

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

Published monthly by:

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Editorial

The Same Story – Different People

Every year around this time there seems to be a frenzy created among the new P.R. people from the various organizations, not knowing what they are supposed to do to get their publicity into the *CJN*. I hope that this column will help to make their life (and mine) a wee bit easier.

First, it is a must that all copy be in my hands no later than the 10th of the month preceding month of issue (i.e. it would be Oct. 10 for next month's issue). All copy must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on standard size typing paper, leaving 3/4 inch margin on each side. Photographs can be in color, providing there is sharp contrast, but black & white are preferable. They can not be returned unless so requested and picked up personally. Do not write on backs but attach note as to content of photo; list those pictured from left to right. Do not clip directly on photo.

If you need an extension of time, especially when it comes to photographing an event which is still to take place, call me and we can discuss it. However, please do not call at the dinner hour or on the weekend!

Now that we have a 'newsroom' at Shalom Park it is easier for all to stop in and say hello, to get acquainted and/or to get information and help. Just call 366-5007 to see that I am there or to make an appointment.

The paper, because of your interest, has been growing steadily. Unfortunately, the staff has not. We welcome anyone who would like to help, be it proof-reading, layout, photography or writing. We also have an opening for an energetic advertising salesperson to establish new accounts.

Please submit any suggestions you may have to improve the paper, such as new columns, etc. If you have any criticisms (constructive or otherwise) please do this 'in writing', not by phone.

There is a very important part of the *CJN* which oftentimes goes unnoticed... "Letters to the Editor." We welcome your comments concerning things of interest to the community. These letters must be signed and your telephone number included. We reserve the right to edit because of space limitations.

Thank you for your help and understanding.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikosevu
 — Rita Mond

The Jewish Calendar

Candlelighting



Oct. 3 - 6:47 p.m. (1st Eve Rosh Hashanah)
 Oct. 4 - 7:42 p.m. (2nd Eve Rosh Hashanah)
 Oct. 10 - 6:37 p.m.
 Oct. 12 - 6:34 p.m. (Eve of Yom Kippur)
 Oct. 17 - 6:28 p.m. (1st Eve Succoth)
 Oct. 18 - 7:24 p.m. (2nd Eve Succoth)
 Oct. 24 - 6:19 p.m. (Eve of Shemini Atzeret)
 Oct. 25 - 7:16 p.m. (Eve of Simchat Torah)
 Oct. 31 - 5:11 p.m.
 Nov. 7 - 5:05 p.m.

The Spirit of Friendship and Cooperation

By Marvin Bienstock
 Director of Charlotte
 Jewish Federation

This community never ceases to amaze me. In the past month there have been two wonderful instances that could best be described as "only in Charlotte."

The first happened on a bright and sunny Sunday. Rabbi Marc Wilson of Temple Israel was married to Ms. April Levine of Atlanta. The wedding was performed by Rabbi Robert Seigel of Temple Beth El V'Shalom.

Theirs is a personal friendship as well as a collegial one. I have had many, many occasions to sit and work together with these two outstanding spiritual leaders. I have seen each of them display a profound sense of community spirit and a shared sense of goals and purposes that knits

all of us closer together each and every day.

We have been blessed with such leaders. Rabbi Rocklin and Rabbi Krantzler were and are friends and colleagues, and their circle included Rabbi Seigel. Together they made the Joint Venture Agreement and Shalom Park possible.

There is one other colleague who has been and is an integral part of the unique quality of our community, Rabbi Joseph "Yossi" Groner of Lubavitch. The second wonderful incident this past month concerns him.

The August meeting of the Federation Board was drawing to a close when Mark Bernstein, Foundation President, asked for the floor. "The Foundation would like to have the approval of its constituent Boards to rent the Armstrong House to Lubavitch."

Seated around the table were the elected Federation

representatives and the presidents and appointed representatives of every institution and organization. I had known of the discussions about the renting, but I did not know what the reaction would be to Mark's request. Whenever I have been asked about Shalom Park in other communities, I have heard the comment that it would not have been possible if there had been an Orthodox synagogue. Now we had Lubavitch, a Chassidic organization, asking to be on the property. In my mind, this was a test of all Shalom Park stands for. I settled back to listen to what I was certain would be a long debate.

I was wrong, there were just two questions and both involved concerns over duplicate or competing programs. It was clear how much preparation and "homework" had been done. To each question the quick, clean, clear answer came: "We have worked that out to our mutual satisfaction."

The motion of approval was made and passed. The entire process had taken less than 5 minutes. Since that time, the same motion of approval has been made and passed by both Temple boards, the JCC and the Academy Boards.

In just one month our Reform Rabbi performed the wedding ceremony of our Conservative Rabbi and all our institutions welcomed Lubavitch to Shalom Park.

Wouldn't it be truly wonderful if the spirit of friendship and cooperation which characterizes our community could spread and be shared by all communities. Am I being an idealistic dreamer? Maybe so, but then I look around me at Shalom Park and I know that miracles are very possible.



On The Issues ... By Ira Gissen, Va/NC Director ADL

James Madison, Would You Believe It?

James Madison University has scheduled its annual Parents Day celebration for Saturday, October 4, which is the first day of Rosh Hashanah. Our investigation has revealed that this was no accident; for example, in a letter to a Jewish parent, JMU's Acting President, Russell G. Warren, wrote: "We were aware that October 4 was Rosh Hashanah when Parents Day was scheduled." Last June, when I telephoned Russell Warren about this, he told me that the problem might recur again every four or five years. In a letter that he sent to me on June 12 he wrote, "We are committed to not disadvantaging any one group on an annual basis." Responding to the complaint of a Jewish parent, he wrote that Parents Day had to be held on a football weekend at least six weeks after the beginning of school. October 25 was not feasible, according to Mr. Warren, because: "We expect a large crowd for the William & Mary game and do not believe our stadium could accommodate the extra audience..." and November 8, according to him, was not good because of "ex-

tremes in weather."

Many letters, protesting the scheduling of Parents Day, were sent from all sectors of the Commonwealth to the University's Board of Visitors, to Mr. Warren, to the General Assembly's Committees on Education and to the Commonwealth's Secretary of Education.

The ADL has received assurances from the Secretary of Education — but not from Acting President Warren — that this will not happen again and that steps also are being taken to prevent such a conflict from occurring at Virginia's other tax-supported colleges and universities. Nevertheless, the problem of scheduling this year's Parents Day on Rosh Hashanah remains unchanged, creating difficulties for the Jewish members of JMU's faculty and unnecessary distress for the more than 250 Jewish students at JMU and their parents. Commenting on this, one of Virginia's most prominent Jewish leaders has written "Notwithstanding Dr. Warren's explanation of this problem, his decision seems to indicate a gross lack of sen-

sitivity." (There is a touch of irony in the fact that this is happening at the University named after James Madison, who guided Mr. Jefferson's Statue of Religious Freedom to its adoption by General Assembly.)

James Madison, would you believe it?

If this were the only problem affecting Jews at James Madison University, it would be sufficient to cause our concern. But it is not an isolated problem. Last year, a university-wide faculty meeting was scheduled for Yom Kippur. Despite protests, the date was not changed.

In 1983 JMU's library featured an exhibit of works by an anti-Semitic poet. During the course of our investigation of that situation, we learned that an anti-Semite was serving as a guest speaker for the University's students of modern poetry. ADL representatives met with the University's President and sent him two subsequent letters. To this date, we have not received a response.

These are reasons enough to ask the question: James Madison, would you believe it?