THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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Editorials

Passover Tradition

It has always been a tradition that the family celebrates Passover together at the Seder. Along with this it has been the practice that the poor were invited as well as those who did not have family. We have always included additional guests at our table, especially newcomers to our community as well as Russian immigrants. We know that this has been the practice among many families within our Jewish community and we hope that this will continue this Passover. It is a time when people should not be alone and should be made welcome within our family circles. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every family having a Seder would invite at least one more family to celebrate with them?

Temple Beth El is to be commended on their latest effort in having a community first Seder. (Temple Israel annually holds the Pressman second Seder). Hopefully this will fill the void for many families new in Charlotte and for the many singles who otherwise would be alone. There is nothing nicer than being "one united family" on such an occasion. However, the Temple can not accomodate everyone who would like to attend. It is for this reason that we urge you all to open your hearts and homes to others... "why is this night different from all other nights"? Perhaps an additional answer should be... "for on this night we invite others to partake at our table."

A HAPPY PASSOVER TO YOU ALL.

Rising Costs

We complain about increased prices on food, gas, clothing, cars and utilities. Prime interest rates reached an all time high of 17½%; college tuition costs are unbelievable. Virtually nothing has escaped the rising inflation.

This newspaper also has not escaped the toll of our present economy. Paper, ink, photographic supplies, etc. have skyrocketed which has caused several price increases in producing *The Charlotte Jewish News*. We are still distributing the paper free to the community and have held advertising rates to what they were a year ago and hope that there will be no need to increase them. Our sponsoring organizations are still contributing the bulk of the expense in seeing that this paper comes out monthly but at an added expenditure. In order to ease this increased financial burden to them we need to seek additional advertisers. If you, our readers, own a business, we hope that you will consider taking out ads. If any of you can solicit potential advertisers it would be of great assistance. Advertising in *The Charlotte Jewish News* reaches approximately 2,000 families in the Charlotte area; many of these are new to the community.

Believe us...it pays to advertise!

HERMAN

"If gasoline were $5 a gallon, do you realize how many camels we could sell in Los Angeles alone?"

Across The Editors' Desks

Dear Rita and Ann,

Thank you for your articles promoting the B'nai B'rith Lecture Series.

Sincerely,
Joe Steiner

The Editors welcome comments and reserve the right to edit.

Random Thoughts... *by Muriel Levitt*

After a recent article about my Western vacation, a few dear and loyal readers have requested that I write more concerning Las Vegas, especially the casinos and games of chance. Now I am no authority, and certainly no Jimmy the Greek, but I can share some observations with you just in case you've never been.

No matter which hotel you visit or which casino you frequent, they are all basically the same. In order to get to the elevators, the information clerk, the ticket desk, the phones, or anything at all, you must first walk through the casino. There are no lobbies in Las Vegas, only casinos.

When you enter, for as far as the eye perceives, there is a mob scene enmeshed in a sea of activity. Everywhere you look are roulette tables, poker tables, black jack tables, and Keno areas. There are slot machines up the kazoo in every denomination from five cents to a dollar. Wall to wall people walk, talk, amble and gamble. Bells clang, whistles blow, and there is a continual sound of coins falling when jackpots are won. Although hard to believe, this pandemonium goes on twenty four hours a day. There is little sleep in Las Vegas.

Every casino has a dining room and the food is good and unbelievably cheap. They are out to keep you there as long as possible. If you got hungry and went elsewhere to eat, you might not return, and that would never do. So, they offer you marvelous buffets all day and all night for like $1.99, an excellent value. You end up eating and gambling, gambling and eating.

Actually, the most wonderful sight has got to be the people. They come, literally, from all over the world, some in silks and some in overalls... a true sampling of all kinds and all types.

The magnificent shows and celebrity performances available everywhere are secondary. Most people come with the thought of hitting it big, winning a huge jackpot, or making a fortune. It's my opinion that the harder you try and the more you need the money, the less apt you are to strike it rich. This seems to apply whether you play cards, bingo, or whatever.

But try and tell this to anyone in Las Vegas. Most visitors are out to make a killing. I saw an elderly lady who must have been in her eighties standing at a five cent slot. Each time she put in a nickel and pulled the arm she loudly signed, "Oi Vey." I asked why (one gets very chummy in a casino) and she replied, "I don't want to give the machine a Kinneh Hurreh. If I pretend I am not too anxious, maybe it will pay off." How's that for reverse psychology?

