

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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Editorial**"Shoah" Examines the Holocaust**

This month we will be observing the holiday of Passover...the commemoration of the escape of the Jews from Egypt. We will gather around the Seder table with family and friends, partaking of the traditional meal and reading from the Haggadah. We will also be saying special prayers for our brethren in Russia who are not as fortunate as we are in this country and are unable to celebrate Pesach.

The week after this holiday, we will be reminded of another chapter in our Jewish history...one that is painful, but should never be forgotten...the Holocaust. PBS Channel 58 and WTVI, Channel 42 will be showing "Shoah" on April 27, 28, 29 and 30. The time slot on Channel 42 will be at 8:00 p.m. Check your time schedule for the broadcast time on Channel 58. It is a 9½-hour presentation and should definitely be tuned in by everyone.

Based on interviews with concentration camp survivors, "Shoah" (which means "holocaust" or "annihilation" in Hebrew) confronts one of mankind's most painful periods. It is directed by Claude Lanzmann, who spent 10 years working on this film. Some portions are subtitled.

Lanzmann tries to reveal the Holocaust's atrocities without platitudes or sentimentalizing. He uses no grisly footage of the camps; instead, he relies on survivors' memories to paint a vivid picture of the horrors.

Throughout his interviews with Treblinka, Auschwitz and Chelmno survivors, Nazi SS officials and gentile citizens from towns near the camps, Lanzmann focuses at all times on specific, concrete details.

By watching survivors retell their most wretched memories, we begin to confront the history of the Holocaust. Undoubtedly, those who see this film will never forget it.

—Rita Mond



Passover Greetings from the staff

**The Jewish Calendar
Candlelighting**

Apr. 3 - 6:28 p.m.
 Apr. 10 - 7:34 p.m.
 Apr. 13 - 7:36 p.m. (First Seder)
 Apr. 14 - 8:35 p.m. (Second Seder)
 Apr. 17 - 7:39 p.m.
 Apr. 19 - 7:41 p.m. (7th Eve Pesach)
 Apr. 20 - 8:41 p.m. (8th Eve Pesach)
 Apr. 24 - 7:45 p.m.

May 1 - 7:51 p.m.
 May 8 - 7:56 p.m.

**On The Issues ... By Ira Gissen, Va/NC Director ADL****Syria: Politics of Terror**

Syria's central role in international terrorism, the significance of its alignment with the Soviet Union and its anti-American and anti-Israel policies are outlined in a new report issued by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Titled "Syria: The Politics of Terror, 1982-1986," the report provides details of the massive Soviet arms buildup in Syria since 1973; Syria's widespread political repression and denial of human rights; the systematic persecution of Syria's Jewish minority and the nation's anti-Israel operations.

With the "guidance and support" of Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, the report states, Syria has used ter-

rorism as an instrument of foreign policy, most notably the ouster of the American and Western presence from Lebanon.

The report states that following the April 1986 American retaliatory air strikes against Lybia, Syrian-backed terrorist groups decided at a meeting in Damascus to escalate attacks against American interests throughout the world.

Syria has provided bases for the Iranian Revolutionary Guards in areas of Lebanon it controls and until recently allowed pro-Iranian terrorist groups, including the Hezbollah (Party of God) and the Islamic Jihad, to operate freely behind Syrian lines.

Until last year, the report

continues, "the evidence of Syria's role in international terrorism was viewed by Western powers as largely circumstantial." But conclusive evidence of a "Syrian smoking gun" was finally uncovered at British and West German court trials in 1986. Syrian intelligence officers and diplomats were linked to two terrorist incidents — the thwarted attempt to blow up an Israeli airliner departing from London and the bombing of the German-Arab Friendship Society building in West Berlin.

A long list of direct and indirect Syrian involvement with international terrorist incidents is contained in the report, including the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon in which 241 Americans died and the 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner in which an American Navy diver was killed.

Among other incidents linked to Syria, the following were cited:

- The bombing of the American embassy in Beirut, in 1983, in which 17 Americans were killed.
- The suicide bombing of the American embassy annex in Beirut in 1984.
- The grenade and machine gun attack at Israel's El Al airline counters at airports in Rome and Vienna in 1985, in which 19 persons were killed and 114 wounded.

The report lists at least three instances of President Assad's personal involvement in his nation's terrorist activities:

- Assad himself authorized operations of the Iranian terrorist squads in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley under Syrian control.

Assad personally supervised the training of Syrian "kamikaze" airforce pilots with the assistance of his top intelligence aide, General Mohammed al-Kholi.

Syria provided safe haven in Damascus for the extremist, Marxist elements of the Palestine Liberation Organization following Israel's attack on PLO bases in Lebanon in 1982.

Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal's group, which is believed to have been responsible for the Rome and Vienna airport attacks, has also set up bases in Syria.

West European counter terrorist agencies have uncovered Syrian-controlled terrorist networks in Europe, including Athens, Madrid and Marseilles and Lille, France.

"Assad's Syria," the report concludes, "poses a multi-dimensional threat to western interests. Its central role in international terrorism, in promoting Soviet influence in the Middle East and in threatening the security of Israel, makes Syria a uniquely destructive political entity."

We encourage our readers' viewpoints. Letters should be submitted typewritten and double-spaced and signed. Please include your address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit.

A HELPING HAND**Letters to the Editor****Hooray for the "J"**

We are indeed blessed to have such a beautiful facility as our Jewish Community Center. There is something for everyone. I became excited last April when I saw the construction at Shalom Park nearing completion. It was then that I decided to call Stu Epstein, the Physical Education Director, and find out if I could work into an exercise program there. I have a neurological condition and had been going to Charlotte Rehabilitation Hospital for out-patient physical therapy twice a week. I knew I couldn't join an aerobics class or a group activity, so I needed to know if there was something I could do on my own. Stu was very accommodating and invited me to meet Richard Edgerton, the Health Club Supervisor. After viewing the equipment, Richard showed me which machines would best suit my needs.

The next week I was into a program determined to make

my body stronger. I soon realized just how difficult it was going to be. It took a lot of energy and I was sore, but in order to achieve my goal I had to keep pushing. I did not give up Physical Therapy but maintained my routine at the "J". In August, I was discharged from the hospital because they felt there wasn't anything they could do for me that I couldn't do for myself. I'm up to three workouts a week and feel much stronger.

A few weeks ago I invited my Physical Therapist to see Shalom Park and observe my workout on the machines. He was truly impressed and couldn't get over my progress. His encouragement, as that of Stu, Richard, and my terrific coach, husband Ron, have been a positive force for me. My improvement has helped me both physically as well as mentally and it is absolutely amazing. For this I say "Hooray for the J."

—Ellie Katz