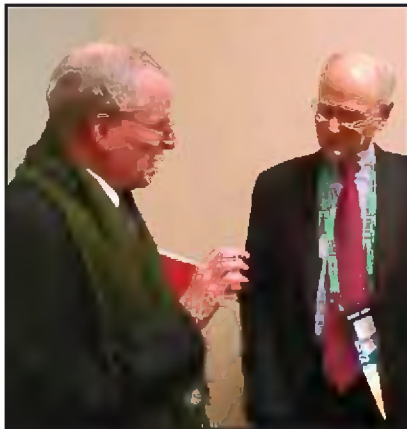
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\$1,812,084  
as of 3-16-18



Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

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## AIPAC Policy Conference 2018: The View from Participants



Robert Stephen Ford, former ambassador to Syria, with Charlotte delegation head, Sam Zimmern. Photo by Alyson Traw

**Alyson Grossman Traw:** On March 4-6, an energized pro-Israel group headed out from Charlotte to join 18,000 of our closest friends for the AIPAC Policy Conference. AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee), the largest pro-Israel bi-partisan lobbying group in the United States, works to strengthen and advocate for the United States – Israel relationship in ways that benefit both countries. Policy Conference brings together people of all political stripes and from all walks of life.

This year, we had the privilege of hearing pro-Israel messages from sitting and former members of Congress from both parties, current and former ambassadors (including Ambassador to the U.N., Nikki Haley), Vice President Mike Pence, members of the Knesset from Israel, along with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. We attended breakout sessions on important topics such as BDS, Syria, and the threat that Iran poses to Israel and the United States. We also had the opportunity to learn about many of the amazing technological, humanitarian, and medical innovations in

Israel and how Israel contributes around the world. This included meeting Winston, a guide dog trained at the Israeli Guide Dog Center – the only nationally accredited guide dog center in the Middle East. As a lover of olive oil, I particularly enjoyed meeting with the senior scientists from Volcani – a division of the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture – to learn about olive oil production and how they are working to make hummus even healthier. AIPAC National Council member Cindy Montanez, the youngest woman ever elected to the CA legislature, shared the important contribution Israel made to Mexico after the 7.1 earthquake hit on September 19. This story is not unique, as there are countless other instances

pending legislation with Rep. Pittenger, Rep. Adams, Rep. McHenry, Rep. Foxx, and Senators Tillis and Burr. Our representatives and senators engaged in thoughtful dialogue and seemed genuinely committed to maintaining the strong bond Israel has with the United States.

For those of us who love Israel and support the special bond Israel has with the United States, Policy Conference is a truly amazing experience. As a small town Jew who grew up in Kingstree, SC, I am moved beyond words each time I attend. I met people of every generation and from all parts of the world. I feel privileged to be part of this diverse, bi-partisan AIPAC community, and I cannot wait until my children are old enough to join me in this unique experience.



Conference attendance was 18,000 strong. Photo by Shelley Pawlyk

of Israeli aid workers quietly helping around the world (including in their own backyard in Syria) and engaging in tikkun olam. Policy Conference always concludes with a day of lobbying our Congressional delegation on Capitol Hill. Our group, led by Sam Zimmern, had the opportunity to have meaningful conversations about

**Ginny Rosenberg:** The 2018 AIPAC Policy Conference, "Choose to Lead," featured the positive aspects of the U.S.- Israeli relationship and highlights of AIPAC's current lobbying efforts on behalf of Israel.

The conference also featured the best of Israeli technology,

(Continued on page 24)

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