

This 'n That



Siegel Goldman Kaplan Karp

Charlotte poet Judy Goldman's first book of poems, "Small Town Dancer," will be out next year from St. Andrews Press.

Among the 15 Charlotte-Mecklenburg high school students honored at the Fifth Annual Brother/Sisterhood Awards luncheon sponsored by the Mecklenburg Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews was Leslie Kaplan. She is a student at Charlotte Country Day and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stan Kaplan. She was selected because of her leadership in community and school activities that promote understanding among diverse groups of people.

Jennifer Levenson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Al Levenson, won a Gold Key Blue Ribbon award for a mixed media entry in the Scholastic Art Competition in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

Five new members have been appointed to the advisory committee of Total Care Inc. Among them is Adrienne Rosenberg, Jewish Social Services Director. Total Care is a home health care agency serving 15 counties in N.C. and one county in S.C.

Edward Karp, president of Pic 'N Pay Stores, Inc., has been named head of the American shoe operation of Bata Shoe Organization (BSO), Pic 'N Pay's Toronto, Canada-based parent company. In addition to becoming president and general manager of BATA USA, Karp also assumes the post of chairman and chief executive of Charlotte-based Pic 'N Pay, succeeding Alvin Levine, who retired in December.

Samuel Siegel, vice president, chief financial officer, treasurer, secretary and director of Nucor Corp., Charlotte, has been named executive vice president, Nucor Corp. board of directors.

James J. Bedrick, M.D., has been appointed Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, School of Medicine of the University of North Carolina. Dr. Bedrick is an ophthalmologist in private practice in Charlotte and has been active in the University's teaching program of medical residents since 1982.

David M. Pliner was one of the recipients of the Charlotte Sales and Marketing Executives Inc. Distinguished Sales Award. This is the third consecutive year that he has received this honor.

MARION WALLACE

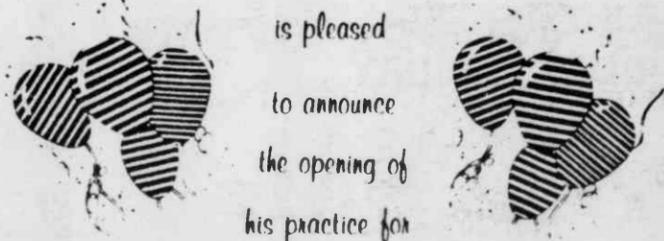
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Student From East Berlin Studying To Be Rabbi

"Though Winston Churchill is credited for coining the term "Iron Curtain" in one of his post World War II speeches, the Talmud preceded him by many centuries when it taught that, "Even an iron partition cannot separate the people of Israel from the Father in heaven" (Psachim 85:)."

Rabbi Moshe Herson, dean of the Rabbinical College of America, Morristown, New Jersey, stated the above in conjunction with the arrival of David Lindenberg, 32, from Communist East Berlin, to study at the college in its New Direction Program (Tiferes Bachurim).

Lindenberg, whose parents were born in pre-war Berlin and still reside there, paints a gloomy picture of Jewish life in the divided city. "There are less than 200 Jews presently members of the East Berlin Temple. Most of them are past 65 years-of-age, having come to Germany after the war as survivors of Nazi concentration camps. The temple is open only on Saturdays and holidays. There is no rabbi to perform a Jewish marriage or burial. There is only a 'loose tie' between the two sectors of the city and only older people can travel freely between the two cities."

About his own path to Judaism, Lindenberg speaks very freely. "I was graduated from the Technical University, Dresden, one of three top schools in East Germany, with an engineering degree and had a good job when I began pondering about my being Jewish. I was aware that my grandparents and their entire generation were annihilated by the Nazis. My non-involvement in anything Jewish caused a void in me and made me wonder 'How am I Jewish?'"

"I began studying the Hebrew language and Torah with other young people who were also groping their way towards authentic Judaism and began to read books in German, English and Yiddish about Judaism. I obtained Yiddish newspapers from Roumania, the only country

behind the iron curtain where there is an active Jewish life to some extent, which contained a wealth of knowledge about my religion.

"In 1981 I began to observe mitzvos, the laws of the Torah, and a year later I was circumcised by a Jewish physician and the East Berlin Jewish community presented me with Tefilin."

Lindenberg read about the Lubavitch movement in the Roumanian newspaper. When he was released from behind the iron curtain, leaving East Berlin in 1985, never to return again, he was fortunate to meet Fajvel Kogan, a Lubavitcher Chasid, who lives in West Berlin. Mr. Kogan encouraged Lindenberg to enroll in the Rabbinical College of America in Morristown. Lindenberg traveled to London where he met Avrohom Gluck, a London businessman, who accompanied him to the U.S. where they arrived in time for a "Farbrengen," gathering conducted by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson.

"Seeing and hearing the Rebbe speak to the thousands assembled was most inspir-



David Lindenberg

ing," recounts Lindenberg. "Since then I have heard the Rebbe speak on several occasions and each time I am able to understand more, thank G-d. I am very happy here studying Mishnah, Talmud, Chassidic Philosophy and Jewish Law. I know what it means to be a Jew. I pray that the other young people whom I left behind, who so eagerly seek to return to their roots, will be able to join me soon."

When asked about his future plans, Lindenberg responded, "I hope to study at least one year. Afterwards, I plan to get married and study more, perhaps. That will depend, to a large measure, on the woman I marry."



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