

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

Vol. 18 No. 8

Elul 5756-Tishri 5757

September 1996

## Bernstein Promoted Affinity Groups Gear Up for Fall Events

By Cynthia Chapman

Cary Bernstein has moved from the position of Campaign Associate to Director of Development of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. She is excited about the expanded responsibilities the change entails. Bernstein will continue work in several areas in which she has already played significant roles for Federation. With Marvin Goldberg in place as Executive Director, the time is right for her to be further challenged as a key player in shaping Federation's community role for the future.

Cary's major areas of focus include the Federation Campaign, the Leadership Development program and Community Relations. Her goal is to enhance programs already in place and to revitalize one in particular by working with Stacy Gorelick, Chair of the Leadership Development Program. The new Leadership program will "focus on Jewish identity" for the individuals involved and how that relates to, and impacts on, their relationship with the Jewish community and as future leaders of the community. The goal of previous leadership programs was often geared primarily toward training Federation leadership. The new program, she said, will help nurture leaders for the entire community.

Why is the entire community important to Cary Bernstein? As a native of Charlotte, she has seen the Charlotte Jewish community change dramatically over the years. She has been involved in the community in various ways and served as the Program Director of the ICC before she moved to a position in the Federation. She's lived other places but is glad to be in Charlotte, especially now, and especially in her role with Federation. Cary says Charlotte is "a very different place from years ago." She smiles enthusiastically as she adds, "It's a great place to be right now." She points out that native Charlotteans may not always be aware of the reputation Charlotte has developed nationally. People in other areas of the country hear that Charlotte is an "attractive, exciting place" and she's heard people say they wish they could relocate to the Queen City.

Growth in the Jewish community reflects the growth of the greater Charlotte community. There are lots of new faces, she points out, and Federation can provide the link between the new and the old. Bernstein feels a new positive energy centering around the Jewish community now, and in particular, around Federation.

"I see it as a transitional time," she says. We have a new Executive Director in Marvin Goldberg who is ready to take us to a new level. In addition, we have a group of exciting, dynamic  
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by Lou Wernick, JFGC

Rich Osborne, President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, stated that the three major affinity groups in Charlotte, The Financial Division, The Lawyers Division and The Physicians and Dentists Division, continue to grow and express strong desire and commitment to support and strengthen Jewish life in Charlotte. The leadership of each group has accepted the responsibility to build fellowship, strength and integrity within their division and collectively to support educational, cultural and social enrichment programs within the Jewish community. The following events have been scheduled:

### LAWYERS DIVISION

Hal Levinson of Moore and Van Allen is chairman of this division. The first fall event will take place October 9, 1996. There will be an hors d'oeuvres reception and Rabbi James M. Bennett of Temple Beth El is to be the guest speaker. The members of the Lawyers Division Steering Committee are: Mark Bernstein, Irving M. Brenner, Steve Garfinkel, Jeffrey Garis, Meg Goldstein, Alan Kaplan, Alan Krusch, Howard Labiner, Jeff Malickson, Jay B. Must, Albert Nalibotsky, Allan Singer, Amy Strawser, Richard S. Sweet, Ronald M. Weiner and Michael Zeller.

### FINANCIAL DIVISION

The chairman of the Financial Division is Richard Gross, President of Nationsbank Capital Markets, Incorporated. Gross commented that "the Financial Division has adopted a new and innovative program called the 'Network' to connect Charlotte's Jewish financial professionals. This program will serve to strengthen interaction within the division, as well as focus on matters relating to the general Charlotte community. We plan to have regularly scheduled monthly breakfast meetings which will offer an opportunity for the Jewish financial professionals to get together. We also plan to recruit the top people in the banking, stock brokerage, accounting, real estate and insurance industries to speak to us." Gross added, "We are planning a major event for November when Mr. Mickey Levy, prominent international economist and columnist for The Wall Street Journal will be the guest speaker." The members of the Financial Division are: Larry Brown, Orik Dagan, Paul Edelstein, Shelton Gorelick, Todd Gorelick, Amiel Goldberg, Craig

**Don't Forget!**

**JCC's 10th  
Anniversary  
Gala!**

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Katzman, Peter Levinson, Eugene Marx, Steve Menaker, Adrian Mesoznik, David S. Miller, Selwin Notelovitz, Ken Rivkin, Bernard Sandler, David Swimmer and Judie Van Glish.

### PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS DIVISION (MAIMONIDES SOCIETY)

Dr. David S. Citron, chairman of the division said, "We have some very exciting programs in the offing. First, we are indeed fortunate to have been able to confirm that the distinguished and very prominent Israeli physician, Dr. Theo Dov Golan, will be addressing our group at our Fall event on Tuesday, November 12, 1996. Dr. Golan, an authority on Jewish-Arab relations and Israeli war-time and army medicine, is also one of the leading scientists in the world specializing in Lupus research. He has authored some 80 scientific papers." Dr. Citron continued, "Second, we have developed a program committee within our steering committee which will research and recommend a service project to be adopted by the Maimonides Society." The members of the Maimonides Steering Committee are: James Bedrick, Niles Choper, Scott Goodman, Max Greenman, Robert Haber, Robert Kipnis, Jonathan Levine, Scott Menaker, Edwin Newman, Michael Rotberg, Jared Schwartz, Tricia Sinoway, Philip Solomon, David Somerstein, Samuel Zimmern, and Joe Zucker. The commonalities of purpose for each affinity group are: to foster a sense of common purpose and commitment to work for the betterment of Jews everywhere; to mobilize professionals within the framework of each group to serve as a resource in the Jewish and general communities; to support and strengthen Jewish life in Charlotte through active involvement with the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

For information about the affinity groups and their forthcoming events, please call Lou Wernick, Director of Special Projects, at 366-5007.



Michael Bar Zohar.

## Labor Party Activist Assesses Israel's Election

By Harry L. Chernotsky

Labor Party insider, General Michael Bar Zohar, discussed the results of Israel's recent election in Gorelick Hall on July 18. In his remarks, often sprinkled with humor and anecdotes stemming from his many years of involvement in electoral politics, Bar Zohar sketched the major factors contributing to the outcome.

For most Israelis, he noted, personal security was the primary election issue. Despite its many achievements, the previous government was unable to calm the fears of many citizens. These concerns escalated even further just prior to the election with the outbreak of hostilities in Lebanon and rumors of a pending agreement with Syria over the Golan Heights.

Bar Zohar was also quite candid in his critique of Labor's own campaign strategy. Most devastating was the decision to maintain a relatively low profile, even as Likud continued to hammer away at Prime Minister Peres. The charismatic appeal of Benjamin Netanyahu, especially when contrasted with the relatively lackluster performance of Peres on the campaign trail, also contributed to Labor's defeat. Not surprisingly, Bar Zohar suggested that assassinated leader Yitzhak Rabin would have been a far stronger candidate, saving Shimon Peres yet another political humiliation. Finally, Israel's new direct election system generated significant votes for Netanyahu from among supporters of the various religious parties.

Attempting to put the

best possible "spin" on his party's defeat, Bar Zohar praised Netanyahu for his pragmatism and suggested that he found much of the new government's proposed agenda quite acceptable. He was quick to point out, however, that Netanyahu may have some difficulty steering clear of his more extremist supporters, especially as he grapples with the issue of Palestinian sovereignty.

While not especially pessimistic, Bar Zohar did identify a few ominous clouds on the horizon. For Labor, its sagging Jewish support (44%) provides the most pressing challenge. For the country as a whole, the battle with extremism and the growing religious/secular schism will require the government's immediate attention.

It is still a bit early to assess fully the broad implications of this most dramatic of Israel's recent elections. Bar Zohar noted that both the winners and the losers appeared "stunned" by the outcome. Barring any major surprises, Israelis should have until after November's U. S. election to catch their political breaths. The window for peace will not remain open indefinitely, however. It is absolutely imperative that the opportunities now available not be permitted to slip away.

Dr. Bar Zohar is a professor at Emory University and his visit was made possible by The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

Harry L. Chernotsky is Professor of Political Science at UNC Charlotte.