



Jewish Family Services

Charlotte Jewish
FEDERATION
Your Dollars Work Here

Parenting Your Adolescent

Iris Madison, MSW, of the Jewish Family Services' staff, and Sandra Rocks, MSW, will conduct a six week group entitled "Parenting Your Adolescent Child." This is for parents of teenagers who wish to share feelings, gain support and explore various parenting issues.

Parents will discuss effective communication skills, adolescent autonomy and self-esteem, discipline, peer pressure and influences, teenage depression, sexual acting out and drug/alcohol abuse

problems.

Ms. Madison, who has facilitated such groups for other agencies, will assist group participants in sorting through some of the difficult, confusing and positive aspects of parenting your teen.

The group will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Shalom Park beginning March 16 and will be limited to twelve parents. The fee will be \$90 for all six sessions. To register, please call Jewish Family Services, 364-6594.

Interfaith Support Group to Meet

There will be an interfaith support group for six weeks beginning March 8 at 8 p.m. at Shalom Park, conducted by Adrienne Rosenberg, ACSW. This is a repeat of a past successful support group of this nature and is open to the first six couples who apply.

This group is for married interfaith couples where one of the partners is Jewish. The emphasis is to examine and share issues that arise from being an interfaith couple

where two religions are practiced in the home. The emphasis is not on conviction, but on strengthening what is.

Some of the topics to be discussed are celebration of holidays, raising of children, relatives' reactions, and relationships with the broader community. The cost of the group is \$90 for all six sessions.

To register or inquiries, please call Jewish Family Services, 364-6594.

Seniors to Attend Project '88 Graduation

By Steve Newman

On June 3, graduating high school seniors in Charlotte-Mecklenburg will have an exciting alternative to the all too frequent celebration ritual of drinking and driving to Myrtle Beach or other points along the Carolinas' shore lines.

At 4 p.m. on that afternoon the gates of Carowinds will swing open and the Project '88 Graduation alcohol and drug free party will begin. And it won't end until 6:30 the following morning.

Project Graduation is a national movement that was born in the small northeastern community of Oxford Hills, Maine, in 1980.

Graduation weekend is a dangerous time for graduating seniors and in 1979 seven graduating seniors in Oxford Hills were killed during that weekend as a result of alcohol and other drug related traffic accidents. The following year parents in Oxford Hills worked with the graduating class of 1980 to educate the students about the risks of impaired driving and to offer an alternative alcohol and drug free graduation celebration at the town's local county fair.

One year later 36 Maine communities offered Project Graduations to their graduating seniors and in 1983, when 86 Maine communities celebrated Project Graduation, Maine suffered no alcohol or drug related highway fatalities among graduating seniors during the graduation celebration period.

Project Graduation came to



Graduating Seniors enjoying Project '87 Graduation.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg last year when close to 2,500 graduating seniors attended Project '87 Graduation at Carowinds and partied safely through the night.

This year's graduating seniors from Charlotte-Mecklenburg and the seven North and South Carolina Counties that adjoin Mecklenburg County have been invited to attend the alcohol and drug free celebration. School systems in most of the counties have agreed to attend.

Project Graduation in Charlotte-Mecklenburg is sponsored by Charlotte's Parents for Drug Free Youth; graduating seniors who wish to attend will need to purchase a \$5 admissions ticket prior to June 3. They can take a guest to Carowinds and the guest will also need to have a \$5 ticket of admission.

Adults wishing to volunteer to work at Carowinds on June 3 should call Jean Moore at 366-1670.

For additional information please call Steve Newman, adult cochair, Project '88 Graduation, at 336-2023.

Thoughts from Adrienne

By Adrienne Rosenberg, JFS Director



Two very recent experiences have started me thinking about the kinds of programming and illusions of needs in our community. The first of these occurred at a recent Jewish Family and Children's Agencies Conference I attended in New Orleans. There I heard a speaker make a statement that over half of American Jewish children today will not be raised in the same town they were born in. This means that a large number of Jewish parents are raising children without the bene-

fit of grandparents around or without the continuity of history of family or community. They thus depend even more on the community in which they live.

The other experience was my being a panelist for the Federation Leadership Development group on the Jewish family. On the panel with me were Rabbi Robert Seigel and Rabbi Marc Wilson. In discussions of what types of Jewish families are members of their congregations, it turns out only 39% of Temple

Israel's and 32% of Temple Beth El V'Shalom's families consist of two parents and an average of two children all residing under one roof. That means that of affiliated persons, less than half are intact families. There is an even higher percentage that are singles with or without children. Think then of all the children or older persons living in the nontraditional, with no extended family system. This is contrary to what we often think of as typical Jewish family life.

Add to these the factors of mobility, the increased longevity of life, the increased rate of intermarriage, the changing role of working women who need child care, and the rising divorce rate among Jews. Then we have to ask ourselves if the Charlotte Jewish community in its services and programming, is meeting the needs of the majority who reside here.

There is always a perceived notion of who lives in a community. It's time to look at who is really there and then plan programming and services accordingly. The Federation is contemplating a demographic study of our Jewish community. I hope this occurs. Perhaps the impact of the numbers who are unaffiliated, of the singles and single parents, of the numbers who have no extended family members in the area, of the average income and of the elderly, will be in black and white.

The Charlotte Jewish community offers a lot, as we know, for a community of its size. But is it planning its services for the majority, or is it planning for whom is perceived to be out there?

Student Loans Are Available

Jewish Family Services will be accepting applications for interest-free student loans for college students beginning March 7. These loans are guaranteed from Jewish Children Service of Atlanta to Jewish youth whose families reside in the Southeast. The following guidelines are essential for eligibility:

- The student and family must have been residents of the Charlotte Jewish community for over one year.
- The loans must be used primarily for college or post-secondary training.
- The student must have been accepted by a recognized school and show his/her intention to complete schooling and to begin paying back the loan after graduation.
- The principal determinant, in addition to the qualifications listed above, is financial need.
- The loan, if granted, will not cover total expenses. Rather, the student must show he/she has applied for other grants or loans.
- Priority is given to state schools where out-of-state tuition is not required; however, other factors are taken into consideration.

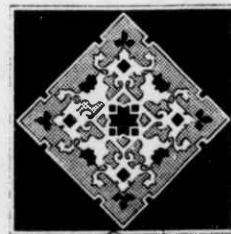
Applications must be completed by May 20. To begin the process, please call Jewish Family Services, 364-6594.

Medical Director Added to Staff

Dr. Byron Wilkenfeld, psychiatrist, has become the first medical director of Jewish Family Services. The addition of Dr. Wilkenfeld will mean that the agency can accept insurance payments for its counseling services. This covers those insurance programs that

cover psychiatric social workers under the supervision of a psychiatrist. Dr. Wilkenfeld will be meeting regularly with the staff and will be available to see clients from the agency. For further information about this, please call Jewish Family Services.

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