

Lions of Judah and Pomegranate Society enjoy a private author reception

By Susan Pittelman, Pomegranate Society Vice Chair

Women who are Lions of Judah or members of the Pomegranate Society (“Poms”) met with author Beverly Gray at a special reception at the Clive Daniel Home showroom late Thursday afternoon, January 24. Ms. Gray, author of *Seduced by Mrs. Robinson: How The Graduate became the Touchstone of a Generation*, had been the featured speaker at a Jewish Book Festival event at the Sugden Theatre earlier that afternoon.

The reception was the first event at which Lions of Judah and Pomegranates had the opportunity to spend time with each other. Women appreciated the chance to socialize while enjoying refreshments, including the delicious South African wines poured by Daniel and Claudia Lubner. Daniel Lubner, co-owner of Clive Daniel Home, began the program with a warm welcome.

Phyllis Seaman, Chair of Women’s Philanthropy and Lion of Judah Endowment of the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples, thanked the Lions and Pomegranates for being the leaders in women’s philanthropy in our Jewish community. She proudly announced that the Women’s Division has already raised \$350,000, which is 40% of the Federation’s total Annual Campaign. Thank you Lions and Poms!

Beverly Gray spoke about the culture of the ’60s and why *The Graduate* had the tremendous impact that it did. She also shared interesting “behind-the-scenes” information about the movie. She confessed that when she first saw the film (she has seen it at least 250 times since then!), she identified with Benjamin. She, too, was trying to figure out what she wanted to do with her life, and not simply succumb to her parents’ expectations.

Beverly Gray grew up in West Los Angeles, not far from where key exteriors for *The Graduate* were filmed. Her mother – a Lion of Judah – would have been very proud of Beverly for being the guest speaker at our event!

We are grateful to the Greater Naples Jewish Book Festival for making Beverly Gray’s appearance possible, to our “angel” Karen Deutsch for underwriting the refreshments, to Ted Epstein for taking beautiful photos, and to Clive Daniel Home for so graciously welcoming us into their beautiful gallery.

The Lions of Judah and the members of the Pomegranate Society are women who carry on the fundamental Jewish tradition of *zedakah*. They set exemplary standards of leadership and giving in our community. To become a Lion, a woman makes a minimum annual commitment of \$5,000 to our Federation’s Annual Campaign; to be a member of the Pomegranate Society, the minimum gift is \$1,800. Lions and Pomegranates are the heart and soul of our Campaign and inspire others to translate their Jewish caring into giving that makes a difference. We hope that you will join us in being one of these women. For further information, please call Campaign Associate Julie Hartline at 239.263.4205.