

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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Editorial

Speaking Out

Now that one month of 1986 has gone by, and what an eventful month it was... what do we have to look forward to for the rest of the year? What will be with this new reign of terrorism being led by Qaddafi? Will it be safe to travel anywhere out of the country, or even within the country anymore? Israel has already felt the effects of this with a big drop in tourism, which will have its affect on her economy.

The city of Charlotte recently announced that property taxes will be on the rise again; insurance companies plan on at least a 10% increase for automobile owners, and probably even more with those with points. Utility companies keep on pushing for further rate increases. Apartment complexes have announced that they will be increasing rents. How is the average wage earner going to make it? How is the senior citizen on a fixed income going to manage? Just where are we going? We are becoming a nation of HAVES and HAVE NOTS! We were one of the few countries which had a strong middle-class society... this is no longer the case.

We, as Americans, have always been the ones who have helped the poor, the hungry of the nations of the world. Now with the present economy, we have more poor, hungry and homeless within our own land. More factories and businesses are closing their doors. Ten thousand truckers, just this past month, lost their jobs. More and more families are having to be helped by agencies and individuals. The Jews are not immune to this. Charlotte has those in need as well. Our Jewish Social Service department is constantly busy trying to help. Hopefully things will improve, but until they do, all of us who can help must do so.

It is also important that our children be taught Tzedakah (charity). Not only should they learn that giving is a mitzvah but that receiving should be considered more than "just a gift." When a scholarship, per se, is accepted, they have an obligation to do well and abide by the guidelines, otherwise, in most cases, it is revoked. It should be something "earned," not "expected." If there are stipulations in receiving money for one thing or another, then these must be complied with as a moral obligation. Many programs have ceased to exist because of non-compliance of the recipients. If a loan is extended, then the borrower also has a moral obligation to repay the loan. The government finally has awakened to this fact by beginning to "go after" those who went through school on student loans without repayment. Because of the delinquency of others, there is more difficulty in obtaining them today.

These may be "rambling thoughts" but that's what they are meant to be... in hopes that some of you out there might give the "CJN" some feedback in the "Letters to the Editor" column. I would gladly relinquish this space to a guest editorial writer. If you have something to say, by all means say it!

— R.M.

Candlelighting

Feb. 7 - 5:40 p.m.
 Feb. 14 - 5:47 p.m.
 Feb. 21 - 5:53 p.m.
 Feb. 28 - 6:00 p.m.
 Mar. 7 - 6:06 p.m.



Letters to the Editor

Help Is Needed For Older Adults

We want the Jewish community to be aware of our concerns for a very important segment of our population — the older adults. We are working to establish a program format that will enable them to be an integral part of our Jewish Community Center.

Older adults are a rapidly increasing sector of our population. It is very difficult when one is in the prime of life to realize that the years go by quickly, and that we all will, God willing, live out our own senior years. Activities and in-

terests may change, but the need to belong, the need to be considered a contributing member of the community, and the need to be cared about does not.

There is an ethical responsibility we must fulfill. We cannot ignore the aged simply because they are old. What we have in our community is in large part due to the good work these people previously have done. We cannot ignore them because they do not produce as much revenue as they once did — their experience and many contributions in the

past should be recognized.

We ask the entire Jewish community to help us in our work: volunteer in the many areas where help is needed, and convince those who make the final decisions that planning and programming for older adults must go forward now. As firm as our commitment to our children, the Jewish community of tomorrow, so should our commitment be to the elderly among us, our predecessors.

— Senior Adult Committee
 Jewish Community Center

A Thank You

Once again I would like to congratulate you for a job well done. If not for your indefatigable commitment to the paper, it would not be what it is.

I thank you for the special coverage you gave our organization. I think it is informative and educational.

May you have much success in all your endeavors, both private and communal.

Rabbi Yossi Groner
 Director, Lubavitch of N.C.

