



THE FOUNDATION OF SHALOM PARK

Connecting Families Sustaining Tradition

The Campaign to Expand and Endow Shalom Park

GROUNDBREAKING!

Shalom Park Expansion and Renovation

April 21, 2002

Hundreds of members of the Jewish community witnessed a series of history-making events on the Shalom Park campus on Sunday, April 21. Culminating in a ceremony marking the groundbreaking for the Shalom Park expansion and renovation, the day was filled with programs that commemorated Israel Independence Day (Yom Ha'Atzmaut) and those that celebrated the community spirit of Shalom Park.

The groundbreaking was led by members of the Levine, Sklut, Gorelick and Blumenthal families, who lifted the first ceremonious shovelfuls of dirt in honor of their generosity and commitment to the Park expansion project. The entire community participated in this initial breaking of ground on the next phase of Shalom Park development with dozens of children digging in with their shovels as well. Hal Levinson, President of the Foundation of Shalom Park directed the afternoon events that included the groundbreaking of the next phase of Shalom Park, dedication of the Barbara L. Levine Indoor Pool, as well as the dedication of the Ostrow Family Athletic Fields.

"It's incredible that the Charlotte Jewish community has had this kind of commitment to create such an exciting facility that will continue to be a warm and dynamic center of Jewish life in Charlotte for years to come," declared Hal Levinson, President of the Foundation of Shalom Park.

While the Campaign to Expand and Endow Shalom Park is continuing to seek new pledges to ensure that we can build and endow the new facilities as quickly as possible, site and utility work will begin in May to prepare the property for the new buildings and parking lots. This work is in preparation for the new JCC Health and Recreation facilities, new education

facilities for Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, the Charlotte Jewish Day School and the Charlotte Jewish Preschool as well as new program areas and new and renovated offices for the Federation, Jewish Family Services and other park agencies.

The JCC will feature a new family pool, splash zone and baby pool, new gymnasium, fitness and wellness center, aerobics studio as well as new Teen Center, Senior Center and Family and Children's area. The new facility will combine the functions of the Speizman Jewish Library and CAJE (Carolina Agency for Jewish Education) into a new and expanded Jewish Learning Center.



Leon Levine



The Levine, Sklut, Gorelick, and Blumenthal families were privileged to dig the first shovels of dirt.



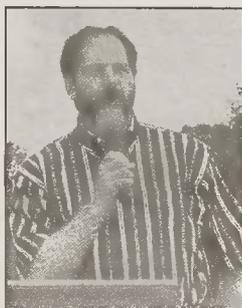
Hal Levinson served as Master of Ceremonies.



The Ostrow family was on hand for the dedication of the Ostrow Family Athletic Fields.



The backhoe began the formal job of moving earth for construction.



Jeff Gorelick

Photos courtesy of Andrea Mellen Photography



Leon Levine, Howard and Julie Levine, and Lori and Eric Sklut.



Dozens of children participated in the ground-breaking with their own shovels.



Nearly 300 people participated in Yom Ha'Atzmaut Walk for Israel coordinated by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and the Foundation of Shalom Park.

"Shalom Park is unique, there is virtually nothing like this cooperative arrangement anywhere in the country where so many institutions share land and space. It has been challenging for the Shalom Park expansion team to volunteer for so many years to get to today, but at the same time it is extremely rewarding to know that we are securing the future for generations to come," declared Eric Sklut, member of the Shalom Park Expansion team.

"It's so nice to see this project progressing. We're digging earth today and people will soon begin to see major construction happening. All the time and energy everyone has committed to this project has been worthwhile," asserted Jeff Gorelick, member of the Shalom Park Expansion team.

According to Bill Gorelick, one of the founders of the original Shalom Park and active on the Shalom Park Expansion team, "There's now a realization that the dream will come true. This groundbreaking shows the community that this next phase of construction is a reality. The greatness of what we have and will have is the result of compromises reached in an effort to build community. L'Dor V'Dor, from Generation to Generation. I see Shalom Park as the center of Jewish life for present and future generations."

Eric Sklut remarked, "This next step is a monumental one for the growth and expansion of Shalom Park, and for the community in general. By beginning construction on these next phases, we begin the next chapter for the Jewish community. The Jewish Community Center will soon be able to accommodate more participants and members, as will the new education buildings and the agencies contained within them. This campaign and this project are testament to the growth of the community, and the accompanying needs that come with such growth. All of the agencies at Shalom Park should be proud to be part of this." ✪