

**THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS**

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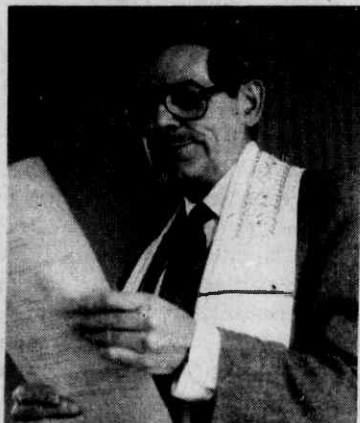
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**Editorial**

**In Memoriam**

Last month we celebrated Chanukah, the holiday which commemorates the battle of the Maccabees and the miraculous victory over the forces of darkness and assimilation. It was during this holiday, however, that Rabbi Harold I. Krantzler lost his battle with cancer. Rabbi Krantzler, 72, died in Camarillo, CA where he resided since his retirement as Rabbi of Temple Beth El (now Beth El V'Shalom). He moved there in 1986 with his wife Helen to be closer to their three daughters and their granddaughter. He had served Temple Beth El for 10 years and the Rabbinate a total of 36 years. He had previously been a rabbi at congregations in Long Island, N.Y., Austin, Texas and Denver, Colorado.



Rabbi Harold Krantzler.  
photo/Roger Meyers

Everyone in Charlotte, who had the privilege of knowing Rabbi Krantzler, was inspired by his religious knowledge which he shared with others, his keen sense of humor, his outreach to the Christian community and his participation on many community boards and cultural activities. These included serving as moderator for the Wildacres Institute, president of the Charlotte Area Clergy Association, president of the Greater Association of Rabbis and cochairman of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He was also on the board of the Charlotte Lung Association and active with the Ecumenical Institute at Belmont Abbey.

For the nine years that he sang tenor with the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte, he delighted those who attended the many performances at Ovens Auditorium. For those of us who attended the Temple Beth El Retreats at Wildacres, he made them "special," inspiring the Havdalah service, the sing-along concerts which ran well into the night and his special participation in the "big show" on Saturday night.

Rabbi Krantzler, in his teaching role as mentor for a Religious School student, preparing a student for Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or taking a class through Confirmation, playing an active role as coordinator and leader in the Adult Education Institutes, left a lasting impression on those lives he touched.

For those of you who did not have the opportunity to know Rabbi Krantzler, you missed meeting someone really special. I, for one, have lost a very good friend.

— Rita Mond

**NEEDED**

The Charlotte Jewish News needs to modernize and go to desktop publishing. Contributions for this will be gratefully appreciated. They can be mailed to CJN, PO Box 13369, Charlotte, NC 28270.

If anyone has a word processor he/she would like to donate, The CJN would be happy to receive it. Thank you.

**'Freedom is a Two-Sided Coin'**

**Resurgence of Anti-Semitism Threatens Romanian Jews**

The violent revolution that overthrew the regime of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu a year ago was a "two-sided coin" for the nation's rapidly-dwindling Jewish community, Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Romania said.

"The revolution brought us indisputable freedom," he noted, "but it also afforded liberty to the fascist killers who seek to foment anti-Semitism and destroy freedom." He added, "Under the new Romanian democratic regime anti-Semitism has unfortunately begun to rear its ugly head. Hundreds of anti-Semitic articles—including scurrilous blood libel accusations—have happened in the press in recent months."

Declaring that "throughout history, whenever a power vacuum occurs the Jew becomes the scapegoat," Rabbi Rosen said: "Fifty years after the Holocaust we must react to prevent a resurgence of anti-Semitism in

Eastern Europe and insure that what happened in 1940 will not occur again in 1990."

