



Emily Zimmern, photo
courtesy UNCC

Emily Zimmern, Past President & CEO of Levine Museum of the New South, retired

Most of you will know the last honoree **Emily Zimmern** because of the nationally recognized work she did building the Levine Museum of the New South into a valued community conscience and resource. Jim Ferguson has written: “She has made the Museum a place where racial minorities, particularly African Americans, feel welcomed as an integral part of the “New South” philosophy.”

But the profile of Emily greatly expands when you learn of the other things she’s done. As chair of the Mecklenburg Medical Auxiliary Foundation, she directed the creation of MMAE’S Inn, a home away from home for families of out-of-town patients at local hospitals. She helped raise over \$100,000 for Planned Parenthood to erase a shortfall created by a controversial cut by the County Commission after Angels in America. As president of the Charlotte Jewish Federation, she resettled more than 100 Russian Jews in Charlotte.

In 1997, Emily co-chaired the 52-person Community Building Task Force (CBTF). With James Ferguson, she guided a nine-month effort culminating with a two-day conference attended by over 600, then stayed connected to the CBTF, as it became the Community Building Initiative. Dianne English says that her dedication and commitment to the building of an inclusive and equitable community has grounded the work of CBI from its earliest days.

In 2014 Emily agreed to serve as Vice Chair of the Immigration Integration Task Force. She and Chair Stefan Latorre oversaw the work of the 29-person group committed to making Charlotte more immigrant-friendly and accessible. The group’s recommendations have resulted in the creation of the City of Charlotte’s Office of Equity, Mobility and Immigrant Integration.

At the request of Chancellor Phil Dubois, Emily is now chairing the Niner Nation Remembrance Commission formed in response to the tragic shooting on the UNCC Campus.