

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

Israeli Elections – March 17

By Adi Rodavsky, Community Shlichah

This month is the month of elections in Israel and so, I thought it would be good to briefly explain the process of electing a government in Israel. The people of Israel are voting for a party, not its leader. Therefore, they do not necessarily vote for a leader's personality and charisma, they mostly vote for the different political agendas. It's important to note that unlike in the US, elections in Israel are based on nationwide proportional representation and there is no division to different areas in the country. Also unlike in the US, the governing party is not necessarily the one who got the most mandates (seats) in the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, but the government whose leader can form a coalition.

There are 120 seats in the Knesset. The head of the party with the most mandates needs, in order to become prime minister, to have at least 61 members who are willing to form a government. This condition leads the heads of the big parties to rely on the smaller parties, while they solve the puzzle of building a coalition.

In order to have the parties join the coalition, they have to take their political agendas into account. This system led to the issue that while the Knesset is elected for four years, many governments don't last beyond two years, quite like the former government.

The most important thing during these elections, whether one is right-wing or left-wing, is to go on and vote. 67.77% of Israel's population voted during the 2013 elections, certainly not enough. To make an impact and perhaps work towards a lasting government, all of Israel's citizens need to go out and vote and take part in the democratic process. Some have said that the younger generation is tired of politics. However, many of the leading parties, right-winged and left-winged, now have younger members who could be ministers in the upcoming government. It is my hope that these young politicians can inspire students and young adults to vote. Yours truly will be going to Atlanta to vote. As people who care about our country, I sincerely believe it is our responsibility to shape its future by voting. ☆

Record Breaking Super Sunday Not Just a Day to Raise Funds, but Awareness of the Mission of the Jewish Federation

More than 90 volunteers dedicated their time and energy to make Super Sunday a Super Success! 510 donors pledged over \$86,000 placing January 25, 2015 in the record books with the most money raised in Super Sunday history. And YES, we made the generous \$10,000 match from Larry Schwartz!

Through your support, you care for Jews everywhere, connect people to their Jewish communities, and respond to crises close to home and around the globe. Together, our impact stretches from Charlotte to Israel to 70 countries around the world.

If we somehow missed you on Super Sunday, there is still time to donate to the 2015 Annual Cam-

paign. Visit our website today at www.jewishcharlotte.org. Every gift makes an impact on the needs of the Jewish world.

Whether you made calls or answered our call, it was because of you that we were able to do so much on behalf of our community.

We also want to give a special thanks to Super Sunday Co-Chairs, Marcie Jacobs and Jeff Turk who helped train and inspire our volunteers.

Thank you for living generously!

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is to raise and distribute funds to support and enrich the lives of Jews locally, nationally, in Israel and worldwide. Through education and community building, the Federation's mission ensures that Jewish values, goals and traditions and connections are preserved for current and future generations. ☆



Even Elmo makes calls for Super Sunday!



Super Sunday co-chairs, Jeff Turk and Marcie Jacobs.



Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers.

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING FOR MARCH 2015

- Friday, March 6, 6:04 PM
- Friday, March 13, 7:10 PM
- Friday, March 20, 7:16 PM
- Friday, March 27, 7:22 PM



The Charlotte Jewish News

5007 Providence Road, Suite 112
Charlotte, NC 28226

Phone
(voice mail after office hours)

Office 704-944-6765

FAX 704-365-4507

email: charlottejewishnews@shalomcharlotte.org

An Affiliate of the
Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Amy Krakovitz - Editor

Advertising Sales Reps:

Jodi Valenstein, 704-609-0950 or

Scott Moskowitz, 704-906-2474

Art Director, Erin Bronkar

ebronkar@carolina.rr.com

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