

ShalomRI

Your connection to the Jewish community of Greater Rhode Island

29 January 2010

14 Shevat 5770



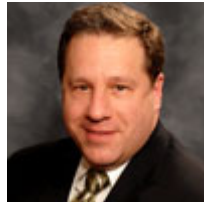
Jewish
Federation
of
Rhode
Island



Hundreds of families in the greater Rhode Island area are facing the impact of the worst economy since the Great Depression.

They've lost their jobs. They are having to choose between participation in Jewish life and the basic necessities. They are struggling to heat the house, keep the lights on and put food on the table.

Your donation to the Annual Community Campaign makes their lives a little warmer, a little brighter.



Last night was one of the highpoints of my professional time here in Rhode Island. Laura and I hosted the first session of a new Leadership Development Program for 12 young (25-45 years old) emerging leaders in our community. This program was put together by Susan and Marc Gertsacov and Jennifer and Michael Oelbaum, chairs of the Leadership Education and Development team of The Network, JFRI's Young Adult program.

Rabbi Raphie Schochet, dean of the Providence Community Kollel, kicked off the evening with words of Torah (actually, the words were from the Scroll of Esther). He reminded us that prominent in the story of Esther and Mordechai are the principles that Jewish leadership requires total commitment and that the collective interest outweighs the individual interest. Some 2500 years later, these principles still resonate with all Jewish leaders-- whether they are experienced or emerging.

There is nothing more inspiring than to hear these couples talk about their ideas of community, why they want to be involved, and to see their reactions to all the change happening in our community. I was particularly inspired to listen to each person describe their connection with their Jewish identity. They hail from different backgrounds and have different life experiences and yet they shared deep Jewish connections around family, traditions, tzedakah and a special bond with fellow Jews. Also wonderful is that the members of this select group reflect the diversity of our state from Barrington, East Greenwich and Providence to Pawtucket, West Bay and South County.

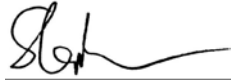
As we spoke about Jewish leadership, Jewish journeys, and our community, there was intense interest and curiosity about how our community is evolving. There is no doubt that these 12 emerging leaders, along with many others, have much to contribute to determining our future and have the passion and commitment to turn plans into action. The dedication to community - caring for each other, working with each other for the common good and learning together - is palpable. At the end of the day, isn't that what Federation is all about -- people working

Because in addition to helping to provide the necessities, what helps people most when they are struggling is to know that others care.

Help us meet the needs. [Click here](#) to make your contribution to the 2010 Annual Community Campaign.

together as a community to design, build and fund our Jewish community and to take care of people in need?

Shabbat shalom,



Steve Silberfarb
Executive Vice President/CEO

P.S. To date, the Jewish Federations of North America have raised over \$3 million dollars for Haiti Relief ([click here](#) to see the JDC blog). It is not too late to donate to the Haiti Relief Fund at JFRI. Go online today at www.JFRI.org to help those most in need. Also, all donations made by March 1, 2010 can be deducted from your 2009 taxes.
