

## Editorial

### A New Year Message

This month marks the fourth anniversary of "The Charlotte Jewish News" as well as the beginning of a New Year. In the past four years we have endeavored to bring members of our Jewish community closer together by keeping them informed not only to local happenings but to national and international news. We have been honored each year by winning the CJF Award for Public Relations in the small-city category.

All this could not have been accomplished without the cooperation of our sponsoring agencies: Charlotte Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Center, the Hebrew Academy and now the Foundation. We also thank our advertisers, without whom, our undertaking would indeed be a costly venture.

Our paper has grown through the years and hopefully will continue to do so. However, if this is to be accomplished, our staff must also grow. We are in dire need of volunteers in various capacities: layout, proofreading, reporting, advertising, etc. One does not need expertise in any of the aforementioned categories; all that is needed is the desire to help. We will be happy to train people. The work is interesting, rewarding and "fun"... won't you join us?

Let us hope that 1983 is a year that will give us peace, happiness, and good health and prosperity for all.

### View From The Israeli Left

By Yitzhak Rabi

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In the aftermath of the war in Lebanon the Israeli left finds itself "in deep trouble," but it is not "altogether dead." This is the assessment of Dr. Meir Pa'il, one of the leaders of the shrinking Israeli left, who was a member of the Knesset between 1974 and 1980 representing the Sheli Party.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Pa'il sharply attacked the policies of the Likud government and what he described as "a growing wave, a dangerous and a dirty one, a nationalism and racism in Israel directed against the Arabs and against living in peace with them."

He charged that as a result of the war in Lebanon, Israel has been caught up in "a terrible campaign of incitement" against the peace movement by attacking the "peaceniks" as people "who really do not know what the Mideast is all about."

Pa'il, 56, is presently at New York's Columbia University as a visiting scholar. A military historian, Pa'il, who has the rank of Colonel (res.) in the Israeli army, is working on a book dealing with the character of the Israeli army military leadership, which he hopes to complete during his one-year research at Columbia.

Pa'il, in his interview, also charged that after the massacre of Palestinian civilians in west Beirut by the Christian Phalangists, the Begin government intensified its "incitement" by branding critics of the government as "traitors." He said that the attacks on the Israeli left come not only from government sources but from the Labor Alignment as well.

The Alignment, Pa'il said, points to Sheli and the left when it is under fire for being against the war in Lebanon. "We are not against the war, we are not Sheli, we are only against the massacre," Pa'il quoted the argument which he said the Alignment uses. "In these circumstances, Sheli finds itself between the Likud and Labor which hit it from all sides," he said. "It is a difficult situation."

Pa'il conceded that the Israeli left — which he identifies as Sheli — is a tiny fraction of Israeli society. "But we are not isolated," he asserted. "We are the most progressive element in Israel today." He claimed that there will be no revival of a socialist movement in Israel as long as the Labor Party is intact. "They are the obstacle to the renaissance of the left in Israel," he said.

Asked to describe Premier Menachem Begin, Pa'il said: "He is not a fascist, although he is a radical nationalist on the verge of being a racist. But I would not say that he is a racist. However, many racist people can function under his wing."

Continuing, Pa'il said: "Begin is the most galuti (diaspora-minded) leader Israel ever had and by that he breaks with the atheistic tradition of his own leader, Zeev Jabotinsky. Begin shows clear signs of a leader of an East European Jewish community."

According to Pa'il, the reign of the Likud is "a passing episode." He warned, however, that if it proves to be otherwise, "this is the end of Zionism." Asked to explain he said: "What's happening in Israel is that the war against the Arabs is being perpetuated and there is an escalation in the flight away from egalitarianism and equality. As a result many people are going to leave Israel while the number of olim will decrease. Finally, I expect that the galut will take over Zionism."

## Spotlighting Federation

By Richard A. Klein

Here are some popular myths usually associated with your Federation. See how many you recognize — and know the correct responses.

1. "A large number of people owe sizeable amounts of money to the Federation. They pledge big and don't pay."

