

**Editorials**

**Just Two Little Words**

There are two very important words that mean a lot to me. They are "thank you." For some people it is difficult to say these words, to write them or even to think them. And yet these are among the first words we learn in a foreign language: merci, danke, todah, gracias, etc.

We say thank you when we appreciate what someone else has done for us; we say thank you for a helping hand; we say thank you sometimes just to see another day come to be.

It's nice to express our gratitude with the words "thank you" but there are other ways too of letting someone is today...not a phone call only when in need of care. Life is not a one-way street...it is not only giving and never taking nor is it only taking and never giving. Life is a reciprocity...it is a give and take proposition. It does not have to be "equal time" to be reciprocal.

"Thank you" is a friendly phone call to ask how someone is today...not a phone call only when in need of something. "Thank you" is a smile, a nod, a recognition. "Thank you" is a note, a card, a flower, a remembrance on your birthday, anniversary, or even an "un-birthday". Thank you is caring!

Recently I received a phone call from Marta Garelik. She was a patient at Mercy Hospital and she called me about her column "World Beat", worried that she wouldn't be able to get it ready for this month's issue. She was more concerned about this than that she had been incapacitated. This was her way of saying "thank you" not only to me but to her many readers. I am exceedingly grateful that I can say that her column does appear and that she is recuperating at home...to her I say a heartfelt "thank you"...a sincere "thank you" for knowing and working with such a conscientious person.

- Rita Mond



"THANK YOU"

**Togetherness**

Having just attended the performance by "The Klezmerim" at Spirit Square brings to mind how cohesive our Jewish community is becoming and how wonderful it is to witness. The performance at Spirit Square brought together approximately 500 members of our community along with approximately 200 other Charlotteans who shared together some of the richness of our inheritance by the way of Jewish jazz folk music. It was heart warming to look throughout the theater and see smiling faces, tapping toes and fingers, and most of all, warm enthusiastic clapping of hands.

Our community is coming together more and more frequently - and this is good. The Afikomen Hunt on the grounds of the site for the new community structures was another recent heart warming experience. (A story appears elsewhere in this issue.)

Let us continue to grow together and share together. Thank you for supporting our endeavors.

- Ann Langman

**L' Chaim**

By L. Louis Albert, ACSW  
Director Federation  
Social Services

Many people know that the Jewish Federation raises money each year which is largely used to improve the quality of life in Israel. What many people do not realize is that over one and a half years ago the Federation created a Social Work Program whose purpose has been to address the quality of life for Jewish families in our community. As of this writing more than one out of every ten families in the Jewish Community has made use of social work services in one of the two defined program areas: Services to Older Adults and Services around Vocational Problems.

We're all well aware that Charlotte is growing rapidly as part of the Sunbelt population explosion. Older adults are increasingly choosing to retire in North Carolina for its moderate year round climate. Younger families are moving here with the many new industries and businesses that have chosen to relocate in Charlotte. This kind of change is exciting for the Jewish Community, but is not without problems. With a Jewish population of 3500, it

has become almost impossible to know everyone and to develop the supports which we all need at one time or another. As the community grows we have become more and more concerned with the quality of life for Jewish families and not only with the outer trappings of growth.

Several facts may be of interest. First, the older adult population in the Charlotte Jewish Community represents 13-15% of the total and is growing. Like it or not each of us must deal with physical, emotional, and many times financial changes in our lives as we grow older. All too often, we may find people who are cut off from others by these changes. The Federation's Social Work Program works with individual older adults and their families to talk over the situation and provide the best help available whether it be counseling, information, or arranging for concrete services.

A second fact is that unemployment is on the rise and has affected the Jewish Community as well as everyone else. It has become harder and harder to find an interesting and well paid job that has some security with

it. Unemployment affects newcomers, teenagers, men and women of all ages. Many people already here in Charlotte have been pressed by the hard economic times and have lost their jobs or remain in positions that do not fully utilize their abilities. Moving to a new area, looking for a job and unhappiness with a current job all cause pressures on the family and may lead to excessive stress. In the vocational area, the Federation's Social Work Program offers counseling services, assistance in resume preparation and development of job hunting skills, and a job bank to help make connections with potential employers.

After a successful first year and three fourths of another year of operation, the Federation's Department of Social Services will continue to offer help to Jewish families. I encourage each one of you to feel free to call on me as needed, and to share your thoughts and ideas on the Program. All contacts are on a private and completely confidential basis. The Department of Social Services is located in the JCC building and the telephone number is 366-0358.

**For The Record**

By Norman Olshansky  
Regional Director  
Anti-Defamation League of  
B'nai B'rith

Your letters and expressions of concern have helped. Rafael Rey and six other Argentinian Jewish prisoners on whose behalf we have intervened, are now free men. He is among seven of a group of 60 prisoners who have been under a form of parole called "supervised liberty" (libertad vigilada). Now that their parole status has been eliminated and they are free, Rey can be reunited in Israel with his wife and his six year old daughter, whom he has never seen.

Rafael Rey was one of many Argentinian prisoners who have been identified by the Anti-Defamation League as part of our Argentine Prisoner Project.

While the problem has not been completely resolved, we are pleased to report that the government of Argentina has taken several positive steps on Jewish issues since General Leopoldo Galtieri became president. A.) The television program "Holocaust" was finally broadcast on Argentine television. B.) A standing order was issued granting leave to Jewish recruits on the High Holy Days; a ten-year calendar for the holidays was incorporated with the order. Previously the Jewish community had petitioned for this privilege each year.

C.) President Galtieri promptly repudiated the desecration of tombstones on February 25th in Mar del Telta and called for the ar-

rest of those responsible. This action by the president was without precedent in recent times and was communicated immediately to the ADL from the president's office. D.) The Interior Ministry has again promised to stamp out Nazi literature.

There were meetings last fall between official representatives of the Argentine president, the foreign ministry and ADL. While some of the suggestions we made have already been implemented there are still other concerns which need to be addressed, including the enactment of legislation against racial and religious discrimination and the arrest of those who commit anti-Semitic acts. Neither has occurred during the six years that the military has been in power.

As you may recall from previous columns on Argentinian Jewry, many people have disappeared or been subject to arrest for no other apparent reason than the fact that they were Jewish. Our Argentine Prisoner Project is still actively involved in determining why these

people are in jail and petitioning for their release. Your efforts can be of tremendous assistance by writing the Argentine Embassy, President of Argentina, Organization of American States and U.S. Officials on behalf of specific prisoners.

We now have a new list of individuals on whose behalf you can act. The following are six names which are now the primary focus of activities by the Argentine Prisoner Project.

1. Juan Alberto Epstein
2. Anna Esther Koldorf
3. Claudia Kon
4. Magdalena Del Carmen Romanuk De Moreno Krieman
5. The Menajovsky Family
6. Ernesto Podolsky

For more details about each of the above individuals and for further instructions as to how you can express concerns on their behalf, contact your regional office of the Anti-Defamation League at 3311 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230.

Join us in asking why these people are in Argentine jails and where are the disappeared?

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Marvin Bienstock, Director  
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Harold Cohen, Director  
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Eleanor Weinglass, Director

Editors ..... Ann Langman & Rita Mond  
Staff ..... Monroe Katz & Lissa Millman

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P.O. Box 220188, Charlotte, N.C. 28222