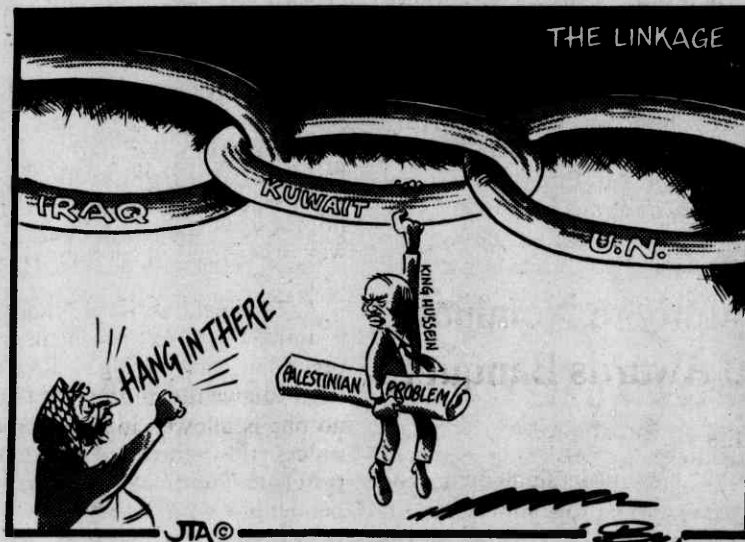
In a wide-ranging exchange with media representatives, Rabbi Rosen, who has served as Romania's Chief rabbi since 1948, reviewed the massive aliyah of Romanian Jewry—of the 400,000 Jews in the country when he took office only 18,000 remain today—and described the extensive communal infrastructure that sustains the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of those who remain.

During the last 40 years we "forced" the Romanian government to permit the aliyah of virtually all of Romanian Jewry, Rabbi Rosen said. Though there were periods when the gates were closed during the peak of the cold war in the 1950s, emigration was permitted to resume in 1958. "Today passports are granted routinely," Rabbi Rosen said, adding "More than 1,100 Romanian Jews have made aliyah

this year. Those who remain participate in the highly organized structure of the Jewish community, funded primarily by the Joint Distribution Committee. The community organization supplements the monthly pensions of senior citizens and all Romanian Jews receive food packages nine times per year, before all of the Jewish holidays. More than 3,500 kosher lunches are served daily to senior citizens at no or low cost and hundreds of Jews participate in communal sederim on Passover and festive activities on Chanukah and Purim. The community boasts 11 kosher restaurants and two old-age homes."

On his reputed close ties with the assassinated former premier, Rabbi Rosen retorted, "My relations with Ceausescu were official and correct—nothing more. Our dealings were on a quid-pro-pro basis. In exchange for my supporting most-favored-nation status for Romania, which netted the country \$300-\$400 million each year, he was willing to permit the massive aliyah of Romanian Jews and the unhampered functioning of the Jewish communal structure here. Everything I did was done with the full knowledge and consent of the governments of Israel and the U.S."

**Deadline for February Issue is Jan. 10.**



**Letters to the Editor**

**Volunteers and Staff Deserve Thanks for Helping Resettlement of Soviet Jews in Charlotte**

Many volunteers and staff members of the JCC, the Charlotte Jewish Federation and Jewish Family Services have contributed time and money for the local resettlement of Soviet Jews. Most have been thanked publicly or privately, but there are three people who have given countless hours who have received little or no recognition. They are Dori Mileham, our secretary at JFS and volunteers Lee Courtland and Lori Epstein.

Dori, in addition to her duties as secretary for the director and three staff members of JFS, has spent many hours on our resettlement program. She has coordinated transportation for almost all of the medical and dental appointments as well as

community programs. If she can't find a volunteer, she volunteers herself. Dori is a very understanding and compassionate person and has a smile for everyone.

Lee and Lori spent many hours during the summer helping our newcomers learn English. They not only worked with them during their more structured classes with CPCC but also brought additional learning materials to class and took them on field trips around Charlotte...i.e. UNCC library, public library, farmers market, shopping centers. They helped them learn survival English and about things in American life that we take for granted. We are fortunate to have women with such expertise willing to volunteer

their time and talent.

We still have a need for English tutors both for the families who arrived last summer and our new family. We also need people to drive during the day to appointments. Although some families have made friends within the Jewish community, they would welcome the opportunity to meet more people. If you would like to help in any capacity, please call the JFS office, 364-6594 or 364-6596.

— Sally Schrader

**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.**

*Wishing y'all a very happy and healthy New Year.*

—Shalom—