

## BOOKS IN REVIEW

### The Jews of Charlotte

by Morris Speizman  
McNally & Loftin \$10.95

This book represents a prodigious research effort and compilation of data which could have become cumbersome or uninspiring in other hands. Morris Speizman has instead created a kaleidoscope of characters that makes his narrative spring convincingly to life.

The author neatly dissects the Jewish community of Charlotte from its early and inauspicious beginnings to the present day when three temples offer congregants a broad spectrum of worship. The transition from orthodox interpretation to conservatism and reform observance is chronicled painstakingly and in depth.

How the Charlotte Jews segued into civic responsibilities and service organizations is also a major theme. Each separate organization, its aims and purposes, plus active participants past and present, is presented in chronological order.

Speizman has categorized outstanding Charlotteans in the arts and professions with an interesting breakdown of Jewish residents who merit distinction. Some of the larger than life portraits include practical jokers, journalists, musicians and merchants, each one a distinct personality in his own right. From athletes to artists, the reader is introduced to a succession of colorful individuals whose accomplishments are worthy of notice.

Rather than a pedantic history, the author uses wit and humor to illustrate his commentary and conjectures. This book is not non-fiction in the ordinary sense, but an attempt to make the Jewish background of Charlotte come alive by focusing on its formative period and some of the people who lived and died there.

Speizman calls his work a short profile of the Jews in Charlotte. He is extremely modest since the book offers much more. The reader is given a piercing look into the past as well as a reflective mirror of current conditions, some of which deserve modification, alteration, or even change. The author is not afraid to discuss such issues.

Although the book is specifically about Jews in a particular city, people in other areas might surely enjoy reading about the South and how Judaism was transplanted, nurtured and grew there. In particular, Northerners who have grown up in ghetto type neighborhoods or cultures would better understand the pains and pleasures of Southern Jewish living.

One of the book's big attractions is sure to be Appendix A which is a Who's Who of current Jewish Charlotte residents. All identified families are alphabetically listed with business and organization affiliations, educational background, and other pertinent information about husband and wife. Children and their ages are also included to round out the family picture. Curious readers will doubtless thumb through this section for vital statistics about persons they know.

Morris Speizman has written authoritatively and knows his subject well. His book should find a ready place in the home, library, and industry—not only where Yiddishkeit thrives but where other enlightened people seek to learn more about Jews and their activities in the South.

Muriel Levitt

**Editor's note:**  
Muriel Levitt is a freelance writer who moved to Charlotte from New York State several years ago. We look forward to more articles from her in the "NEWS."

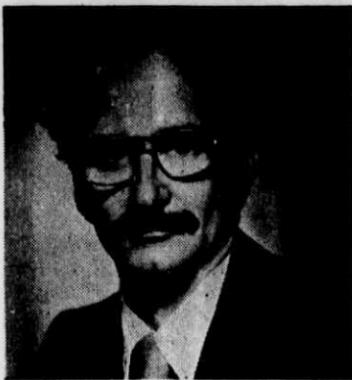
We are indebted to Marta Gorelick for providing the "NEWS" with the International "News."

THE JCC



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OF THINGS

### B'nai B'rith Lecture Series



On February 18th, Rabbi A. James Rudin, who is experienced in the Jewish response to evangelical religious and cult groups, will speak on "The Challenge of the New Religious Cults." The lecture will begin at 8 p.m. at the J.C.C. There is no admission charge.

### King of the Songwriters

Whatever the fads, there will always be a Wilensky song in the air. In "Tamid Kalaniot Tifrahna" ("Anemones Will Always Bloom"), 55 of Moshe Wilensky's songs are assembled, together with the musical scores. Wilensky has written hundreds of other tunes to the words of some of the nation's best poets — Bialik, Alterman, Yaakov Orland and Yehiel Mohar. One quality that nobody would deny was his prodigious capacity for work.

Amiable and outwardly, at least, good humored, Wilensky adapted to the local conditions from the moment he arrived in Tel Aviv in 1932. He accompanied the "Matate" satirical theatre on piano, wrote music for them — and for any singer with popular appeal.

One of his songs which Yosef Goland performed was the first Hebrew record cast in London.

In the heyday of political reviews at "Matate" and "Li-La-Lo," Wilensky's melodies became popular after they were performed on the stage by Esther Gamlielit, Jennie Lubich or Shoshana Damari.

"Kalaniot" ("Anemones") is one such song. "Ani miZfat" ("I am from Safed"), "Mishlat Auv" ("An Abandoned Outpost"), the lullaby "Numa Bni Atsom na Ayin" ("Sleep My Son, Close Thine Eyes") are some of the most popular hits not included in this selection, in which early songs are outnumbered by works of the fifties and sixties.

Wilensky was liked by poets because he found cadences suitable to their words. The composer himself was not always happy: "I would prefer to write a tune and invite a poet to provide the words. But there is never time for such cooperation," he once complained.

### Jews, Arabs Praise Book

NEW YORK — Two well-known Jews and three supporters of the Arab cause have praised the new book by Alfred Lilienthal, one of the most-hated anti-Zionists. The volume, to be published by Dodd, Mead is entitled "The Zionist Connection."

Prof. Noam Chomsky of MIT said "Lilienthal's book is a well-documented study that contains much information that is important and generally unknown in the United States. Particularly valuable is his discussion of the distorting filter through which the Israeli-Arab conflict passes and the policy consequences of these very serious misrepresentations."

