

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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The appearance of advertising in The News does not constitute a kashruth endorsement.

Editorial

Opening and Closing Doors

There were many reactions to last month's editorial concerning local newspaper coverage of the Middle East. Some were concerned it would anger the Observer and close doors which needed to remain open. A great deal of time has been spent talking with Mr. Oppel this month. The subjects have covered the range of Jewish ideas and feelings from the religious to the political.

The key lesson to be learned is the right and the obligation to speak out. There is no guarantee asked or given that our editorial, his response and all the discussions will change either of our points of view. But there is a clear recognition of our right to disagree publicly and still maintain mutual respect.

When it comes to speaking out, both the Observer and News have provided a forum for members of the Jewish community. The letters have been frequent and excellent. Some of the signatures are familiar, expected and recurrent. Others are totally unexpected and extremely welcome as well as erudite. In a lecture during his scholar-in-residence in Charlotte this past month, Dr. Louis Schmier described the history of two waves of Jewish immigration to the small town of Valdosta, Ga. The first wave quickly shed their Jewish "trappings" and were accepted, at least marginally, into the society of the town. The second wave clung proudly to their "Jewishness" and were not only accepted but respected.

To Richard Oppel's list of Jewish names should be added the names of those who write letters to the editor. There is always room for one more name - how about yours?



Across The Editors' Desks...

JCC Luau Revisited

I am writing this to share a few thoughts and observations about the recent JCC Luau. Without a question, a lot of planning and effort went into this event, and the results generally reflected this. Overall, most of those attending seemed to have had a very enjoyable evening in especially attractive surroundings. Unfortunately, there was one very serious flaw: there was not quite enough food for the people who attended and several couples did not have complete table settings.

Obviously, we cannot correct this unfortunate aspect of the Luau. But if we analyze why it happened, we can assure ourselves against the same errors being repeated at future events.

Many of the needed and appreciated supporters of JCC functions do not honor the deadlines for various registrations. The JCC expects this inappropriate behavior, allows it, and, therefore, reinforces it. The JCC wants the members to

support its functions and does not want to offend anyone by turning them away. This attitude has created an unfortunate no-win situation. Attendance can not be predicted. Quantities of food to be ordered and amounts of supplies to be purchased become merely guesswork. As a result, supporters do not always receive what they are promised and the JCC loses credibility. In the case of the Luau, an additional 20 percent attended the function than were expected by reservations. People who had made reservations weeks in advance were penalized to accommodate those who merely showed up at the affair.

Rather clearly, then, the solution to this problem requires two steps: the community must be more timely in responding to requests for reservations and the JCC must firmly commit itself to maintaining its predetermined deadlines for reservations to its events.

It is time for the JCC to

By Richard A. Klein

The time is approaching when you'll be asked again to give to your Federation. Some will be personally solicited. Many will be asked by phone on Super Sunday. Perhaps even more will not be asked at all.

Sheer numbers are against us. We're largely a volunteer organization that is, at present, unable to reach out to all we should be seeing. Our volunteer campaign numbers are expanding, but not fast enough to make complete contact.

Looking at it optimistically, we're in a transition stage from a relatively modest

campaign in a small (Jewishly) city, to a more ambitious campaign in a growing city.

Here are some of the problems we'll encounter during this transition that require your cooperation, assistance and understanding:

1. Remember that your solicitor is a volunteer. He or she is taking time away from home or office to call or see you about a cause that is extremely important to our community and Israel.

2. We can't reach everyone. We're trying, but it's not possible now to personally visit everyone. If we've overlooked you on a personal solicitation, please

call us at 366-0358 and a personal solicitation will be arranged.

3. We don't know everything we should about you. If we've misspelled your name, tell us. If we're asking too little or too much from you, tell us (we don't know what's in your wallet). If you have a particular interest in one Jewish service or charity over another, we'd like to know.

4. Maybe you've worked at another Federation. There's a lot of talent in our community going to waste, and we recognize that sad fact. Step forward! Let us know if you've had UJA, Federation or campaign experience in other places.

5. Maybe you want to learn. Fantastic! You are not too young, too old, too this or that. We can use your help in the general campaign and on Super Sunday. You will not go out on a solicitation alone or without training.

6. We don't have all the answers - right away. But we'll get them for you. If you question our allocations, source of information on data that's supplied, that's fine. Give us the opportunity to have your questions answered. We will get back to you.

7. Maybe you're upset. We don't admit to being perfect. But you've got to tell us where we went wrong so we can correct the problem. Lots of people stew because someone solicited them "wrong." It happens, but the Federation is bigger and more important than one "wrong" solicitation. The cause and the issues are "right." Give us an opportunity to hear what bothers you and let's discuss how to do it correctly next time.

Bear with us when we ask you to consider a commitment of dollars. We may set a number that we hope is in the ballpark. More often than not, we ask too little in order to get a positive response. Help us set the right number toward a maximum gift.

Understand why this year is more important than last year. Sure you hear that said every year, but it remains true. The needs of Israel, the Blumenthal Home, our JCC, Hebrew Academy, Hillel and all the other services and charities we support increased dramatically. Together we find the means to keep them all afloat, and it is our privilege to do that each year, and in larger amounts.

Finally, please accept this and future "thanks" from your Federation as genuine. Your continued support and assistance is now and will always be appreciated. Your pledge is a vote of support for the Jewish community and Israel and reminds us that We Are One.



FYI

HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, is seeking to locate Jews who lived in or around the towns of Rudensk, Kaidanov (Koidanove), and Dukara, Byelorussia (all in the vicinity of Minsk), during the period 1941-1944. Such persons are sought as possible witnesses in an ongoing Department of Justice war crimes prosecution.

Please call or write Joseph Edelman at HIAS about this matter. The address is 200 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10003; the telephone is (212) 674-6800.

The Editors welcome comments and letters expressing all points of view and reserve the right to edit.

All letters should be typed, double spaced and signed by the writer.

Please include address and phone number.

The Jewish Calendar



CANDLELIGHTING

Nov. 5 - 5:26 p.m.
 Nov. 12 - 5:20 p.m.
 Nov. 19 - 5:16 p.m.
 Nov. 26 - 5:13 p.m.