

Women's Division of Federation

Educational Committee to Present Panel Discussion: "Jews on the Edge" — Critical Issues Facing Us

The Charlotte Jewish Federation Women's Division Education Committee is pleased to announce its annual educational evening on Thursday, October 20 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park. The evening's program, "JEWS ON THE EDGE," is a discussion on critical issues affecting the Jewish family such as chemical dependency, aging and interfaith families.

The keynote speaker, Ms. Sherry Frank of Atlanta, Georgia, the Southeast Area Director of the American Jewish Committee, brings to this position more than twenty years of varied community experience. The evening will be highlighted by a panel discus-



Sherry Frank

sion of the issues by local experts. Ms. Evelyn Berger, chairperson of the Jewish Family Services and vice president of the JCC, will moderate the panel. Members

participating in the discussion will include Adrienne Rosenberg, director of Jewish Family Services, and Dr. Steve Newman, director of Substance Abuse Services for Mecklenburg County. Sherry Frank will also participate on the panel.

The Education Committee invites you to attend this informative presentation. Members of the committee are: Lynne Sheffer, chair; Judy Soldinger, Lori Benjamin, Polly Menaker, Elissa Meadow, Ellen Luski, Barbara Katz, Lori Sklut, Sharon Sand, Wendy Rose, Suzanne Portnoy and Deane Ackerman.

—Judy Soldinger

Why I'm a Volunteer

By Lynne Sheffer

Editor's note: Lynne is currently chairperson of the Education Committee of Women's Division of the Charlotte Jewish Federation.

I participate as a volunteer in Jewish agencies such as the Federation because I am committed to our community and feel a sense of responsibility to it. I grew up in Charlotte and have seen tremendous growth and change take place because there were always volunteers who cared and made things happen.

The Federation is an excellent agency in which to volunteer because of the impact it has in helping to support our local constituent



Lynne Sheffer

agencies as well as assisting Jews in Israel and other countries who need our help.

By taking an active rather than passive role, I find that I personally gain a lot. I feel that my contributions do count. The people I meet are wonderful. Those who participate in the various Women's Division activities are dedicated and have many skills to share. Through my participation in Federation I have been able to continually increase my own awareness of Jewish needs locally and abroad.

I am looking forward to our October Education Event and really enjoy working with the women on my committee. Most are new to Women's Division and are bringing with them much enthusiasm and new ideas.

Believe me, as a volunteer you gain more than you give. It is great!

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Many Charlotteans Attended Statewide Forum in Greensboro

On September 6, the Charlotte Jewish community was well represented at the Statewide Forum sponsored by the Jewish Federations of Charlotte, Durham-Chapel Hill, Greensboro and Wake County. Sixty people traveled by chartered bus and private cars, arriving at Beth David Synagogue in Greensboro at 7:30 p.m. to hear two outstanding Jewish leaders, Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations and the National Conference of Soviet Jewry, and Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress. The Charlotte cohort of the event was Herman Blumenthal and helping with the organizing of the event were Ruth Goldberg and the Charlotte Jewish Federation staff.

Abrams and Bronfman have used their power and influence to assist Jews everywhere. The information they presented was extensive and this article is only a brief overview of the many topics discussed.

Edgar Bronfman stated that never before have Jews in our country been so free and powerful as we are today. He

asked, "What is our responsibility to other Jews who are in a dangerous or hostile environment?" The importance of continued support and demands for Jews in Israel and the Soviet Union and other countries was stressed.

He spoke about the Soviet Union, Soviet Jewry and his concerns about Austria. He stated that 51,000 Jews were able to leave Russia in 1979. At present 2,000 Jews are leaving per month. If all the Jews who wanted to leave left, 2 million Jews would still remain in Russia. Mr. Bronfman is continually fighting for the rights of these Jews. While there are many problems in the Soviet Union, he foresees a Jewish Community Center, Cheder (school) and library as a reality in the future. While the short term situation looks good, the long term situation is always questionable. He believes that if we stop our demands or lessen our voice, the Soviet Union will stop its efforts to improve the situation for Soviet Jews.

He expressed much concern over Austria and its leader

See FORUM page 9

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