

Jewish Family Services

New Chairperson Announced

Ron Katz, president of the Charlotte Jewish Federation, has announced the appointment of Evelyn Berger as the next chairperson of Jewish Family Services. Mrs. Berger will begin the office on June 11. She succeeds Joel Goldman who has been chairperson for the past two years.

Mrs. Berger brings extended community experience and knowledge with her to this position. She and her husband, Leonard, have resided in Charlotte for 30 years. Mrs. Berger, who has been a court reporter and medical secretary, owns and operates Evelyn Berger Court Reporting Services.

Mrs. Berger has been very active in organizations in both the Jewish and non-Jewish community. She is a member of the Women Business Owner's Association, the Governor's Task Force on the Needs of Aging Women, the Charlotte Business and Pro-



Evelyn Berger with husband Leonard

fessional Women Organization, a life member of Hadassah and a member of Temple Israel Sisterhood. Mrs. Berger has been on the Federation Board and on the Jewish Social Services Committee for four years. She has been a member of the JCC board and chairman of its Senior Committee. Currently, Mrs. Berger is establishing the volunteer bank for Shalom Park and was recently elected as a vice president for the JCC.

JFS Has Had Much Progress Committee Members Commended

By Joel Goldman
JFS Chairperson

It is with surprise and regret that I note almost two years have passed since I assumed the role of chairperson for the Jewish Family Services Committee. In that time, the Committee has accomplished some outstanding goals; and, I might add, more because of the dedication, talent and effort of the fourteen committee members rather than anything I might have done.

Professional skills from within the Committee abound. I would be remiss in not briefly mentioning the sound financial advice provided by Bennett Lyons, the pragmatism and administrative talents of Alan Katz and the groundwork established for our Grants Study by Beverly Montezinos. Dr. Joal Fischer realigned our statistical reports to better adhere to professional structure and, thankfully, brevity. Both Lenore Jones Deutsch and Linda Klein lent their skills as psychologist and attorney, respectively, to assure proper professional approach to our new endeavors. Ellie Katz and Joan Gordon were instrumental in producing studies for the Agency's Contract Counselor. Evelyn Berger served on the Budget Subcommittee and Moses Luski gave of his time and effort to the By-Laws Subcommittee. And, finally we depended in no small amount on the input of David Arazie, Anita Blumenthal, Ike Ashendorf and Dr. Phil Naumoff.

During the time that I have served as Chair, the Jewish Family Services expanded its responsibilities into several important directions. We have provided for the use of the van to facilitate transportation of our senior citizens, as well as the establishment of task forces in such fields in inter-faith marriages and drug counseling. For the first time, we are utilizing outside counselors appointed and supervised by our Director, Adrienne Rosenberg, to accommodate the increasing case loads referred to us. This



Joel Goldman

not only improves our ability to handle additional case loads, but serves to generate additional income separate and apart from the normal Federation allocations.

I am particularly pleased to mention what I believe to be the most important undertaking of all. We are beginning a Grants Study program, whereby Jewish Family Services will apply for and, hopefully, receive grants from outside sources ensuring our ability to meet future growth needs. Formal application should be well underway by mid-year.

On a more personal note, I think that of all matters that came before me as chairperson, none so astounded me as the misconception our Charlotte Jewish community has as to the existence of Jewish poverty in our city. I can not recount the number of social gatherings at which I was asked "Exactly what can Jewish Family Services do in Charlotte? Jewish poverty is really just a myth, isn't it?"

I applaud the self-assurance with which we Jews tend to look upon the well-being of our community. "All Jews are well

fed, aren't they?" "Don't all Jewish children go to college?" "Drugs...maybe in other parts of the city, but certainly not amongst our own." We delight in expanding upon our self-conceived perfections.

Unfortunately, we are looking at this thing we call a proper Jewish family entity with rose-colored glasses. Be assured we have senior citizens living in less than satisfactory conditions with endless worries as to isolation, inability to secure proper medical care and suffering from financial hardships. There are Jewish men and women amongst us who are unemployed and desperately need vocational guidance. We have Jewish children well along the drug pipeline leading to despair and failure. And the list could go on.

I think, deep down, we all know that things are not really what they should be within our Charlotte boundaries. For those of us who not only think the unmentionable, but live it on a day to day existence of worry and fear, the Jewish Family Agency is there to turn to. Name the problem, and we may not completely solve it, but we offer a structural approach to improvement and hope.

That, from two years as chairperson, I am convinced is what Jewish Family Services is all about. With the professional skills of our Director, Adrienne Rosenberg, the foresight and abilities of the new chairperson, Evelyn Berger, and the already mentioned talents of committee members, we can continue to deal with and lessen that strange uncomfortable sounding fact of life---Jewish poverty.

News About Our Director

Adrienne Rosenberg, Jewish Family Services Director, recently attended the National Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies conference in San Fran-

cisco. While there, she was a presenter for a workshop entitled "Growing an Agency".

Her column "Thoughts From Adrienne" will return next month.

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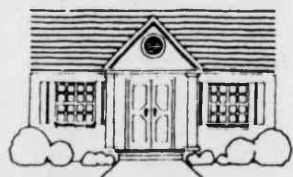
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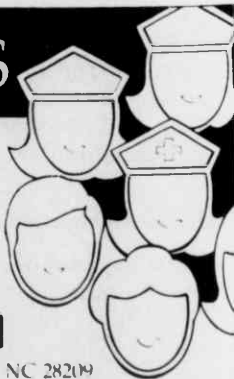
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