

# The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

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## Shamir Tells UJA President's Mission: "Diaspora Jews Must Increase Gifts for Absorption"

After hearing Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir call on American Jews to substantially increase their UJA contributions for immigrant absorption, the nearly 800 members of the UJA President's Mission to Israel accepted his challenge by raising a total of \$21.9 million.

UJA National Chairman Marvin Lender, who led the mission, announced the fundraising results. He said that of the \$21.9 million, the mission raised \$13.9 million for the 1992 UJA/Federation Regular Campaign, a 22 percent increase over pledges by the same donors last year, and \$8 million for Operation Exodus, the special campaign to aid the resettlement of Soviet and Ethiopian Jews in Israel.

"Operation Exodus is essential to Soviet and Ethiopian Jewish immigration and absorption," said Lender. "The Regular Campaign is equally important as it addresses other basic Jewish needs in Israel, the U.S., and elsewhere and is our bread and butter. I'm confident that American Jewry will join with Israelis and help Jews everywhere achieve a better life."

The Prime Minister's address was one of the highlights of a whirlwind five days in Israel during which representatives from 58 American Jewish communities met Israeli leaders in government and politics, including President Chaim Herzog, who hosted the mission, and former Prime Minister Shimon Peres.



Baila and John Pransky with Ethiopian children at an absorption center in Israel.

Mission participants, which included Ada and Sol Shapiro and Baila and John Pransky of Charlotte, observed their campaign dollars in action in programs and services of the Jewish Agency and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee which are funded primarily by UJA/Federation Campaigns. They met new Soviet and Ethiopian immigrants, observed the absorption process firsthand, and visited Youth Aliyah villages for troubled teenagers, Project Renewal neighborhoods, and rural communities. They also viewed facilities for the elderly and handicapped.

Most participants arrived in Israel following optional permissions to either Czechoslovakia, Morocco, Poland, Spain, Turkey, or the USSR.

UJA National Chairman Lender noted that the President's Mission was part of a key

UJA mission program that brought 3,500 American Jews to Israel in October.

"We came because we cared," Lender said. "We American Jews are determined to demonstrate our commitment to the people of Israel. We are truly one people with one destiny and we'll always stand together. The world has to know that American Jews are standing shoulder to shoulder with Israel."

*Ed. note: There will be a story on this from a Charlottean's perspective along with photos. Look for this in next month's issue.*

## "Gala" Marks Opening of Golden Circle Theatre/JCC Season

Patrons and benefactors attended two performances on Nov. 9 of the first play, "Catch Me If You Can," of the Golden Circle Theatre/JCC 1991-92 season. The "Gala," which took place 6-8 p.m. between the 4 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. showings, was held in the Alvin E. Levine Gymnasium.

Delicious food, catered by Glorious Cuisine, consisted of crudites, a pasta bar and a lush dessert bar. Kudos go to all who helped in making this a night to remember. Chairing the patron committee were Sue Ades and Elaine Schefflin; Sandra Levine was in charge of the benefactor tickets. Louise Bernstein headed decorations; Ethel Gordon, refreshments.

A total of over 900 people attended the various performances of this play, the first of the 4-play series. Other plays to be presented this season are "The Little Foxes," during January; "Design for Living," in March; "The Diary of Anne Frank," in late April and May in commemoration of Yom Hashoah. For information on dates of the

## '92 Federation Campaign Gears Up for January Kick-Off

Leadership roles are being filled and key events scheduled in preparation for the Charlotte Jewish Federation's 1992 Annual Campaign, which will be launched in mid-January with the theme, "Answering the Challenge Together."

Bobbi Bernstein, Harry Lerner and current CJF president Emily Zimmern will lead the fundraising effort as co-chairs.

The campaign kick-off event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 18 at Shalom Park, Zimmern said. Details of the event and the rest of the campaign will be finalized after the first campaign cabinet meeting. The campaign itself will run through March, 1992.

"This will be a pivotal year for the Charlotte Jewish community and the Federation," Zimmern said. "Several historic events were set in motion during 1991 that will continue to challenge Jews both locally and throughout the world: Operation Exodus, the Mideast peace talks and loan guarantees for Israel. Here

in Charlotte, we began a process to consolidate the leadership and resources of the Federation and Foundation to produce a stronger, more unified Jewish community. The 1992 campaign, probably more than any other before, is an opportunity for us to answer those challenges by demonstrating our commitment to Federation and what it stands for — a communal spirit among Jews all over the globe symbolized by continuing support and cooperation."

Also being planned is the Major Gifts Dinner, which is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 12 at the home of Mickey Gold. Leadership Circle and Lion of Judah contributors will be invited, said Don Bernstein, 1992 chair of the Leadership Circle. "The dinner will launch the overall campaign in a significant and meaningful way and set the pace for the rest of the campaign," he said.

Volunteers for the campaign are needed. For more information, call the Federation office, 366-5007.

## Gissen Was Guest Speaker at Leadership Development Program

By Ken Stern

Ira Gissen, ADL Regional Director for North Carolina and Virginia, was the speaker at the October meeting of the Leadership Development program. Mr. Gissen spoke on the topic "Is Anti-Semitism fashionable?"

Mr. Gissen told the group that, in recent years, incidents of anti-Semitism have again been on an upswing. People are more willing to submit articles to the editorial section of local newspapers that are anti-Semitic in content. Swastikas have been painted on the campus of VPI in Virginia, and incidents involving educational facilities and political campaigns have been reported in North Carolina. The ADL monitors these and other activities occurring in this region and can provide advice on how to reduce the risk of desecration at various Jewish facilities.

The impact of David Duke's campaign for Governor of Louisiana was also discussed, as



Ira Gissen

were the problems occurring in the Crown Heights section of New York some months ago. On the international level, Mr. Gissen reported on anti-Semitic activities in the U.S. during the Iraqi war (none were reported) and of the distribution of anti-Semitic leaflets in the Soviet Union during the recent coup attempt.



(L to R) Leonard and Evelyn Berger, Barry Hantman, and guests of the Golden Circle Theatre enjoying the refreshments.



"Gala" patrons at the "pasta bar."

Photos/Fran Rosenberg

performances and ticket prices, Tickets may be purchased at the please call the JCC, 366-5007. front desk at the 'J.'

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