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The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

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April 1991

Local Resettlement Effort Will See Double the Number of Soviet Jews in '91

The number of Soviet Jews resettling in Charlotte will more than double this year over last, placing a greater need than ever on the community for volunteer, financial and material help.

The Charlotte Coalition for the Resettlement of Soviet Jews, a group of representatives from the various Jewish institutions and organizations in the community that is overseeing the local resettlement campaign, plans to bring 35 emigres to Charlotte in 1991, up from 31 in 1990, according to coalition chair Bobbi Bernstein.

The local resettlement is part of Operation Exodus, the international effort to resettle Jews fleeing the anti-Semitism and persecution in the Soviet Union that has emerged in the wake of political instability there. More

than one million Soviet Jews have applied to leave the USSR since they were first allowed to emigrate in the summer of 1989.

It is estimated that two to three times that many will eventually emigrate and settle primarily in the U.S. and Israel. During 1990 alone, 40,000 came to this country and more than 185,000 went to Israel. The flow of emigres to Israel continued even during the Persian Gulf war, with hundreds arriving there daily.

Nine families have been resettled in Charlotte to date. "The local Jewish community and others donated virtually everything they have needed to survive," Bernstein said, "including thousands of dollars worth of furniture, appliances, clothes, See SOVIET page 7

Community to Celebrate Israel Independence Day Israel and Charlotte: Facing the Future Together

The Jewish Community Center, The Charlotte Jewish Federation, Temple Israel and Temple Beth El V'Shalom have organized an exciting Independence Day Celebration to commemorate Israel's 43rd birthday on Sunday, April 14 at Shalom Park.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Israel and Charlotte: Facing the Future Together!" In the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war and with the accelerated influx of Soviet Jews into Israel, it is timely that we show our solidarity with Israel. "B'yachad," let's join hands with Israel to celebrate her splendid social, cultural and economic accomplishments during years of continual war.

"B'yachad," we will partake in a Solidarity Walk (or bike rally). The rally will take place 10 a.m.-noon, beginning at the Dore Academy on Providence Road and continuing to Shalom Park. Walkers and riders will receive T-shirts, flags and balloons. An Israeli-style lunch will be served at Shalom Park at noon.

A special Charlotte Maccabiah is being planned for the afternoon, 1-3 p.m., for children ages 6-12 years. The concept of Maccabiah originated with Joseph Yekutieli in 1921 and its goal is to raise the standard of physical culture and sports among Jewish youth and to enhance the Jewish sense of togetherness. Maccabiah games began in 1931, focusing on enriched sports, as well as Aliyah to Israel during burgeoning anti-Semitism in Europe. For many of the participants, Maccabiah served as a catalyst to flee from Europe and join the pioneers of Israel. In continuing with this Jewish tradition, the Charlotte Maccabiah experience joins Israel in recognition of the birth of Israel.

There will be an exciting



David Broza

evening concert with the famous Israeli pop/folk singer, songwriter and guitarist, David Broza. Born in Haifa, Israel, Broza spent his childhood in Spain and his adolescence in England. He has a unique multifaceted style which combines a variety of voices from his past (Europe and

Middle East) and his present (USA). These voices, which stir emotional responses from audiences, take the poetry genre and bring it to a wider population. Much of Broza's work has been recognized by the David Harp Award (comparable to the Grammy Award). Broza appeals to people of all ages.

The concert will begin at 8:00 p.m. and will be preceded by a patron reception at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per individual patron; \$8 per adult and \$3 per child and senior. Coffee and dessert will be served following the concert. Tickets will be available at the JCC, Federation, Temple offices or by mail.

If you are interested in volunteering in this special event or want further information, please notify Marcia Stern, 366-5007.

Spring Show Gala Was "A Cause for Celebration—A Show of Support"



The Collector's Corner was one of the main attractions at the show. photo/Mike Schreiber

By Rita Mond

The Charlotte Merchandise Mart was a beehive of activity on the evening of Feb. 24 when the Southern Spring Show Gala took place. Over 2,500 people gathered to enjoy the beautiful gardens, designer rooms, displays, entertainment, arts and crafts exhibitors, marketplace and the wonderful refreshments. They came in support of the resettlement drive for the Soviet Jews in Charlotte.

Corporate sponsors and individual ticket sales made the event very successful with over \$64,000 raised for this worthwhile cause. Since last summer, 31 Soviet Jews were resettled in Charlotte and we are anticipating another 35-40 this year. The money brought in by the Gala will help in the resettlement of these newcomers.

All this could not have been accomplished without the diligent work of many, many people. A sincere thank you goes to Joan Zimmerman of the Southern Spring Show who made this all possible by designating the Charlotte Coalition of Soviet Jewry, under the aegis of The Charlotte Jewish Federation, as the Gala recipient. Herman Blumenthal and Jane McColl, cochairs and the members of the

Gala advisory committee, worked hard and successfully in soliciting sponsorships and the bulk of the money. Another committee, chaired by Sara Schreiber, Vicki Hopkins and Cary Bernstein, worked many long hours in coordinating the catering, public relations, enter-

See GALA page 18

Yom HaShoah

Holocaust Program Exhibit and Lecture

Opening Presentation
Sunday, April 7
7:30 p.m.

Shalom Park
Gorelick Hall and Speizman Art Galleries

Speaker: Dr. Gene Owens
Myers Park Baptist Church

Topic: Christian View of the Holocaust

Cospponsored by the N.C. Council on the Holocaust, JCC, Charlotte Jewish Federation and the NCCJ

The Jewish Community Center of Charlotte

cordially invites you to attend its

Fifth Annual Meeting at Shalom Park

Hosted by The Board of Directors

April 28 **10:15 a.m.**

Program

Brunch	President's Report
Preview of New Fitness Center	JCC Business
Annual Awards	Election of Officers

JCC Nominates Hal Levinson for Pres.



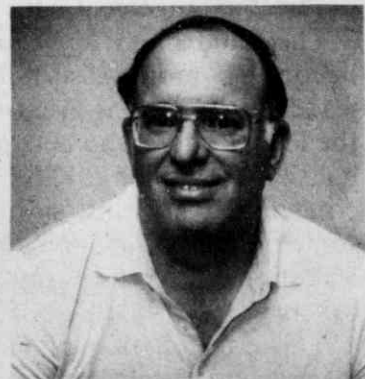
Hal Levinson

Hal Levinson is a rarity in Charlotte — he is a native, having been born here in 1956. He has been an extremely active member of the JCC Board of Directors for more than five years serving in many capacities.

He has been a vice president for three years and was responsible for a great many of the activities and successes of the 'J' which made him a "natural" for being nominated to serve as president. He was the membership cochair for two years, chair of the JCC Personnel Committee and as the Corporate Sponsorship chair, he helped to bring

See LEVINSON page 15

A Thank You to Michael Van Glish



Mike Van Glish

On April 28 at the Annual Meeting of the Charlotte Jewish Community Center, formal thank yous will be given to Michael Van Glish for having served the 'J' as its president the past two years. It was during his terms of office that many new innovative programs were introduced.

Michael was responsible for seeing a restructuring occur — the dream of a new Fitness Center has become a reality, many new Sr. Citizen programs have been introduced with emphasis on nutrition programs such as the older adult lunches

See VAN GLISH page 15