

238-05-1529

By Morris Speizman

From the very beginning of recorded history, most human beings were known by the names of their fathers. It was Benjamin, son of Dan, or Christopher, son of Phillip, as the case may be.

Some time in the Middle Ages, the population of Europe grew to the point where there were too many "John's", son of Benjamin and too many "Mary's", daughter of Thomas. The society of Europe had become so complex that a better method of identifying each person was necessary. As a result, the ukase came out that everyone had to have a surname, as well as a given, or Christian, name.

Now, approximately 500 years later, we have come into another era of human existence when names alone are not sufficient to identify individuals.

Nothing is more demeaning to human dignity than to be known only as a number. In my case, it is 238-05-1529. I would rather be known as Morris Speizman than a combination of digits. My name is the anchor of my identity as a human being. I would never want to surrender it.

However, the recent flood of illegal immigrants into our country and the manifold problems attendant with the population explosion in other parts of the world, all indicate that sooner or later, we will have to add more positive identification to our individual persons.

We already use our Social Security numbers to identify the purchasers of stocks and bonds, be they nine months or ninety years old. Our Social Security numbers are identification marks with the federal authorities for old age assistance and many other benefits and privileges which we enjoy.

There are many residents of this country who, for one reason or another, are not in a position to have such identification. There are illegal immigrants; there are people with expired "green cards" or work permits, and there are foreign students who have taken jobs in our economy, but who have no right to work because their visas strictly prohibit it. These are the people who are often being exploited by their employers because they cannot complain.



The recent suggestions that we legalize or legitimize the vast number of illegal aliens in the country is a step in the right direction. They do many necessary manual jobs which our other citizens don't want to do and are, in most cases, a definite addition to our economy because they want to and are working. (The Vietnamese are a good example.)

Perhaps we have crossed another watershed. A universal identification system based on Social Security numbers, and backed up with fingerprints or other types of infallible identification, may be the first steps into the 21st Century which our citizens, as well as the citizens of all other countries in the world, will inevitably have to contemplate and, perhaps, embrace.

However, I still prefer to be called "Grandpa" rather than 238-05-1529.

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Campaign Thoughts...

By Ron Katz

The purpose of these remarks is to furnish some insights to our Federation campaign not commonly perceived by those who have not been closely associated. Over the years, the Federation's financial requirements have grown to meet the needs of both local charities and the State of Israel. The Charlotte Jewish Federation has endeavored to serve as a vehicle to raise the necessary dollars.

In the few years of my involvement with the Federation, I have seen the requirements for funds grow from the \$500,000 level to the \$1,000,000 level. Basically 60% of the campaign dollars go to the State of Israel and 40% stays in the local community. Clearly, as is recognized by our supporters, with the inception of new needs like the Social Services department and continued support for our regular charities, i.e., Jewish

Community Center, Hebrew Academy and Blumenthal Home together with a host of other donees, plus the enormous needs for the State of Israel, we cannot rest on our past efforts.

It is superfluous to state that the growth of our Federation could not have been attained without the tireless efforts of many good people in the community. We have truly been fortunate to have them in our midst. The names of all those dedicated people would make a list far too long to enumerate.

Our campaigns have been successful for numerous reasons. The campaign solicitors have undergone extensive training provided for by UJA on a national level enabling them to make professional and informed solicitations with you, our donors. The solicitors have made clear, sincere commitments on their own part for the needs of the campaign. Finally, we have had the benefit of a profes-

sional director for many years. Our director, Marvin Bienstock, has brought a high degree of expertise to help formulate the local Federation campaign into what it is today.

As campaign volunteers, professional as we may seem, we strive to improve our skills so that we can better fulfill our role in the campaign. We campaigners need your help when we call upon you for support. You have our guarantee we will respect your priorities and views during solicitation. We promise to make our solicitations the kind that you will be comfortable with.

In a few months, the 1984-1985 campaign will begin. We will again call on you for your support. The Charlotte Jewish Federation will continue to rise to meet the challenge of achieving our future needs. We can not meet these urgent needs without the continued generosity you have shown during the past years.

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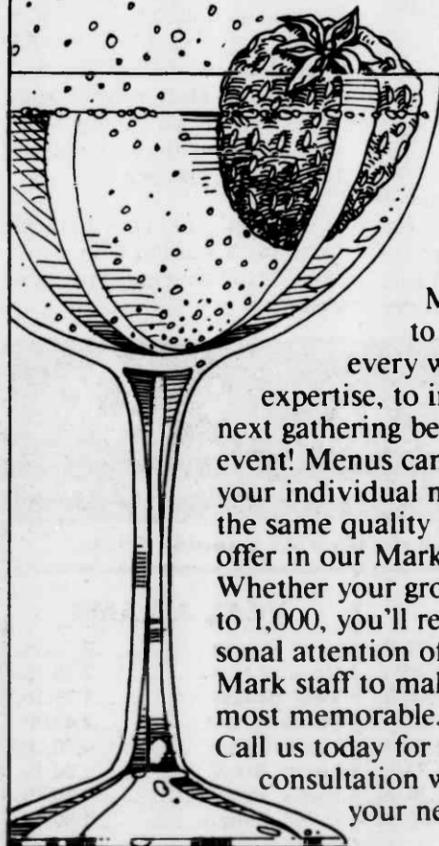
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