And how about the Brooklyn lady who played three slots at once, running from one to another, inserting silver dollars like crazy. She had a large cup under each machine and whenever she won, the coins would come flying out, many missing the cup and hitting the floor. Passersby were most polite, picking up coins and putting them in one of the cups. But she was so busy pulling handles that she never even said thank you.

My favorite tourist was the Chicago man who played Keno for hours on end while his wife sat beside him patiently knitting for the "aineklach" while he plotted the numbers. He picked birthdays, anniversaries, ages, house numbers and zip codes, but in all the time I watched him he won not one single dollar! When I left after several hours, he was still at it. I hope he has gone home by now.

An interesting item is that no matter where you go, there is not one single clock to be seen in Las Vegas. No distraction is supposed to interfere with your entertainment. They have created an artificial atmosphere, a never-never land for adults where time is of no import.

We also fell under this spell of make believe and spent many hours testing our luck. My husband tried it all with no success. No matter what I did, I was a winner. In fact, my winnings offset his losses and then some. I must confess that the excitement of winning is a very unusual emotion. It brings a temporary high and a strange exhileration that made me feel I had accomplished something special. I must add that this feeling only remains as long as you continue to party and play.

Even leaving Las Vegas is fun. Instead of having to trudge through the airport, you stand on a moving walkway which carries you to the plane. Voices of various celebrities are on the loudspeaker urging you to return soon. The powers that be don't give up on you till the very last moment because the airport has slot machines blinking at you right up until you board the airplane.

It's nicer than being mugged and more fun than being robbed, but nevertheless your pockets are emptied and your wallet ravished by the time you go home. Somebody once said that the way to beat Las Vegas was to get off the plane and walk into the propeller! I disagree. It costs a bunch and you leave totally exhausted, but it's happy time all the way. Come to think of it, maybe I'll take the money I won and start a fund for our next trip. Can you guess where it will be?

For the Record

by Norman Olshansky
Regional Director, ADL

Judging from the contents of a recent press packet distributed by the National Council of Churches, it would appear that they are moving towards a position which is unmistakable; namely, to undermine and reverse Christian support of Israel.

The extensive packet of materials which was distributed to the press through the NCC Office of News and Information was not what it purported to be. Instead of presenting a comprehensive, unbiased study of the Middle East situation, the summary was, in fact, an unbalanced and unfair presentation of the issues.

Unfortunately, this is but one of several indications that the National Council of Churches is moving towards an anti-Israel position and has taken a one-sided approach to Middle East policy and review. Their newly-constituted special panel on the Middle East is a good example. They continually emphasize support of some form of Palestinian right to self-determination. No mention is made, however, of the positive and unprecendented discussions which have been taking place between Israel and Egypt in an effort to achieve Palestinian autonomy. In fact, one of the documents in the press packet is not only heavily weighted in favor of the Arab viewpoint, but implies that most church leaders are anti-Israel.

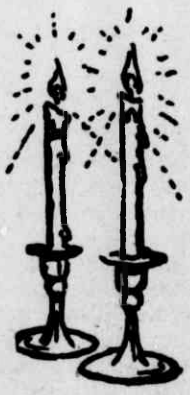
Obviously, there are many American Christians who are not only sensitive to, but also very knowledgeable about Middle Eastern affairs. In the NCC packet, however, which listed contact persons, fair-minded supporters of Israel are not to be found. In addition, there was little indication in the material of any sampling of the grass-root congregational members who are known to want to see the Camp David initiative spread beyond just Israel and Egypt.

At this time especially, when Americans of all faiths and backgrounds are particularly sensitive to the blackmail and terrorist activities of the rejectionist Arab states, one cannot help but wonder why the National Council of Churches seems to be supporting those who are working to undermine and destroy a just and lasting peace.

Hopefully, local and statewide affiliates of the National Council of Churches will begin to explore in more depth the diverse and complex issues surrounding the Middle East with the ultimate goal of gaining greater insight into and presenting a more balanced review of the issues involved.

For more information or specific details regarding the National Council of Churches and its position on the Middle East, contact your local ADL office at 3311 West Broad Street, Richmond, Va. 23230; phone: (804) 355-2884.

The Jewish Calendar



CANDLELIGHTING
Mar. 7 - 6:19 p.m.
Mar. 14 - 6:25 p.m.
Mar. 21 - 6:30 p.m.
Mar. 28 - 6:35 p.m.
Mar. 31 - 6:36 p.m.
(1st Seder)
Apr. 1 - 6:37 p.m.
(2nd Seder)
Apr. 4 - 6:40 p.m.

PASSOVER
Mar. 31 - Fast of First Born
First Seder
Apr. 1 - Second Seder
Apr. 8 - Eighth Day
Yiskor