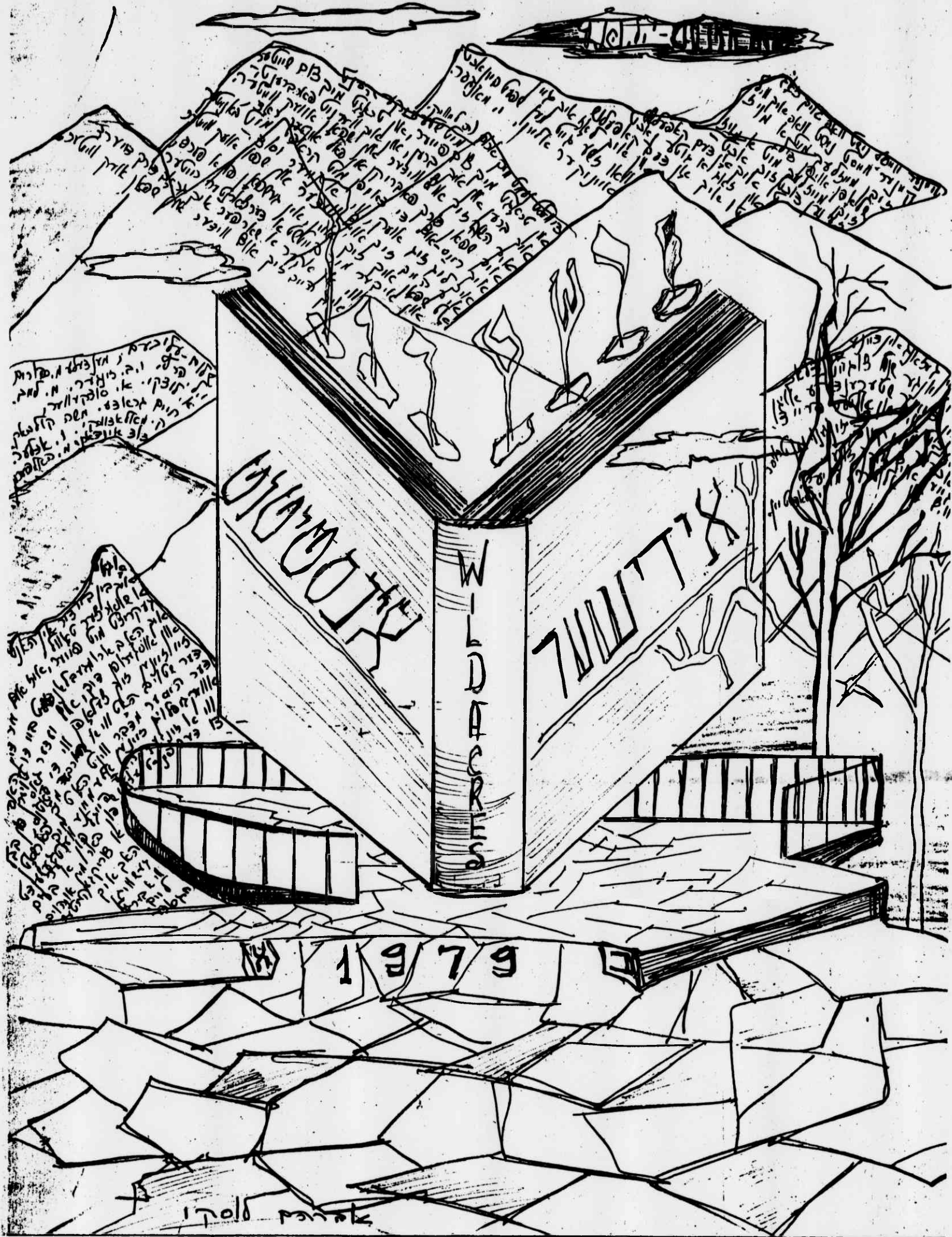


SHALOM Y'ALL



Original Drawing By Abe Luski

The Jewish Community of Charlotte

A Brief History

The first measurable impact of Jews on the Charlotte area came shortly after 1848 when a few families of German Jews found their way here.

At the end of the 19th Century, a number of East-European Jews arrived in Charlotte. The period from 1895 through 1920 saw a steady growth in numbers of these East European families. By then, there were approximately thirty families in the East-European group, and there were still about ten families of the earlier German Jewish group who were still identifiable in our community.

During World War I, the Jewish community opened its doors to the soldiers who were stationed at Camp Greene. This feeling of communal hospitality carried over to World War II days when Charlotte was the hub of a number of military camps in this region.

After World War II, there was an influx of young Jewish men and women who found that Charlotte was a blossoming oasis in what they had previously considered the Negev of America. Since then, our community has grown by leaps and bounds.

There are approximately 900 Jewish families in the Charlotte community today. We have three congregations, plus our Jewish Community Center and the North Carolina Hebrew Academy, which is a Solomon-Schechter type Jewish day school.

Our major philanthropic efforts are centered in the Charlotte Federation of Jewish Charities which raises well over a half million dollars each year, and distributes the money to both foreign, as well as domestic institutions. The great majority of the funds collected are destined for the United Jewish Appeal.

We are blessed with a plethora of Jewish service organizations, including B'nai B'rith, Hadassah, ORT, to name but a few.

Newcomers will find Charlotte a hospitable town, not only on the part of the Jewish community, but citywide. Anyone who has the proper combination of personality, talent, and desire can achieve a reasonably good measure of recognition in the community.