

## A Year of New Beginnings -

By Barry Hantman  
Exec. Director JCC

*This is the text of Mr. Hantman's speech which was given at the Jewish Community Center's annual meeting*

A year of new beginnings! Last year was a year when the Jewish Community Center began operations in this wonderful new and existing facility. And yet we should all be aware that a Jewish Community Center is more than the sum of its rooms and facilities. The JCC is a living institution. Each year our programs change and grow so that we can better serve families within our community. The major concern of the Jewish Community Center is the quality of life. The Center should be committed towards making life more enriching, more rewarding and more meaningful through productive leisure time activities, which will develop skills and confidences, bring families closer together and help people maximize their potential as a citizen, an individual and a Jew. In addition, The Jewish Community Center can and should be a common meeting place for the community. It is a place where all people — affiliated or not, religious or not, young or old, Jewish or non-Jewish can become involved, participate and make friends and social relationships. This three-tier approach towards individuals, family and community is what makes our JCC unique.

The two most significant

events in the life of a Jewish community center are the building and opening of a new facility and the hiring of a new executive director. Each event, in a true sense helps determine the future direction of the agency for a long time to come. Well, as you all know, we now have one of the finest, most complete and comprehensive facilities in the country. As your new director, I can promise you that I will strive to help the JCC grow and flourish through the development of programs, staff and leadership. We now have a showcase facility — together we will work to have a showcase center. Our goal is simple — but difficult to achieve — and that is to have the finest community center in the country. We have a good start. This past year has seen the development of dozens and dozens of new programs. Not only comprehensive health and physical education programs, but also expanded offerings in camping, social activities, cultural arts and much more. In fact, The Charlotte JCC is and has been known for its excellence in its health and physical education programs. This next year and in succeeding years we will need to become more and more involved with cultural arts programs — music, dance, lec-

tures, drama and also social activities — whereby people can come together, make friends, socialize and pursue some of the finer enjoyments in life. I must tell you that we are just beginning. In order to accomplish these things we will need more staff. We are a people organization and if we are to be successful we will need more people to better and more professionally serve people. All this takes funds, and somehow, the board, the committees, the staff, the president and myself will all have to work together to make this happen. And succeed we will.

I have been your executive director for almost one year. I have been most fortunate to have the opportunity to come to a wonderful community such as Charlotte. The people I have met and have worked with have been dedicated, conscientious and outstanding. I look forward to the future with anticipation. We are building and will continue to build.

As I close my remarks, I would like to thank The Foundation for their foresight, work and leadership. I would like to thank The Federation for their cooperation and support. I would like to thank the board for their help, direction, responsiveness and involvement. I would like to thank the staff for their professionalism, dedication and hard work. And above all I would like to thank Miles Levine for his guidance, support, friendship and leadership without whose help our marvelous success story would not have been. For all this I say thank you.

## What I Want To Be Remembered For--

*This is a portion of Miles Levine's address delivered at the JCC annual meeting on Apr. 26, 1987. Miles served as JCC president for two years.*

When I first met Barry Hantman and during one of my first conversations with him, he asked me the question, "When you leave as President, what do you want to be remembered for?" I have thought about that question numerous times during the last year and never really knew how to address it nor did I really have the time to address it. There were always so many areas of the 'J' that the board was working on and the transition was taking place so fast there wasn't time to institute any one particular program or set one particular goal. However, looking back over the last few years and examining where we are today, I hope Larry Gerber and the board will attempt to accomplish the following goals:

First, with regard to the board itself, I would continue the transformation of the board's role from that of an operational board to a policy-setting board. This has been accomplished to a great extent during the last years and in

large part has been due to the board members and staff working so well together in the committee structure and making day-to-day operational programming decisions at that level rather than the board level. But to take further steps along these lines, I feel we still need more board training. We need to continue to send board members to the JWB biennials; we need to have more workshops as we first did two years ago, and hopefully the board training regional conference for Js in our region, which we have discussed, will become a reality in the fall.

With regard to the Center membership, we must get the entire membership involved in membership recruitment. Although it may still be too early to tell this year what the actual numbers may be, we know after nine months that it is not enough just to open up a new facility. There must be a positive effort to recruit new members. Everyone of our cur-

See MILES LEVINE page 10



### Letters to the Editor

#### A Dearth of Jewish Themes

The photography exhibit held earlier this year at Shalom Park, deserves our highest accolades for its professional quality, variety and beauty. However, I must admit that I was personally disappointed in the dearth of Jewish subjects shown, since the Visual Arts Committee clearly requested Jewish themes for its "First Annual Local Photography Exhibit". This request may have been overlooked since unfortunately only one mailing went out about the show.

I can understand that everyone has not (as yet) had the opportunity to visit Israel, but there are limitless "Jewish themes" right here just begging to be photographed: Shabbat and holiday celebrations, synagogues and Jewish historical sites, life-cycle events, Chai Groups and Jewish youth activities, retreats at Wildacres, etc.

I propose that in view of the outstanding talent we are blessed with in our community, that two annual photography exhibits be planned — one depicting Jewish themes and the other general subjects. That might be a fairer way of including all members of the "J". It will also act as a double incentive for talented people to participate and offer added enrichment and pleasure to everyone.

This letter is in no way to be

construed as criticism of the V.A. Committee. Quite the contrary, the committee members have shown great enterprise and creativity in bringing a variety of exhibits to us. However, they are often limited by our participation.

As an added inspiration, I recommend the book "Behold a Great Image", edited by Sharon Stassfeld and Arthur Kurzweil and published by the Jewish Publication Society of America. This book came about as a result of a photography contest on the theme of the contemporary Jewish experience. The contest, open to amateur photographers, was judged by Roman Vishniac (distinguished photographer) and Susan Goodman (curator at the Jewish Museum in NY). Of the 1,000 entries from all over the world, about 350 were chosen to be included in this book.

Stanley and I are donating a copy of this book to the new "J" library for your perusal and pleasure. May it inspire many of our talented photographers to enter the next Jewish Photography Exhibit at the "J".

— Elkie Tulman

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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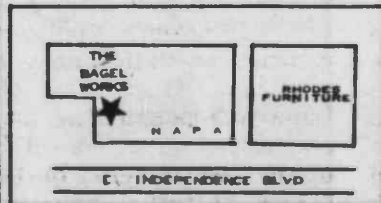
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