

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

Published monthly by:
Charlotte Jewish Federation
and
Jewish Community Center
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Copy deadline the 8th of each month
P.O. Box #220188
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Editorial

News Receives Warm Response

The response from the community concerning our first issue has been most gratifying. I have found that the warm and enthusiastic reception from so many of our readers reinsured our reasoning that a community paper was both wanted and needed. With each new issue it is our hope that we will show growth and maturity. As with any new undertaking, it takes a while to develop a format that truly serves the needs at hand. I hope that all of you will feel free to write letters to "the editor" expressing your views.

Love Thy Neighbor

The week our first edition arrived in your homes was one we should not forget as Jews. Having just observed the festival of Chanukah (the festival of religious freedom), in fact having just lit the last candle on the menorah, we were quickly reminded of how precious that freedom is by the vandalism of Temple Beth El. Whoever was responsible for this deplorable act does not matter, what matters is... the outpouring from the non-Jewish community; newspapers, clergy, the mayor, city council and many concerned citizens. It made one proud to be a resident of the city of Charlotte. This was truly a show of brotherhood and reassurance of our religious freedom and respect from our neighbors.

As long as we keep our bridge of communication open and our hands outstretched in brotherhood to the entire community, we will be as "one". Beautiful people will stand with us, and oppose bias and ignorance.

Where else but in America? Especially in Charlotte, N.C.

Ann Langman, Editor

An Open Letter

Here are some informative notes concerning community reaction to the Swastika painting incident:

The outpouring of deep concern and even monetary support of neighbors have been overwhelming. A great number of churches have expressed regrets and sent contributions as tokens of deep regards.

I was visited by several members of the City Council, received a letter from Mayor Harris including a copy of the resolution deploring this terrible act. This resolution was read at the City Council meeting.

The Head of the American Arab Association (never knew there was one) feared lest we at-

tribute the incident to them; she expressed outrage and offered to have her group help clean up damages.

Scores of private citizens have called and written letters assuring us that the vandalism did not at all reflect the true sentiments of the community. I assume you saw the editorial and articles in The Observer.

The entire experience has been most heartwarming to our congregation by the support of the public's outrage over an incident that affected a minority in the Charlotte community.

We are hopeful this incident will speed up implementing the study of the Holocaust in the public schools.

Shalom,
Rabbi Harold I. Krantzler

A Little Known Holiday

by Rabbi
Sanford Tucker

Planting trees in the middle of February? When the ground is frozen solid? It sounds absurd. Yet, on the Jewish holiday of Tu B'Shvat, which occurs this year on February 12, that is exactly what is done. Of course, the planting is done in Israel, where spring is near.

What is that? You say you never heard of the holiday called Tu B'Shvat? I am not all that surprised. It is not one of our more well known holidays. Reading the Bible will not help either. Tu B'Shvat was not known in Bible days. It is a holiday which began in the time of the Mishnah, the Code of Jewish Law, written and compiled over a four hundred year

span and completed in about 200 Common Era by Rabbi Judah the Prince. In English we call the day the New Year of the Trees. Its Hebrew name means the fifteenth day of the month of Shvat, which is when it invariably occurs.

Originally the holiday was a cutoff for determining the age of trees and determining tithes. Today, the significance of the day is much observant. Modern means of observation of Tu B'Shvat include eating fruits and grains grown in Israel, planting trees in Israel, especially through the Jewish National Fund, and a special seder.

What! A seder for Tu B'Shvat? Yes, developed in the sixteenth century in Safed by the Jewish

mystics and based on the seder for Passover. It fell into disuse amongst almost all Jewish groups. However, a multi-media version of the seder was written a few years ago. Two years ago it was staged by the Hebrew Academy for a small group. It will be staged again this year on February 11th for a larger group. It is hoped that it will serve as an educational vehicle depicting the beauty of the holiday of Tu B'Shvat.

It is amazing to what a great extent the holiday lends itself to our contemporary concern for preserving our own Tu B'Shvat and wildernesses. On Tu B'Shvat we should all plant a tree in Israel, eat a fruit grown in Israel, and make specific plans for the preserving of American forests.

Charlotte Chapter BBW Presents 1978 Human Relations Award

On Wednesday, February 7, 1979, Dr. Jonnie McLeod, a most outstanding woman, will receive the 1979 Human Relations Award. This coveted award was established by the Charlotte Chapter of B'nai B'rith Women in 1962 and the first recipient was Miss Bonnie Cone. Some other recipients have been such distinguished persons as: Mrs. John W. Lassiter, Kays Gary, John Stan Brookshire, Elizabeth Kendrick, Al Manch, Ty Boyd, Kat Crosby, Helen Fligel, Evelyn Sklar and Sister Mary Thomas Burke.

