

Editorial

Happy Birthday, Shalom Park

How quickly a year goes by! Last year at this time we were preparing to open Shalom Park, a long-awaited dream for the Charlotte Jewish community. So much has transpired in the past 12 months...and mostly good. There is constant activity within the walls of the Blumenthal Education Building and it resounds with the voices of all ages...the J's "Mothers Morning Out" (9 months to 2-years-old), the preschoolers of Temple Israel, the students at the NC Hebrew Academy, children from both Temple Israel Temple Beth El V'Shalom attending religious school classes and the older students of the Consolidated Jewish High School. The library is nearing completion and the music room is now in use. There are many of our adults who attend the Institutes offered during the year which have a variety of Hebrew and Jewish-oriented classes.

The East and West Galleries* are constantly displaying exceptional works of art (quite often from our local artists). The frequent art shows and receptions are a delightful treat. There have been many events taking place in Gorelick Hall...dinners, concerts, organizational meetings, lectures, holiday celebrations, etc.

The activities within the Leon and Sandra Levine Jewish Community Center building really abound. There is truly SOMETHING for EVERYBODY. The gym and health club are constantly well attended by the sports enthusiasts. During the winter months, many availed themselves of the opportunity of using the indoor swimming pool. By the end of this month (hopefully, weather permitting) young and old will gather around the outdoor swimming pools... and this year we will have more chairs, lounges and umbrellas. A permanent shade area and picnic grove are being built.

Many new classes, both for adults and children, have been instituted. This summer we will again have children's camp and it promises to be better than ever.

Our Jewish Community Center has become a real community center; there's been a decided increase in membership and participation...new families are joining every day.

Even the landscaping of Shalom Park has taken on a new look. The trees and plants have taken a whole new appearance with their beautiful blossoms and leaves. The grass is growing where last year it was red clay. The picnic tables and playground equipment add another nice dimension to the appearance of the grounds.

Shalom Park is "ALIVE"...it is "THE PLACE" for our babies, toddlers, school-age children, teenagers, singles, marrieds, (young and middle-aged) and senior citizens.

Those of you who have not as yet joined the "J" or have never even had a tour of Shalom Park, what are you waiting for...the time is now...enjoy the facilities with the rest of us.

We still have Phase II to go...the building of the temples on the premises. This, too, has been a dream, but will soon become a reality. Both Temple Israel and Temple Beth El V'Shalom have started their building funds and are well on their way to raising the necessary money. Hopefully, by Shalom Park's second birthday they will have broken ground and started building.

If we continue to work together as we have, there are no limitations as to what we can achieve. HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY TO SHALOM PARK and to all of us who made it possible!

—Rita Mond

*Note: These have been renamed The Speizman Galleries.

Concern Expressed Over Rise Of Anti-Semitic Literature In Japan

WASHINGTON — (JTA) — Officials of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith have expressed concern to Japanese Ambassador Nobuo Matsunago about the rise of anti-Semitic literature in Japan. A popular Japanese author, Masami Uno, claims his country's recent economic woes are due to a conspiracy by "international Jewish capital" and that Jewish-dominated interests have begun a "targeted bashing of Japan."

According to a recent article in *The New York Times*, Uno has charged that "America is a Jewish nation" and that

Jews form a "behind-the-scenes nation" controlling major U.S. corporations, including IBM, General Motors, Exxon, Standard Oil, Ford, Chrysler and AT&T.

Other books and articles that have recently appeared in bookstores include titles like "The Jewish Plan for Conquest of the World," "How to Read the Hidden Meaning of Jewish Protocol," and "Mysterious Judea."

Articles assert that Jews were behind the Lockheed Aircraft bribery case that led to the criminal conviction of a former Japanese Prime Minister, Kakuei Tanaka, and

the Watergate scandal. A book, "The Secret of Jewish Power to Control the World," was written in 1984 and is still in circulation. Its author, Eisaburo Saito, is a member of Parliament's upper house.

Charges and Diatribes

Uno, in his book, "If You Understand Judea, You Can Understand the World," claims that Jews caused the Great Depression of the 1930s and are plotting a second one for the 1990s. In his second book, "If you Understand Judea, You Can Understand Japan," Uno asserts that the number of Jews killed in World War II was exaggerated. The two books have sold a total of 650,000 copies. Uno describes himself as a Christian fundamentalist and head of an Osaka-based organization called the Middle East Problems Research Center, according to the *Times*.

Matsunago told the ADL that Japan guarantees freedom of speech and that anti-Semitic views are not representative of the people or the government. The Japanese Embassy refused to comment about the meeting.

In a letter to *The New York Times*, Itari Umezu, director of the Japan Information Center, said that "anti-Semitism has no roots in Japanese history." During World War II, when Japan was an ally of Nazi Germany, some Japanese aided Jews in escaping from Europe. There also have been disclosures of a prewar Japanese project, the "Fugu Plan," to invite German Jews to settle in Manchuria.

But reports of current anti-Semitism in Japan prompted a letter by Rep. Charles Schumer (D. NY) and Sen. Arlen Specter (R. Pa.) in which they told Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone that "the raw anti-Semitism in your country cannot go unchallenged."

All copy for June/July edition must be in by May 10.

There will not be a separate July issue.



Letters to the Editor

Thanks, Shalom Park

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the outstanding contribution the Jewish Community Center, Shalom Park, is making to the City of Charlotte and the surrounding areas.

Since my first visit to Shalom Park, I have been completely impressed with the standard of excellence and commitment to community service. The staff, the programming, the facility itself all reflect a dedicated effort to serve the community. I for one, heartily appreciate all of their efforts and devoted attitude of trying to provide the best service possible.

Recently, I was driving a carpool of little boys to one of the Center's many activities and one fellow commented that his "heart beats fast," he gets so excited about going to the "J". Every other little one in the car concurred with his feelings — they unanimously stated that they "loved" going to Shalom Park. I thought this was quite a tribute to the newly organized community

center — one certainly worth commenting on! Thank you Shalom Park for your fine work.

—Eileen Davenport

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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.

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