

**THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS**

Published monthly by:

Charlotte Jewish Federation.....Michael L. Minkin, Director  
 Foundation of Charlotte Jewish Community &  
 Jewish Community Center.....Barry Hantman, Director  
 Charlotte Jewish Day School.....Berta Straz, Principal  
 Lubavitch of N.C.....Rabbi Yossi Groner, Director  
 Editor.....Rita Mond  
 Advertising.....Blanche Yarus

Copy deadline the 10th of each month  
 P.O. Box 13369, Charlotte, N.C. 28211

The appearance of advertising in The News does not constitute a kashruth endorsement.

**Editorials****Dor L'Dor**

I had the privilege of attending the 56th Council of Jewish Federations' General Assembly at the Fontainebleau, Miami Beach, Nov. 18-22. What a gathering it was! Jews coming together from all over the U.S., Canada, Israel, South America and also from Sweden, Australia and South Africa....all for the same purpose: to share and to learn. And what a learning experience it was!

"Dor L'Dor: From Generation to Generation — Building Community and Continuity Through People" was the theme of the GA. Over 300 individual sessions revealed what is on the minds of Jews right now. They explored the ways in which the Federation network, together with Israel and world Jewry, can transmit our Jewish heritage, commitment and values to the next generation and beyond. They also focused on our responsibility to reach out to the uninvolved and marginally involved — including our teenagers, college students, singles, the elderly and disabled — in order to make them feel connected with Jewish life, Israel and our Jewish communities. "Kal Yisrael Haverim" — All Jews are friends. We are part of one family.

Throughout the entire convention there prevailed the overhanging cloud of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's impending visit to Washington, D.C. and the desire of our people for Human Rights. There prevailed an exuberance for the pro-Soviet Jewry March in Washington on December 6. Anticipation of tens of thousands of Jews and others from all over the U.S. and the world to attend on behalf of the 400,000 Soviet Jews who have applied to emigrate, was overpowering. The standard greeting was: "I'll see you in Washington!"

How fantastic it was to see and listen to Ida Nudel, live, from Israel via the technological achievement of the Satellite Network. She, too, was to be in the Rally along with Natan Shcharansky, Vladimir and Maria Slepak, Yuli Edelshtein and Mikhail Kholmiansky.

No matter where I was, someone knew someone in Charlotte. The old cliché is certainly true... "it's a small world".

I am very proud that Charlotte won four P.R. awards, especially since we were the only small city to do so. In the newspaper category we were in very good company with stiff competition among the large cities...here again we were the only small city to be recognized.

There are so many highlights of the convention, that I can not possibly include them here. You will note that the centerfold of this issue gives a broad prospectus of what occurred at the GA. I only wish that more of you could have attended and experienced what those of us, who were there, did.

The Greater Miami Federation, which hosted the Assembly, recruited almost 1500 volunteers. They are to be commended for their outstanding work and showing the 3500 delegates such gracious hospitality.

Because of the pro-Soviet Jewry rally on December 6, Super Sunday in Charlotte has been changed to December 13. When you are called by our volunteers, remember to give a generous pledge. Money is needed NOW...locally, internationally, and in Israel. We have a commitment as Jews to help one another; we have a commitment to Tzedakah. We have a commitment to our Jewish survival, not just for today, not just for tomorrow, but for all the future generations. Dor L'Dor.

—Rita Mond

**Church, State and Pat Robertson**

By Robert E. Segal  
 (JTA)

Five years ago, the Rev. Pat Robertson sent me a letter beginning: "Dear Colleague in Christ." The letter continues to haunt me, and ever since receiving it, I have been an avid collector of items about the Virginia television evangelist.

Recently, the revelations about this charismatic figure have been numerous and startling. Two stand out: in July, he proposed the launching of a U.S.-backed invasion of Nicaragua; and on Oct. 6, The Wall Street Journal reported that "his classmates at Yale Law School remember that his interests ran chiefly in the direction of poker and women."

The latest news about what happened at Yale to this now-staunch fundamentalist is that he manfully decided to

own up to his flaming youth. "As a young man, I was engaged in wine, woman and song," he said on Oct. 8, when interviewed by Ted Koppel on ABC News' "Nightline."