This award is presented to those persons in the state of North Carolina who have given of themselves in the area of brotherhood and human relations for outstanding service, far and above the call of duty. The award may be given annually, but there have been years in which it has not been presented.

Dr. McLeod is a former pediatrician, but gave up her practice to become a full-time volunteer in the areas of sex education and drug abuse. Dr. McLeod is the founder and medical advisor to Open House and pioneered in the field of sex education for school children. She currently is a member of the department of Human Development at UNCC. Beverly Greenwald, UNCC. Beverly Greenwald of Dr. McLeod, "Jonnie is not just what Jonnie has done, but what Jonnie is." An



Dr. Jonnie McLeod

example of this can be found in the following quote from Sister Mary Thomas Burke about Dr. McLeod: "If there is one person whose support and concern is offered to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, sex, or national origin, this person is Jonnie H. McLeod."

The award will be presented at Sharonview Country Club at

a luncheon which begins at 11:45 a.m.

A.L. & R.M.

There is a destiny which makes us brothers; none goes his way alone.

EDWIN MARKHAM

Mideast by Southeast

(Exclusive to the
Charlotte Jewish News)

What should the attitude of American Jews be towards new facts and perceptions in the Middle East and toward the multi-faceted relationships between the United States-Israel-Egypt-Saudi Arabia? To say that new perceptions have not arisen would be to ignore, at some peril, the reality that these perceptions exist, that they are flexible and changing.

To say that the Government of the United States has been a staunch supporter of Israel throughout its short existence is to ignore facts. Even before the establishment of the State, Franklin Roosevelt fawned over King Saud of Saudi Arabia and promised him a resolution of the Palestine affair not to the detriment of the "Arab" cause. And this was before Saudi Arabia was a world oil supplier!

Harry Truman recognized the State of Israel against the better

judgment of most of the government establishment, but thereafter enforced the most rigorous prohibition against selling arms and war materials to Israel.

Dwight Eisenhower forced the withdrawal of Israel from the Sinai, with, among other moves, the threat to prohibit the transmittal of UJA donations to Israel. His policy of free passage through the Suez Canal for Israeli cargoes was hardly ever mentioned.

John Kennedy ignored Israel completely except at election time.

Lyndon Johnson failed to enforce the guarantee of free passage through the Straits of Tiran, thereby directly leading to the 1967 War. It is to be said that during the terms of Johnson, that the first substantial shipments of military supplies went to Israel, since the French sources were stopped by General De Gaulle.

Only during the Nixon administration did a regular flow of arms and other aid begin to flow to Israel, but it should be remembered that much of this started during and after the 1973 War, and was a result of treaty obligations entered into and undertaken by the United States in order to get Israel to release the Egyptian 2nd Army and sign a withdrawal agreement from part of the Sinai.

The activities of the Carter administration are too recent to need any summary or comment, except to say that the attitude of the Carter advisors does not DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THAT OF EVERY PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION since 1932!

Now, it is obvious that the perception of the American people towards Israel has always been far more liberal and advantageous than the attitudes of the State Dept. However, it is important to understand that

widespread aid to Israel has only been a recent (since 1973) fact of congressional action. Legislators have supported aid to Israel in sums of billions of dollars because there was no lid on foreign aid spending, because their Jewish constituents supported this aid, and because THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIAL RESPECTABLE OPPOSITE THIS SPENDING!

In 1979, we are faced with the following new facts: (1) Saudi Arabia is our largest oil supplier, but our largest non-Arab supplier, Iran, has become a major non-supplier and disaster. (2) A dedicated and publicity-wise spokesman for the Arab cause, Anwar Sadat, has managed to erase much of the disgust that people felt for the previous spokesman for Arabs, Yasir Arafat. (3) A dedicated coterie of people in the USA government have determined that the salvation of the

American policy in the Middle East depends on Israel giving in to Arab demands — their leader, Mr. Carter agrees with them. (4) A vocal and professional American-Arab community has begun to make itself heard. (5) The big business community is bemused by its Arab contracts and the possible loss of same. (6) There is a "cut spending" attitude among all strata of the American people.

It is possible that resistance to multibillion Israeli grants and loans may surface, fed by subtle prodding from the Carter government.

What to do and how to react to this situation: Forget that Israel is an "outpost of democracy" in the Middle East. People do not really care about "democracies," especially when they cost money. Israel is a massive military buffer against Russian penetration in the Middle East. Israel is

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