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A brief history of the State of Israel

On December 23, the official celebration of the State of Israel's 50th anniversary will begin with the lighting of a special memorial candle in Jerusalem.

Let us begin our own preparations for this historic celebration by reviewing a few of the moments that brought us to this day.

- 1882 - 1904** The first aliyah brought about 25,000 immigrants to Israel from Eastern Europe, Russia, Romania and Yemen.
- 2/14/1886** Publication of Old/New Land, containing Theodore Herzl's vision of the future Jewish State. Public reaction prompted Herzl to convene the First Zionist Congress.
- 8/29/1897** The First Zionist Congress was convened in Basel and the WZO was created with Herzl as president. The Basel Program was endorsed as the official Zionist platform, defining the goal of Zionism as the establishment of a national homeland for the Jewish people in Eretz Israel, secured by public law.
- 12/29/1901** Keren Kayemet LeIsrael (JNF) was founded, its main aim being the purchase of land for Jewish settlement in Eretz Israel. After the creation of the State of Israel, JNF was the main force behind reforestation and development programs.
- 2/26/1902** The Anglo-Palestine Bank was founded in London as the financial arm of the World Zionist Organization. In 1951 it became bank Leumi LeIsrael.
- 9/3/1904** Death of Theodor Herzl, author, journalist and father of modern Zionism.
- 1908** The World Zionist Organization opened a Palestinian office in Jaffa, which was responsible for developing Jewish settlement in the country, creating a Jewish economic structure and collective settlement.
- 4/11/1909** Tel Aviv was established as a Jewish suburb of Arab Jaffa.
- 10/28/1910** Degania Aleph-Israel's first kibbutz was established on the eastern bank of the Jordan River.
- 1910** Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, known as the reviver of the Hebrew language, published the first major Hebrew Dictionary. In his efforts to make Hebrew the daily spoken language in Eretz Israel, he set up the Hebrew Language Academy.
- 4/11/1912** The Technion, the first institute of technology in Eretz Israel, was established with classes conducted entirely in Hebrew.
- 11/2/1917** The Balfour Declaration was issued in the form of a letter from the British foreign secretary to Lord Lionel Rothschild. It expressed support for the "establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."
- 1919-1923** The third aliyah brought around 35,000 immigrants to Israel, mainly from Russia and Romania. It included Jews who had been stranded overseas by the First World War.
- 12/9/1920** Creation of the Histadrut, Israel's trade union movement, for the purpose of "arranging all the communal economic and cultural affairs of the working class" and the "building of a labor society in Eretz Israel."
- 1920** The Principal Allied Powers decided to award the Mandate of Eretz Israel to Great Britain, with responsibility for maintaining a normal life for the Jewish and Arab inhabitants.
- 1920** Founding of the Hagana, an underground military organization active in national defense, settlement, clandestine immigration and the struggle against

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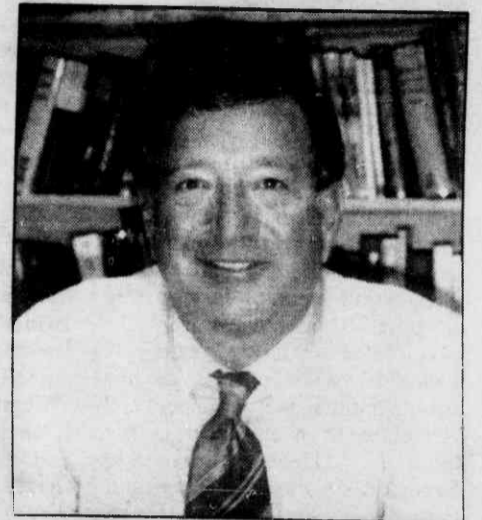
Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community formed to enhance communal fund raising

By Susan Kramer

According to Don Bernstein, chairman of the newly formed Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community, there are many things that make the Charlotte Jewish community unique. He notes that it is a community whose impact far outreaches its numbers and whose dedication and devotion to Jewish causes are well-known and respected throughout the state and nation. Perhaps nothing defines the Jews of Charlotte so well as the spirit of cooperation that knits the diverse community together and has produced some amazing accomplishments in the last 25 years. One need look no further than the Shalom Park campus to see what this spirit of cohesiveness can create. This 52 acre campus is a model environment of Jewish communal life, embracing as it does synagogues, schools, recreational and social facilities. Shalom Park draws people from all over the country who come to learn the secrets of its successes and take them back to their own communities. And now, Bernstein announces with pride, there is another model of Jewish communal effort of which we can boast—one that, as much as the bricks and mortar of Shalom Park, will bring us together and ensure the future success of our community.

The phenomenal growth of the Charlotte Jewish community has been a mixed blessing of sorts.

The influx of new people and ideas has certainly enhanced what our community can offer. But the burgeoning growth has also strained our resources almost to the breaking point. It is time, according to Bernstein, to put into place a mechanism that will allow the community to support this growth and ease the financial strain that all of the organizations are feeling as we enter the 21st century. To that end, Bernstein and a committee of thirteen community leaders have been working for the last several months to develop just such a vehicle. Soon, each member of the community will be receiving a booklet describing the newly established Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community, an independent, non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to furthering the quality of Jewish religion, life and culture in the greater Charlotte area. Affiliated as a supporting organization with the Foundation for the Carolinas, the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community will serve as an umbrella organization for charitable giving for six entities: The Foundation of Shalom Park, Inc., Hebrew Cemetery Association, Jewish Community



Don Bernstein, Chairman of the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community.

Center, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel. Bernstein notes that additional institutions in the community are also welcome to participate in the fund.

The elected Board of the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community, which includes Donald Bernstein, Chair, Robert Abel, Mark Bernstein, Herman Blumenthal, Marvin Goldberg, Meg Goldstein, Harry Lerner, Leon Levine, Abraham Luski, Richard Osborne, Joel Ostrow, Marc Silverman, Robert Speizman, and William Spencer,

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New Women's Division Cabinet Formed

There will be a new look to Women's Division for 1998. Under the direction of Ruth Goldberg as Women's Division President and Stacy Gorelick and Meg Goldstein, as the '98 Women's Campaign Chairs, a new cabinet has been formed to include campaign, newcomer outreach, women's programming and social events.

There are now 33 women on the '98 cabinet. "Our goal was to broaden the base of involvement,"

said Ms. Goldstein. "We wanted to include more women in the process and make women's division into a year-long activity."

Towards that end, the newly formed cabinet encompasses several new and revitalized program areas including: "The Main Event," an evening with Shoshana Cardin, chaired by Jill Newman and Dale Polsky, a reinvigorated Business and Professional Women's group chaired by Roni Fishkin and Gail

Baron, an organizational outreach effort chaired by Ginny Rosenberg and Donna Lerner, and an educational forum chaired by Tammy Menaker and Holly Levinson. A newly created programming group called "The Jewish Women's Network" has been organized which will meet in the morning during the week. This group is chaired by Melissa Raphael and Anne Sinsheimer.

There will be a new emphasis on reaching out to newcomers with a revitalized Shalom Y'all program chaired by Nancy Kipnis and Ellen Framm, a newcomer's outreach effort chaired by Tracy Brown and "Kids in Vogue" (a children's fashion show) will be held again in the spring chaired by Bobbi Bernstein and Mara Huber. Andrea Birnbaum will coordinate the publicity for all of these groups and for the campaign.

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Ruth Goldberg



Stacy Gorelick



Meg Goldstein

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