Yes, he was precise about that, but ambiguity continues to cloud some of his claims concerning his military record, a part of his education and his role as an adviser to a bank.

Robertson also boasts of finding favor with Orthodox and Conservative Jews. Indeed, some Jews point out that he's a good friend of Israel.

Yet, another Christian fundamentalist, a profound scholar, advised me that in predicting that the Almighty will save Israel when Armageddon strikes, Robertson fails to add his firm belief that Israel will be the scene of Christ's so-called Second Coming. In that New Jerusalem, where will today's valiant

Jews find sanctuary?

Along his sawdust trail, Robertson has hailed the American Constitution as "a marvelous document for self-government by Christians". Let that precious document fall into the hands of non-Christians, he argues, and we would see it used to destroy the foundations of our society.

Were Robertson's Jewish admirers aware of this divisive note, especially as we all took pride in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the cherished text which would keep church and state separated?

We Jews are justly proud of our contribution to the religious richness of living in this land of freedom. What chutzpa it is, then, for Robertson to declare that "Christians have a duty to prevent Jews from stripping religion away from American life".

Well, Pat Robertson needs no advice from this chronicler. But he might want to take a tip from Richard Nixon, who told him, "You can be a fanatic, as fanatic as you want, as long as you do it in private."

Fellow evangelist Billy Graham also offered sound advice. "When you say that you pray and stop a hurricane," he said, "it gives the press something to distort."

Robert E. Segal is a former newspaper editor and director of the Jewish community councils of Cincinnati and Boston.

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.

**Governor Cuomo's Rabbi**

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
 (JTA)

Often, when Governor Mario Cuomo of New York prepares to deliver a speech, reportedly he asks advice of his rabbi, or at least for a good rabbinic story from Jewish tradition. Cuomo, a Catholic, has a friendship with Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz of New York that is close, affectionate and probably unique in American history.

Recently, more than 1,000 Jews and Christians from all walks of life, joined in a moving ceremony honoring this outstanding Jewish spiritual leader. To mark the 50th anniversary

of his ordination as rabbi and 40 years of service that he and his devoted wife, Liffy, have given to their congregation, the Hillcrest Jewish Center in Queens, N.Y., dedicated its sanctuary in the name of the rabbi.

The 73-year-old religious leader is a model rabbi — a gifted preacher and learned teacher, a trusted guide, counselor, social worker and community leader and an inspired interpreter of Judaism to the non-Jewish world.

In addition to his years of dedicated service to his own people, he has made extraordinary contributions to the cause of social justice and

world peace. Mowshowitz helped organize Operation Crossroads Africa in the 1950s. He served as president of the World Conference of Religion and Peace. He is now Cuomo's advisor on community relations.

The governor described his rabbi's spirit accurately when he said, "Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz is a man of God, too sensible to ignore the world, and too wise to embrace it as the only reality."

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum is director of international relations for the American Jewish Committee.

**Lisa's Inhuman Life, Tragic Death**

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
 (JTA)

The tragic death in New York of Lisa Steinberg, the 6-year-old victim of apparent child-beating, has wrung the hearts of all of us. It has made us aware of how urgent is the need to strengthen the capacities of social service agencies and the police to contain this growing family violence before it destroys more innocent lives.

But there is one aspect of this tragedy that needs to be set straight before it gets out of hand. It was reported that Lisa was born of Catholic parents and had "a Jewish up-

bringing." Lisa indeed was born of a Catholic mother. The notion, however, that she had a "Jewish upbringing" is nothing less than scandalous.

The beatings and abuse that this poor, lovely child suffered at the hands of her adoptive parents, who were born Jewish, violates every basic teaching of Judaism about children. Anyone who knows anything about the Jewish religion and real Jewish family life knows that every child is sacred and central in Judaism. The child in Jewish tradition is the highest of human treasures. What her parents inflicted on Lisa was

savage, not Jewish.

Equally, the battering of the woman in Lisa's household, Hedda Nussbaum, abuses every Jewish teaching and feeling about the honored place of a wife in the strong Jewish family tradition. "Husbands must honor their wives more than themselves," the Talmud declares.

Beyond that, this is not a Catholic-Jewish issue. It is a terrible human tragedy. And all of us should be doing everything we can together to try to prevent Lisa Steinbergs and Hedda Nussbaums of whatever religions and races from ever happening again.