

Building Together

Partnership for a Jewish Center

Spring 2008 Newsletter

Welcome

From the beginning, the vision of the Partnership for a Jewish Center has been ambitious - to create a Jewish place that holds something for everyone. We are well on our way to raising the required funds and fully engaged in designing a building that will house the programs and services that will make the JCC a vibrant center of Jewish life. And now we are pleased to initiate a regular newsletter to keep our community apprised of our plans, our progress, and our accomplishments.

The Charlotte and Dick Levin JCC will be the building that allows our seniors and toddlers to interact, our teens to find a Jewish social life, a forum for community-wide speakers and educational courses, a variety of cooking, art and music classes, and more. It is a place for collaboration across our synagogues and for connection for our unaffiliated. The JCC is where you will share good times with old friends while making new ones.

Even before the first brick is laid, the vision has already inspired the Jewish community. JFS and JCC professionals, along with their lay leadership, are actively designing programs both for today and for when the doors open. There are community members new to the area or just new to involvement taking on leadership positions. And we are deeply moved by the level of enthusiasm and financial support the project has received from every corner of the community!

Outside the Jewish community our vision is also inspiring others. Hoop Dreams, Maureen Joy Charter School, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, professionals working with Special Needs children and adults, and others have approached the Partnership with exciting prospects of working with us to make Durham and Chapel Hill a better place.

So on behalf of everyone volunteering time and energy and stretching philanthropically to get the doors of the Charlotte and Dick Levin JCC open, we thank you for your support!

Bryna Rapp & Larry Rocamora
Co-Chairs, The Partnership for a Jewish Center



Charlotte & Dick Levin JCC



Building a Vision. Envisioning a Building.

After a thorough search that took the Building Committee throughout the Triangle, around the state and even following a couple of national leads, Gurlitz Architectural Group was chosen to design and coordinate the building process for both the Preschool Pavilion at the Lerner School and the Charlotte and Dick Levin JCC.

In addition to benefitting from the talent, experience and vision of Richard Gurlitz and his organization, the Partnership for a Jewish Center can also take advantage of the fact that Richard's team has been the driving design force behind Judea Reform and the Lerner School. With an eye toward beauty, function, space and the natural topography, Gurlitz Architectural Group has provided preliminary plans that allow the new buildings to blend elegantly into the existing surroundings.



Elyza Richman Halev

Day school kids watch excitedly as bulldozers prepare the site of the new Preschool Pavilion. The wing marks the start of construction for our new facilities. A formal groundbreaking for the whole project is being planned for the fall.

According to Building Committee Chair, Greg Rapp, "Because of the natural slope of the land, the early drawings show a full two story building that appears from many angles as a single story, with easy access to either level from outdoors, it just fits so well into the space."

As the plans for the Levin JCC progress, you will have an opportunity to view them in The Menorah, these newsletters, and at www.JewishPartnership.org.

Thank You to Our Early Donors

Contributions as of 3/31/08

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Margo Ginsberg

Making Room for Everyone!

Seniors are lined up wall to wall, like cars at a traffic light, some with walkers or canes, waiting patiently in the cramped federation lobby while the activity room is being set up for lunch. The weekly Chaverim lunch program is at maximum capacity. They can hardly wait for their new Senior Activity Center. In the new Levin JCC, they will have room to shmooze, tables will be pre-set, and there will be space after lunch for classes, fitness programs, or to visit with friends in the new Shimm Senior Lounge.

The proximity with Lerner Day School students will encourage the development of inter-generational projects. Staff members are already discussing joint holiday programs, arts and crafts collaborations, and even multi-media history projects.

Increased space and multiple day to day activities will make JFS more attractive to graduate students and interns, providing additional programs, grants, and a continuous influx of energy and excitement. In addition, the new facility will house the Family Caregiver Assistance Program filling a void long felt in the Durham Chapel Hill Jewish Community.

Get Involved! There's plenty of room for your energy and ideas.

A Place for You

The Charlotte & Dick Levin JCC is a place for everyone in every stage of life - today it is a series of programs scattered throughout the community. But as we envision our new "home", the JCC will become a place where you can attend to your mind, body and spirit in a variety of ways, whenever it's convenient.

Want to take a Zumba class?

Sign up for Hebrew calligraphy?

Participate in a new moms' group that incorporates fitness and fun?

How about sitting down to an interactive kiosk to communicate with family in Israel?

Or hone your skills in an art class taught by a local artist?

Are you interested in a pickup game of basketball or volleyball in a comfortable Jewish environment?

Want your teen to have a place to just "hang out" with other Jewish kids?

Can you "relax" in your Pilates Class knowing your toddler is safely playing down the hall?

The walls are within reach, and our JCC Committee and professional team are already moving forward. There is something for you - from our highly successful JCC camp and afterschool to programs for adults and seniors. Call us with your ideas. This is your place!

INSPIRING
JEWISH JOURNEYS™



Leadership

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**Get involved,
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