The truth is, there have been only two major collection problems in recent years. A settlement was reached several weeks ago on one of those, providing Federation with a means for full payment. And a substantial amount of the second debt has recently been paid.

tion. That means we send more money to the charities and services Federation supports.

3. "I won't support the Federation because the money goes toward Begin and Israel's occupation of Lebanon."

UJA money is earmarked to humanitarian needs in Israel and are ever-present regardless of the political party in power. Children need schools and schooling. Refugees need new houses and jobs. Health needs are crucial. It matters not whether Begin or anyone else is prime minister.

UJA money, of course, can't go toward any war effort. UJA money is carefully

not giving to other causes, the fact is that the non-Jewish community — especially those with political clout — appreciate and even admire how Jews stand up for Israel and local Jewish needs.

5. "Only the big-givers control the Federation."

None of the members of the 1982 Federation's Executive Board was in the major gifts category. It's not so much that they didn't want to be, it's probably because they couldn't afford it...at least in 1982. The point is, there is no elite big-money group controlling the Federation as some people argue. The Federation Board consists of individuals who are in every gift-giving category; men, women, young and old.

6. "The Federation wouldn't want me to pledge something I can't pay."

That's a yes — and a no. The Federation certainly isn't asking anyone to pledge beyond his or her means. By the same token, a pledge should be substantial enough that it's not possible to write a check on the spot. Theoretically, a pledge is paid for comfortably over a period of one year.

7. "There's no reason for a married woman to pledge anything if the husband makes and spends all the money."

This is a highly personal issue, but a housewife is a "working woman." If she wishes to make a statement (financial commitment) on behalf of the Federation/Israel, she should. Even a "token" pledge, regardless of the amount, is understood and appreciated by the charities, services and Israel. It, the pledge, is a way of the individual saying "I care."

8. "I don't want anyone to solicit me personally because I detest being pressured."

Most members of the Charlotte Jewish community would be hard put to find any "high-pressured" campaigners. For the most part, our solicitors are volunteers anxious only to convey the current needs and mutually decide the proper pledge for 1983. These are decent people taking time from work and home who have nothing to gain but performing the mitzvah of serving Jews in distress or need. They certainly have nothing to gain by "pressuring" anyone, but they will politely discuss the new commitment.

9. "If I increase my pledge this year, you'll want still more money next year!"

Probably. This one is no myth, but simple reality. The needs remain. It is our privilege to be in a position to help others. It is our gift from G-d to support an Israel that lives. May we always be in a position to do what we are able.

For more answers to those questions in your mind, please call your Federation at 366-0358.



Beyond those two problems, the Federation has only a handful of collection cases. They are troublesome, but not of great financial consequence.

2. "The Federation (or UJA) spends way too much money on administration and salaries. Moreover, they won't tell you the exact breakdown."

The Federation's meetings — and its books — are open. A financial report detailing where the money is and how it is being allocated is always presented. The Federation's books are audited.

How much is "too much" concerning salaries is subject to interpretation, but the Federation helps hold down costs and salaries by sharing our executive director, secretary, phone, office space, etc. with the Founda-

tioned. Because it goes toward humanitarian needs, it is tax deductible.

4. "We shouldn't give so much money to Israel because non-Jews will think we don't care about American needs."

Several U.S. Senators have recently told Jewish audiences that they (the senators) wouldn't be as inclined to vote in favor of Israel (grants, loans, defense needs) if they hadn't seen such strong support for Israel among the American Jewish community. In other words, a Federation pledge is a vote for Israel that the U.S. Congress respects. Senator Chris Dodd (Democrat, Connecticut) most recently confirmed all this at a Nashville UJA conference in late October 1982.

While no one advocates



### Across The Editors' Desks

#### 'Congrats' To "The News"

Congratulations on winning the 1982 Council of Jewish Federations newspaper award for excellence.

I would appreciate being on your mailing list and will

reciprocate by adding you to our mailing list.

Susan S. Most  
Jewish Federation  
Community Council of  
Southern Maine