

## "The Skinny"

By Heidi Sarno Straus,  
WP Chairwoman

It is estimated that there are approximately 80,000 Jews in the Las Vegas Valley. Why, then, are less than a quarter of them "reporting?"

The core mission of the United Jewish Community/Jewish Federation of Las Vegas Women's Philanthropy is to build community and to get women involved. In some

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or identified.  
said, it's time to  
of the woodwork,  
wherever you've  
and literally, join the party.



Heidi Sarno Straus

cases, it's like coaxing kitten out tree, "here, over here." those not have simply approached That being come out the tree, or been hiding

Party? What party? I didn't get an invitation. To that I say, "Baloney!" (kosher, of course). *The Jewish Reporter* highlights all the dates of our functions. Please come and join us. We want our extended Jewish family to connect. Our community will be better for it. Your lives and the lives of those in need will be better for it.

As Outreach co-chairs, Debbie Strimling and Nicole Weissman outdid themselves last week by bringing close to 100 wonderful new women together. Not an easy task, so we thought. Whew, were we wrong. This outreach event connected so many women on so many different levels. Beautiful friendships were made. Joyce Straus opened her home and her heart, with an insightful message about the choices we make and our commitment to ourselves. Thank you to our new friends who attended.

On a side note, a woman flew in from Los Angeles to attend this outreach. Upon seeing the Lion of Judah pin worn by a few of our members, she decided to go, as they say in Poker, all-in by becoming a Lion too and handing me a \$5,000 check for the 2007 Federation Campaign. Needing a ride to her hotel after the event, one of our members took her back to Caesars, where she moments later hit a jackpot for, yes, \$5,000. Looks like giving does come back to you!

One more thing, 300 of you got to attend the United Luncheon in January to hear Geraldyn Lucas, author of *Why I Wore Lipstick to My Mastectomy*, speak about her experiences. Her phenomenal book has just been made into a movie and Lifetime Television started airing it last week. Check the listings. It is definitely worth seeing.

Until next time...