

The Charlotte Jewish

NEWS

Non-Profit Organization
BULK RATE
U.S. Postage PAID
Charlotte, N. C.
Permit No. 1208

VOL. 2, NO. 5

Charlotte, North Carolina

MAY 1980

Update: New Americans

Four Soviet Jewish families arrived in Charlotte between April 1979 and April 1980 and one family who had relocated in 1977 returned to Charlotte.

The most recent arrival is the Metelitsa family. Yakov, his wife Galina and their seven year old twin sons, Gary and Vadim, are from Moscow. Yakov is a systems analyst and Galina is a communications engineer. Both are presently seeking employment. Gary and Vadim attend the North Carolina Hebrew Academy at Charlotte.

Grigory Bunich, his wife Raisa and their sons, Boris age 9 and Alex age 8, moved to Charlotte from Norfolk, Virginia in December. Originally from Kiev, they lived in Norfolk a year before moving to Charlotte where Grigory is an engineer with Duke Power Co. Alex and Boris also attend the Hebrew Academy.

Benjamin Balbir, his wife Irene, their two year old twin sons, Sasha and Gene, and Benjamin's mother, Bella Fayvilevich, arrived in Charlotte in September. "Benjie" is a design engineer with American Barmag Corp. and Irene is employed by First Citizens Bank and Trust as a teller. Bella enjoys the Chai group at the JCC.

Isaac Bykin, his wife Genrieta, and their nine year old twin daughters, Mary and Neca, moved to Charlotte a year ago from Leningrad. Isaac is employed by Ben Weinreb Engineering and Genya by Atlantic Design Co. Mary and Neca are students at the Hebrew Academy.

Mark Barkan, his wife Lucy and sons, Leon age 8 and Christopher age 2, returned to Charlotte from Hickory in September. Mark is an engineer with Duke Power Co. and Lucy is a keypunch operator for Transport Clearinghouse. Leon attends the Hebrew Academy and Chris keeps his grandmother Yeva busy chasing him all day.

Presently there are ten families living in Charlotte. We have four families from Kiev, three from Leningrad, two from Moscow and one from Riga. We have fourteen children includ-

JCC Receives JWB Award

The award for a special event in communications was awarded to the Charlotte Jewish Community Center for its social, cultural and sports exchange program with the Centro Social Deportivo Hebraica of Caracas, Venezuela, at the JWB Biennial. Forty-four Jewish Community Centers and YM & YWHAs in the U.S. and Canada, six Jewish communal camps and two military Jewish communities have won a total of 64 JWB Biennial Communications Awards for outstanding accomplishments in five different aspects of communications.

The awards presented by Harry C. Isaacs of Rye, N.Y., Chairman, JWB's Committee on Public Interpretation and Communications, at the 1980 JWB Biennial Convention were in Multi-Media Presentations; Special Events; Membership Brochures; Program Brochures; Photos. The Jewish Community Centers and YM & YWHAs were divided according to the size of Jewish population, as follows: CATEGORY A — 40,000 and more Jewish population; CATEGORY B — 20,000 to 39,999 Jewish population; CATEGORY C — 5,000 to 19,999 Jewish population; CATEGORY D — under 5,000 Jewish population; CATEGORY E — JCC and Y Branches.

"It is a tribute to the entrants and their communities that we received 150 entries from Jewish Community Centers, camps, and military Jewish communities. Certainly impressive numbers," Mr. Isaacs wrote in the foreword of the Awards Winners booklet.

ing three sets of twins and two children born in the U.S. Nine of the ten elementary school age children are receiving some form of Jewish education. Seven attend the Hebrew Academy and two attend religious school at Temple Beth El.

Those of us who have been helping the Russian families adjust to their new surroundings always joke "that each one is an engineer." Guess Duke Power

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Yom Hashoa



Participants involved in the simulation Holocaust learning experience during the Yom Hashoa observance.

"If God has a plan for humanity, how does Hitler fit in?"
— Dr. Harry Cargas

Special Yom Hashoa services were held Sunday, April 13 to observe the "Day of Holocaust Remembrance." A public commemorative service was held in Holocaust Square at Morehead Street and Dilworth Road from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. Approximately 150 people were drenched during the rainstorm as the recitations and candlelighting took place. Many of the soaking wet spectators were children from Temple Beth El's religious school who had come on the WBT bus. The sisterhood and men's club of Temple Israel prepared a menu of the standard concentration camp fare and passed it out to the crowd ... potato peeling soup and stale bread.

In the afternoon an "invitation only" group of people, who met at Temple Israel, went through a simulated Holocaust. From the beginning of "Gestapo: A Learning Experience About the Holocaust" the 48 participants representing the leadership of 10 areas of community life — education, government, law, religion, media, industry, medicine, social services, the applied sciences and the arts — risked their lives and their treasures against the Nazi regime. After the hour-long simulation only about half of them came out as survivors. Moderator Dick Pomerantz read actual events

from Hitler's rise in power in 1933 to the end of World War II in 1945. After their experiences the participants were urged to maintain a commitment to moving the community to a better future.

The group was also addressed by Dr. Franklin Littell, professor of Religion at Temple University in Philadelphia and director of the National Institute on the Holocaust. He is also an adjunct professor at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Dr. Littell, a Protestant, stated, "When you have met and dealt with the Holocaust face to face, nothing is ever the same again." Also speaking was Dr. Harry Cargas, a Catholic, who is chairman of the Department of Language and Literature at Webster College in St. Louis and a member of the National Institute on the Holocaust. In an earlier interview he stated that "the Christian liturgical calendar should include an annual memorial for the Jewish victims of the Holocaust." He further said that "Jesus should be recognized as a link between Jews and Christians, and the Christian theologies of history should be re-examined. If God has a plan for humanity, how does Hitler fit in?" Describing a Christian response to the Holocaust, Cargas suggested that Christians publicly and officially admit the wrong of their teachers' presentation of the Jews, that Christians find a new terminology for what they designate the Old and New

Testaments and that Catholics demand an encyclical letter denouncing anti-Semitism.

At 7:30 p.m. an evening service of remembrance and commitment was held for the community at Covenant Presbyterian Church. This service included a candlelighting ceremony to commemorate the eleven million who died during the Holocaust — six million Jews and five million others. Ten of the candles were lit by each of the representatives of the ten areas of community life. The eleventh candle was lit by a child of a survivor of the Holocaust and was to represent the youth and hopefully our future. Dr. Littell spoke again to the approximately 200 who braved the heavy rain that evening. He spoke about "the wickedness of perpetrators and the wickedness of spectators." He emphasized the injustice of Christianity from the church to the synagogue. Littell feels that one should "speak still or speak to save a life" and praised the group "Action Reconciliation" as "doing something that is credible." He went on to state that "when the Christians learn more about the Holocaust, they will mourn it more than the Jews."

The day's program was sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the Jewish Community Center, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews and was made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Committee.

JCC Elects New Officers



Ben Jaffa, Jr. was installed to serve his second consecutive term as President of the JCC at the April meeting.

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