

# Bagel Wars II: Return of the Rabbi

By Rabbi Marc H. Wilson

Just when you thought it was safe to put your dentures back in the water...Bagel Wars rage anew. The seething question: Kettle-Boiled or Oven-Steamed? Tradition or innovation? Shouts of "Less filling! Tastes great!" waft across Providence Road as an evenly divided Jewish community heatedly debates the passionate issue.

Is "Ovensteam" Goldstein (Bagelworks) the Ted Turner of bageldom, egotistically claiming that he has improved on the classics through Brave New World computer hocus-pocus? Is "Potboiler" Fox (Bubbe's Bagels) a loyal defender of the true old faith, or Darth Vader in disguise?

I AM the RABBI. My girth and extensive Talmudic training bring me the prerogative of final arbitration of this matter that shakes Jewish destiny to its core:

I declare the genesis of the individual bagel immaterial.

Oven-Steamed or Kettle-Boiled, they are both equally exalted through cream cheese. They both wax equally rhapsodic regaled in lox and Bermuda onion. They are both equally extolled through whitefish salad. They both have a half-life of fifteen minutes. They both equally resist the heretical inroads of Canadian ba---. They are both the bedrock of authenticity next to the styrofoam imposters lurking in the Harris Teeter freezer.

I say "Amen!" to the comment I recently overheard from the lips of no one less than Rev. Joseph Chambers: "I can't define the bagel, but I know it when I see it!"

In all fairness, there is one other genus of fresh-baked bagel growing right here in Charlotte, at Peck's Bakery way, way out on Pence (!) Road. I visited Peck's one recent noontime. There, cowering in a corner among the cottony dinner rolls and hotdog buns, looking about as out-of-place as I do having lunch at

the City Club, was a tray of, yep, bagels.

"Hey, Mary, I didn't know you baked bagels!"

"Oh, Rabb-ayh," she confessed in her sweetest Baptist drawl, "we call those our 'gentahl bagels.' You wouldn't lahk those."

So, truth be told, the real culprit is neither the boilers nor the steamers, but the "gen-tahl" phoney masquerading around in a world of Cohens and Rabinowitzes. You of the Methodist and Presbyterian persuasion need to know that better things await those whose hearts are open to the legacy of Moses, Isaiah and Buddy Hackett.

There. Now that we've put the important issues to rest, let's refresh our mind with a little trivia, like feeding the hungry children of the world, who couldn't give a hoot about steamed or boiled to fill the unconscionable pit in their unconscionably empty stomachs.

## JWB Biennial Convention

continued from page 1

pleted a census study, which might be of benefit to us.

It wasn't all hard work and forums. Thursday night there was a gorgeous reception at the New Union Station. But again on Friday, I attended another forum: "Sophisticated Services for the Mature Adult" — a presentation of model programs with a view to understanding how to respond to the needs of a growing target population. There is an excellent marketing memo: "The Graying of America" from which I learned: In 1990, 1 out of 5 people in this country will be 65 and older. We must try to understand what aging means to each mature adult.... we don't add years to people's lives, we want to add life to people's years. The effort to restore dignity to our older adults depends on our collective wisdom. The volunteer program in each "J" is an integral part of the success of the older adult programming. Suggestion: form an AARP Chapter here. Perhaps we could call our older adults the "VIPs" as certainly they are!

The Shabbat dinner was the icing on the cake. The meal was elegant and we were entertained by the speaker of the evening, Chaim Potok, who was outstanding and delightful. At the Oneg we were entertained by the U.S. Air Force Academy Jewish Choir, which was wonderful. The Shabbat services were held; it was the first time since I was a teenager that I sat with the other ladies in a segregated area.

The reception and dessert gala at the Arch was overwhelming, which included the

trip to the top of the Arch. It was a wonderful ending to a most informative, friendly and warm interlude of learning and sharing.

## World Beat

cont'd from page 4

murder begins a rehabilitation program at a kibbutz.

William Shapira, 62, was paroled by the governor of Florida after Herut Lapid, head of the kibbutz movement's prisoner rehabilitation program, interceded on his behalf. Lapid acted at the request of several prominent Israelis interested in the case. Under the agreement with the Florida authorities, he will be responsible for Shapira for the 12 remaining years of his sentence.

### Tid-Bits

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel will exchange weapons for coal under a four-year trade agreement with Colombia. Colombia will purchase \$250 million worth of military equipment from Israel, including the Kfir jet fighter plane. Israel will purchase 500,000 tons of coal from Colombia.

NEW YORK (JTA) — Overweight young women attending yeshivas and day schools can attend a four-year-old "slim-down" camp in Woodbourne, N.Y.

Its name? Camp NU-YU.

MASADA (JTA) — This serene mountaintop in the Judean Hills will be the scene of a musical light-and-sound show next October 13, winding up Israel's 40th anniversary

My personal thanks go to Barry Hantman for making certain that Larry and I met the people we should meet and that we were well informed.

sary celebration. Next October, the ancient hills will echo to the music of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of its conductor and musical director, Indian-born Zubin Mehta.

BONN (JTA) — East Germany has embarked on a major effort to appease Jewish communities worldwide, especially in America and in Israel. West German analysts conclude that for East Germany, reducing tensions with Israel and with the American Jewish community is extremely important to improving relations with Washington.

TEL AVIV (JTA)—A Saudi businessman, his wife and their 10 children, have approached the Jewish Agency in London with a request to immigrate to Israel. The man said his family is descended from Saudi Jews, and that they were forced to convert to Islam during the days of Mohammed, but they secretly preserved their loyalty to their Jewish origins. His family has lived in isolation, he said, because their skin color is lighter than that of other Saudis. He decided to leave Saudi Arabia following a dispute with the Saudi prince.

TEL AVIV (JTA)—Ground-breaking ceremonies were held for a new children's hospital

## Yiddish Institute at Wildacres



Charlotte Yiddish Institute Committee: 1st row (L to R) Liebe Pollard, Sarah Goldman, Elkie Tulman, Baila Pransky, Raizel Luski, Moishe Bienstock; 2nd row (L to R) Zalman Tulman, Yehudah Goldman, Avraham Luski. Article and more pictures will appear in Aug. issue.

Photo/Sam Wallace

### The Community Relations Committee of the

Charlotte Jewish Federation invites you to attend the second in a series

### JEWISH COMMUNITY FORUM

Topic: *Continuing Crisis in Israel: The West Bank and Gaza Strip—Building a Constructive Dialogue for Peace*

Thursday, June 16, 1988

8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Gorelick Hall, Shalom Park

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President

designed for the physical and emotional needs of childhood, not simply to treat their ailments. The \$60 million medical center, serving children throughout the Middle East, will be erected on the grounds of Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikva, largely through the generosity of New

York realtor Irving Schneider, who has donated millions of dollars for the project.

Phil's Deli  
Annual Chai Party  
Aug. 7 — 5-8 p.m.  
Shalom Park  
No Charge

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