

# Opinions and Commentaries



## Letters to the Editor

*Editor's Note: Alan Blumenthal attended the recent UJA Young Leadership Conference and received the following letter from Senator Helms.*

Dear Mr. Blumenthal:

Thank you for your recent letter. It was indeed my pleasure to have the opportunity to address your delegation from the UJA Young Leadership Conference. My only regret was that a vote in the Senate kept me from being able to spend more time with your group.

I appreciate your providing me with some of your thoughts regarding the current situation in Israel. It is unfortunate that the media has shown little, if any, interest in explaining the current situation in the context of America's interest in a strong Israel, or in the context of

Israel's forty year struggle to secure peace with its neighbors.

As I mentioned during our meeting, I joined with a number of my colleagues in sending a letter to Secretary of State George Shultz, expressing our understanding that it is for Israel and its leaders alone to decide when and whether it is in Israel's security interest to exchange "land for peace."

I have taken the liberty of enclosing a copy of this letter, as well as a copy of an article I wrote last Fall in regards to the proposed "International Peace Conference." I hope you find these items to be of interest.

Thank you again for your letter. Your comments are always welcome.

Sincerely,  
Senator Jesse Helms

## Correction

The listing of the first planning committee of the Charlotte Yiddish Institute (1979) should have read: Sarah and George Ackerman\*, Marvin Bienstock\*, Mae and Julius Goldman\*, Estelle and Leo Hoffman, Rose and Abraham Luski\*, Baila and John Pransky\*.

The 1988 Charlotte Yiddish Institute committee included all those above signified with an \* as well as Bobbie Pollard, Elkie and Stan Tulman.

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## I Reiterate, We Need a Bureau!

By Rabbi Marc Wilson

Nearly two years have passed since I first expressed my opinion that this community, urgently, overwhelmingly, needs a Bureau of Jewish Education.

I am happy to say that some progress is being made in that direction, very, very slowly. Slow is good. Deliberate is good. Let us not, however, let slow-and-deliberate become an excuse for lethargy and dilly-dallying. Let us be persistent in keeping the crucial need for a Bureau of Jewish Education at the top of the community agenda.

Briefly, the purpose of a Bureau is to (1) coordinate (and in some instances, directly administer) community-wide Jewish educational and cultural programs; (2) provide consultation (curriculum, programming, teacher training and development, administrative, etc.) to synagogues and Jewish communal agencies; (3) to conceive and implement new and innovative educational and cultural programs for the community.

Let us briefly reiterate some of the more pressing needs that could be promptly addressed by a Charlotte Bureau of Jewish Education, in the hope that we will sense the urgency and push the community to move decisively in that direction:

- (1) Supervise and aid in the renaissance of the Charlotte Jewish Day School.
- (2) Supervise the Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies.
- (3) Supervise and expand the Speizman Judaic Library at Shalom Park.
- (4) Supervise and expand the services of the Carolina Agency of Jewish Education: consultation to smaller outlying Jewish communities, teachers' resource center, teacher training.
- (5) Assist in developing and supervise a community Pre-School program.
- (6) Develop a meaningful community-wide Adult Education program of ongoing classes and special educational and cultural events.
- (7) Develop a meaningful

community-wide Family Education program.

(8) Advise the Temples' religious schools on curriculum, programming, teacher training and supervision.

(9) Serve as Judaic programming consultant to the JCC: staff education, holiday activities, arts and crafts ideas, cultural programs, creating a "Jewish ambiance" at Shalom Park.

(10) Consult with the Jewish Federation and Jewish Family Services on the educational elements of their programs: Young Leadership Development, Family Life Education, etc.

(11) Develop a meaningful program to stimulate Israel awareness, Zionism, and advocacy on behalf of Jews in the Soviet Union, Arab countries and Ethiopia.

Anyone with even a little knowledge of our Jewish community knows that most of the above items are either being addressed poorly, or in a slap-dash manner, or are simply slipping through the

cracks. When you honestly appraise the realities, and get the crying needs clearly in focus, the issue is not "How can we afford to have a Bureau?" but "How can we afford not to have a Bureau?"

My mother always has the right folk-expression for every one of life's situations: "A worm that lives in a horseradish thinks it's sweet," she says, "because it's never had the privilege of living inside an apple."

No one thing, even a Bureau of Jewish Education, is a panacea. But, when it comes to the state of Jewish education in Charlotte, we are like worms living in a horseradish. I strongly suggest that establishing a Charlotte Bureau of Jewish Education will give us a chance to taste what it's like to really live inside an apple.

*Editor's note — This was submitted before the Federation appointed a special committee on Jewish education in Charlotte.*

## Spring Cleaning?

Help yourself and Crisis Assistance Ministry. Bring those old, but clean, clothes to the JCC for HaLailah's clothing drive on May 15.



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