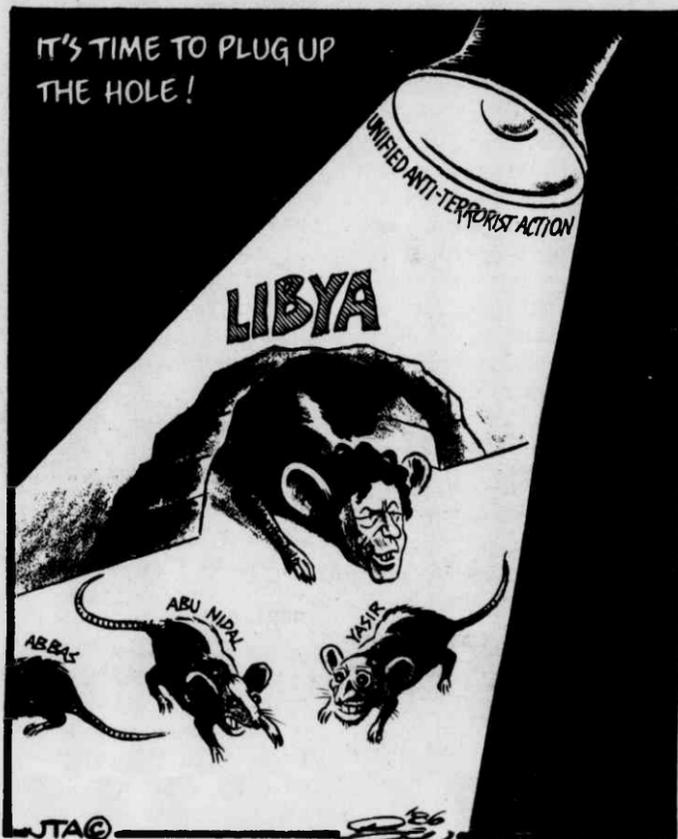
Give Credit To Wife

We were very proud to read your coverage of Lubavitch of N.C. and about the good work that Yossi and Mariashi are doing. However, in R. Melenson's article, we feel that more credit is due to Mariashi. She is actually an equal and active partner in most if not all the activities sponsored by Lubavitch of N.C.

Thank you for your support.
 Rabbi Leib & Yehudis Groner
 (Parents of Yossi)
 Brooklyn, N.Y.

(Editor's note: We felt the same way about Mariashi, so Richard Melenson is planning on writing a sequel, "The Untold Story: The Role of the Wife in Lubavitch of N.C." — tentative title, to appear in a few months in the "CJN.")

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS encourages its readers to submit articles and letters expressing their opinions on matters of interest to the Jewish community. Such submissions should be typed and double-spaced. They may be edited in order to fit the available space. Mail to CJN - P.O. Box 13369, Charlotte, N.C. 28211.



Students Declare "War On Terrorism"

Protesting just across the street from the New York headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization, more than 100 Jewish student activists remembered Natasha Simpson and other victims of the PLO by declaring "war on terrorism."

"We demand that the U.S. close down the PLO offices in New York and Washington immediately," said Hart N. Hasten, National President of Herut Zionists of America, one of the organizers of the protest. "The terrorists are not welcome here," Hasten added.

Michael Smerka, an 11-year old from Manhattan, and a member of the Betar Zionist Youth Movement, led the students, who marched around carrying large colored signs and shouting "We won't be targets of PLO terror!"

"I don't understand why terrorists killed Natasha Simpson," the young boy said, with tears in his eyes. "I think people have to do something to make sure that no more little girls or boys are killed by Arab terrorists. We don't hurt anyone. No one should hurt us," he said. Michael added that the terrorists who murdered the 11-year old American girl in Europe last week should be punished and

sent away. "They shouldn't be allowed to kill anymore," he said.

Mr. Hasten issued a five point declaration of war against terrorism. In addition to demanding that the PLO offices be closed at once, the declaration calls on political leaders to require all U.S. trade partners to join the fight against terrorism, calls on American officials to refrain from visiting countries which will not cooperate, and also calls on American workers "to deny service and support to foreign vessels arriving in the U.S. from countries which offer refuge, training, or support of any kind to international terrorists."

"Our citizens will continue to be threatened until the terrorists are eliminated and their supporters are isolated," Mr. Hasten said. Referring to the murder of Natasha Simpson, Hasten added that it is "with concern for the safety and welfare of our own children that we join together in the fight against Arab terrorism."

The demonstration was sponsored by the Herut Zionists of America, as well as the Betar and Tagar Student Zionist organizations.

**Deadline for
 March Issue
 Is
 Feb. 10th**

**Deadline for
 April Issue
 Is
 Mar. 5th**