Moshe Menuhin, father of the violinist, said that "this latest Lilienthal book should be on the night table of every American who is alarmed by the loss of integrity in the United States and justifiably concerned with the welfare of his country."

The Blurbs by the three supporters of the Arabs were by Sen. James Abourezk, Abdalla Yaccoub Bishara and Sir John Glubb. Loy W. Henderson, former director of the Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs of the Department of State noted that he was "awed by the enormous amount of study and research that must have gone into it and also by the courage of the author and publisher."

### Prosecution of War Criminals

The prosecution of Nazi war criminals in this country has not proceeded as vigorously and expeditiously as it should. Only one, a German national, Hermine Braunsteiner/Ryan, a former Auschwitz guard, was successfully deported to West Germany where she is still involved in a lengthy trial. It is estimated that there are about 140 or more war criminals in the United States, almost all of them of Slavic, Soviet or other East European origins. Only a handful of these have ever been brought to the courts and only one in this group, Andrei Artukovic, has been denaturalized and deported but he still remains in California.

Several circumstances have led to this situation.

\* Many former war criminals apparently lied about their background, either orally or in written applications for visas to enter the United States.

\* Thirty years after the fact, it has been extremely difficult to get credible eye witnesses — here or in other countries — to testify about the war crimes.

\* Efforts to get the Soviet Union and other Iron Curtain nations to produce documentation and testimony during the Cold War years were unfruitful. (This situation has changed somewhat due to the lessening in tension between the United States, the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries, and, most important, due to the possible emergence of new witnesses among the heavy Soviet Jewish emigration now mostly in Israel and some perhaps in the United States, since 1970.)

\* Even in cases where war criminals were proven to have lied on their visa applications and could have been denaturalized and deported, deportation became unlikely because of a requirement originating in the 1950's, that the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service receive from the State Department an official statement that deportees would receive a fair trial in the receiving country and would not be prosecuted because of their political beliefs rather than their war crimes.

\* This situation was compounded by rumors, some of them since corroborated, that many of these war criminals were allowed into the United States because of their cooperation with the CIA which viewed them as arch anti-Communists.

\* Concomitant with all of the above developments has been the reluctance of the world to face up squarely to the awesomeness of the Holocaust. The matter of unprosecuted war criminals is a part of this reluctance, and therefore another imperative for raising public consciousness.

### Why Sadat Changed

JERUSALEM — The book that asserts why President Sadat made his historic trip to Jerusalem, explaining that it was prompted by a warning against his life that Prime Minister Begin provided him, has come off the press. It is, "The Mossad."

Mossad is Israel's CIA, and it learned of an attack on Sadat's life, which when Begin transmitted it to Sadat led to discovery of a huge arms cache and the arrest of the intended assassins.

Sadat's gratitude led to secret talks in Morocco with Moshe Dayan and Egyptian representatives, culminating in Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, according to the book.

### Honorable Menchen

### Three Named To NCCJ Board

The Mecklenburg Chapter of The National Conference of Christians and Jews has announced that Natalie Cohen, Sol Jaffa and Rita Mond have been voted to active board membership. All three have been active in community as well as Jewish affairs, and have been appointed to a three year term.

Natalie Cohen, who is past chairman of the Mecklenburg County Commission on the Status of Women, will be serving on the community committee. Sol Jaffa, a past-president of the B'nai B'rith Lodge and B'nai B'rith Youth Organization leader, has been asked to serve on the youth committee. Rita Mond, who is currently co-editor of The Charlotte Jewish News and a past-president of the Charlotte Chapter B'nai B'rith Women, was one of the coordinators of the Holocaust programming this past year. She will be serving on the public relations committee.

Others serving on committees this coming year are: Gene Goldberg, youth committee; Al London, administration of justice committee; Marvin Bienstock, coordinator of the inter-faith committee; Jon Wallas, Fay Green, and Rabbi Harold Krantzler, inter-faith committee.

### Local Artists Exhibits

Screening judge Donald Sexauer of the East Carolina School of Art has selected Florence Jaffa as one of the 63 artists to participate in the 63rd Annual Arts Showcase, sponsored by First Union National Bank, Feb. 3-4 at the Civic Center, 101 S. College St.

The show includes paintings, graphics, drawings, sculpture, jewelry and pottery. These will all be on sale. Florence will be exhibiting a number of etchings, silk screens and drawings.

### Kudos to Joffe

At the recent meeting of the Hebrew Cemetery Association, Jerome Joffe was retired as president. The Jewish community of Charlotte is deeply indebted to the work performed by Jerry over the past decade. The entire community owes him a great debt of gratitude for his untiring efforts.

The new officers are as follows: Hilbert Fuerstman, president; Nat Roberts, vice president; Elliot Schwartz, treasurer; Leslie Cohen, secretary.

### Radio Series Marks 35th Year

NEW YORK — "The Eternal Light," the longest-running continuous dramatic radio series on the air, is marking its 35th anniversary this year with new versions of programs that are considered among the classics of the series.

They include Marc Siegel's "A Message from Dimona," originally broadcast in 1966 to celebrate Israel's 18th anniversary and Morton Wishengrad's "The Bar Mitzvah of Private Cohen," written in the shadow of World War II about a 22-year old soldier who wanted to become a Bar Mitzvah.

"The Eternal Light" is broadcast every Sunday on the NBC Radio network.