

This 'n That

Things have been rather quiet for this column; perhaps it has been due to the aftermath of the elections and/or the holiday season. It is hoped that now that a new year has arrived, you will send your "news" to this paper c/o the Editor.

Erica Portnoy has graduated from Ohio State University and is now working and living in Atlanta. Mark Portnoy, a UNC student, has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa. The proud parents are Gil Portnoy and Marilyn Goldsmith.

Samuel Berkowitz has been named director of corporate development for Peter Cooper Corporation.

Merle Prior has been elected to the Board of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

State Sen. Marshall Rauch, D-Gaston, of Gastonia, was the emcee at the Gastonia Debutante Club's 29th annual ball on Dec. 29.

Four members of First Ward Elementary School's Chess Club competed against about 50 Southeastern school teams in a chess tournament Dec. 1-2 in Crossville, Tenn. The school won second place overall.

Aviv Sheffi, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Sheffi, and Rafi Goldberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Goldberg, both fifth-graders, were members of the team. Aviv won fifth place in the unrated category and 10th in rated; Rafi placed fifth in rated.

Marian (Mrs. Jerald) Davidson has been named warehouse and fleet manager for Ivey's Carolinas.

A Review

Cowboys and Yidden

By L. Edward Sizemore

The three Sisterhoods of our local temples held a joint meeting the evening of November 14. This year's meeting was hosted by Temple Beth El, whose Sisterhood president, Lee Blumenthal, spoke briefly and introduced the other two Sisterhood presidents, Lois Benjamin of Temple Israel and Faith Sizemore of Temple Beth Shalom.

Rabbi Krantzler of Temple Beth El opened the evening with a prayer. Following the introductory welcome and orientation by Lee Blumenthal, a film was shown to the group of sisterhood ladies and a few brave husbands.

West of Hester Street dealt with the attempts, during the early years of this century, to direct European and Russian Jews to other American ports than New York's Ellis Island. Among those active in this endeavor were the banker Jacob Schiff and the writer Israel Zangwill. The story dealt specifically with those immigrants who went to Galveston, Texas and, from that landing point to other cities in Texas, as well as the other nearby southwestern states and even up into the northern plains states.

As should be expected, there were great difficulties involved: American officials who used the law to further their anti-Semitism, economic difficulties of a different nature (if not actually more severe) than those of New York, even philosophical differences among the leadership. Nevertheless, they persisted, and Jewish immigrants settled "west of Hester Street."

The film was produced by Allen and Cynthia Mondell. Sam Jaffee was heard as the narrator, though he never appeared in the film. The film is available for rental to educational groups for \$100, from

Media Projects of Dallas, Texas (214-826-3863).

I found the film to be both exciting and moving. It deals with a little-known part of our history, and does so fairly. Having lived in the west, I am aware that it really is different from the east, and that the Jewish communities of some of the western cities have been influenced by these differences — influenced but not assimilated, any more than an eastern Jew would be considered assimilated because he wears a suit and tie. Each viewer will bring to bear upon this film his own ideas regarding Jewish sociology. From the point of view of cinematic or theatre art, the film was a success. The producers interwove stories, tableaux, snippets, clips, dialogue, monologue, all covered and supported by music that was familiar, or seemed familiar, or maybe wasn't actually familiar but seemed as though it should have been familiar. All of this — music, dialogue, scenes, situation — was Jewish.

Oh, yes, there were, I should mention lest I forgot, Jewish Indians. I mean real ones, not the famous tribe of "schmohawks." The Jewish peddler who married the Indian woman in South Dakota left great-grandchildren who now lay Tefillin.

Rabbi Krantzler spoke of his experiences as a Rabbi in the West after the film.

Thoughts From Adrienne

I am pleased to share some of the directions and community involvements Jewish Social Services are establishing. Jewish Social Services should not operate in a vacuum, and the wonderful response I have received from the community by making a few contacts has been gratifying.

