

# JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

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## Jewish Federation Honors Past Presidents at 75th Anniversary and Main Event

The Jewish Federation celebrated 75 years of living generously on Thursday, December 11, during its 2015 Main Event held at the Knight Theater at the Levine Center for the Arts.

Federation's past presidents were honored for their leadership and service:

- Bob Abel
- Bobbi Bernstein
- Sam Bernstein
- Herman Blumenthal\*
- ID Blumenthal\*
- Bill Gorelick
- Shelton Gorelick\*
- Todd Gorelick
- Stan Greenspon
- Ron Katz
- Richard Klein
- Alan Kronovet
- Harry Lerner
- Sidney Levin\*
- Alvin E. Levine
- David Nabow\*
- Jill Newman
- Rich Osborne
- Jay Schrader\*
- Sara Schreiber
- Stanley Slesinger\*
- Morris Speizman\*
- Paul Stewart\*
- Emily Zimmern

*\*of blessed memory*

Between 1939 and 2014, many historic events shaped the growth of both the Jewish community and the Federation's Annual Campaign. Much of that rich history can be gleaned from the following memories shared by our past presidents:

**Bob Abel:**  
\* Keeping an eye on my watch and promising myself that I would never ever quote Harry Lerner... "Is there anything else that anyone would like to add to the discussion?"

\* Working with Sue and Sue, Marnie, Leigh Anne, Tair, Emily, Susan, Jodi and Vicki... it was the

best team I have ever had the opportunity to work with in all my non-profit activities

\* Watching the talented "young" guys that I had worked with over the years such as Todd Gorelick, Sam Bernstein, and Alan Kronovet (I was his AZA advisor) step up and provide the community with great leadership

**Bobbi Bernstein:**  
The most significant thing about my presidency was the fact that 25 years ago, I was honored to become the first WOMAN president in the history of the Charlotte Jewish Federation.

I broke through the "glass ceiling" and made it easier, I hope, for other women to follow. There was some resistance, but overall it was a fantastic experience. I loved my two years as president. In those years, the federation was much more volunteer driven, so I took a very "hands on" approach, and we made a real effort to attract and engage as many new people as we could. It was an exciting time and one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

**Sam Bernstein:**  
During my time as President I was extremely proud to lead a Board of Directors and professional staff consisting of excited and engaged people that took a long term view of what our Federation could be. To that end we spent many hours in meetings developing a strategic plan that would guide us into the future.

**Bill Gorelick:**  
When I reflect back on my tenure as Federation president, one of the most meaningful achievements was the creation of a community day school, now known as the Charlotte Jewish Day School. Although the process was difficult and complex, the end result was the establishment of a

community entity that would educate and inspire young Jews and their families for generations to come. A successful day school is critical to any vibrant Jewish community, and the spirit of collaboration and cooperation required to create CJDS represents our community's and Federation's commitment to the health and well-being of our community. I was proud to take a leadership role in this impactful endeavor.

**Stan Greenspon:**  
I remember telling our Executive Director, Marvin Bienstock that I would direct our meetings - not him!

Actually, he was an excellent partner and during my administration we hired a part time social worker to lead Jewish Family Services, started *The Charlotte Jewish News*, and began the process of assimilating Jewish families from the former Soviet Union.

Serving as president of Federation was a maturing and unforgettable process for me - there were good and funny times! My predecessor and good friend Harry Lerner worked very diligently to keep costs low. At the end of each meeting, he would even collect paper clips and notebook paper and return them to the Federation office to save money.

**Richard Klein:**  
During my term of office we set a \$1 million campaign goal for the first time! We came close and in just a few years we reached that milestone.

I was the last president to be "annointed"...in the "old days," we were simply advised by the board that we were next in line. One of my goals as president was to create a leadership succession plan whereby the presidents who followed me would actually be elected. And that process continued. I was also president when the JCC on Sharon-Amity Road was torched and burned to the ground. Federation meetings were held in several different locations until we finally had a home on the grounds of Shalom Park in the old Armstrong House.

**Alan Kronovet:**  
While there are many memories over the last eight years, the times when Cary and I discussed most often with passion and intensity, ways to foster greater community engagement with the Federation are what stand out most in my mind. During our eight years in leadership roles with Federation, we reflected on the mission of the Federation, brainstormed wild ideas and ways to achieve the best outcome for the community.

**Harry Lerner:**  
When I came into the Federation over 50 years ago, tzedakah was collected and distributed by Ellis Berlin through his Pawn

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