As a result of the Geriatric Needs Assessment sent to the community, a nice core of volunteers has been compiled to provide transportation for isolated seniors who could not otherwise get to services, doctors' appointments, or other places. The B'nai B'rith Women's group has agreed to provide visitation and social contact for the nine Jewish nursing home residents in non-Jewish nursing homes in Charlotte.

Unfortunately, there are persons and families who experience financial problems for numerous reasons. To address this concern, the Ha Lailah Chapter of B'nai B'rith Women provided Chanukah baskets which Social Services distributed. The Temple Beth El Men's Club regularly presents us with food coupons to distribute on an "as needed" basis. Other individuals have donated furniture, food, a calculator, and other items for those in need.

Included elsewhere in this paper is a copy of a job listing we recently sent to prospective employers in the area. If you are in a position of hiring and/or are aware of an open position where you are employed, please consider hiring a skilled Jewish person. People find themselves unemployed for a variety of reasons, mostly out of their control. It behooves us to give someone in our community an opportunity we would afford anyone else.

As a result of the Geriatric Needs Assessment and calls I have been receiving, I am aware that many of you are coping with the problems of

Chanukah Gifts Shipped By JWB

Thousands of holiday gift items and Jewish ceremonial objects were shipped by JWB to bases and installations across America and overseas to make the festival of Chanukah brighter for U.S. Jewish military personnel, their families and Jewish patients in VA hospitals.

"A Jewish gift from 'home' means so much, especially when one is stationed in not only a remote country in distance but in Jewish atmosphere as well," one Jewish chaplain wrote JWB.

your aging parent. These problems could be widowhood, finances, health concerns, role reversal issues, decisions about housing or other related concerns. Many of you dealing with these issues have parents who are not in the Charlotte area. Beginning in February, there will be a monthly Jewish Family Life Education group cosponsored by the Jewish Community Center to help address some of these concerns. But please know that I am here as a resource and caring person if any of you are experiencing these concerns and having to deal with the problem as well as the guilt, frustration and upset that can occur at such a time in your lives.

For any of the problem areas mentioned in this article or in any other area where you are experiencing stress, Jewish Social Services is here to help. We offer concrete services and counseling for the senior and the family, the vocationally



Adrienne Rosenberg, Social Service Director.

unemployed, or the individual and/or family experiencing stress in their lives. Our phone number is 364-6594 or 366-5007. The services are all confidential and available on a sliding fee scale. Some services are at no charge and no one is refused service because of their inability to pay.

Make Yours A Sparkling Event

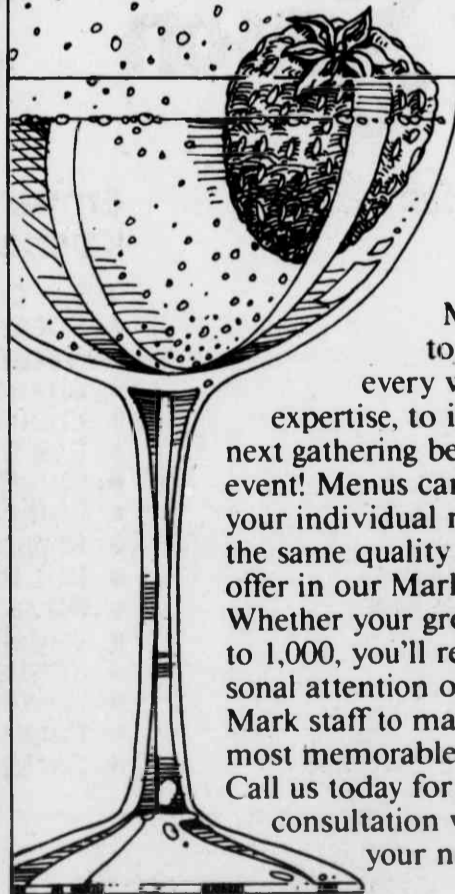
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