

4th Annual Women's Division Spring Lecture Set for Thursday, May 4

In a memoir as lyrical as a novel, author Fern Schumer Chapman tells the compelling story of her mother, Edith Westerfeld, who, at age 12 in 1938, was sent from Germany to America by her parents. Although intellectually Edith knew their selfless act saved her from the Nazis, she never saw her parents again and feels as though she had been abandoned. As an adult, she looked away her childhood memories and her children always knew they were not to ask about her past.

In *Motherland*, Fern Chapman shows how memories can build an identity as well as set a life adrift.



Fern Schumer Chapman

Her visit in 1990 with her mother to Stockstadt, the town from which Edith was sent more than

50 years earlier, is both a physical and metaphorical journey, leading to Edith's reclamation of a sense of memory and self; Fern's understanding of her mother's tragic, hidden past, and the repair of their seriously frayed relationship. Ms. Chapman also reveals the sense of responsibility felt by Edith's former classmates, sometimes called the "lucky late-born" because they were not old enough to participate in war crimes themselves (and all of whom still lived in the village when Edith returned with Fern). Yet we see that "lucky" is a relative term, because neither they, nor Edith, nor Fern escaped the terrible legacy of war.

This is a book that resonates with readers of all ages and backgrounds, and has garnered outstanding reviews across the country. A finalist for the National Jewish Book Awards in 2000, *Motherland* also was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show, chosen by Barnes and Noble as a "Discover Great New Writers" title, and has been optioned by Hallmark Entertainment for a feature-length film.

Please mark your calendar for Thursday, May 2, when the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte Women's Division brings Fern Schumer Chapman to our community. For more information on this event, please call Marnie Moskowitz at 704-944-6764 or email her at mmoskowitz@shalomcharlotte.org. ☆



Federation Allocations

(Continued from page 3)

Personal Entrepreneurship for Ethiopian Women

Before their rescue from Ethiopia and arrival in Israel, the Falash Mura (Ethiopian Jews) lived in an extremely remote and isolated area of Ethiopia. Many still practiced Jewish traditions from Biblical times, as they were never exposed to Talmudic knowledge and interpretations. Modern conveniences were as foreign to them as a Mars probe is to us.

But the unfortunate political situation in Ethiopian necessitated the quick and heroic transport of thousands of Ethiopians to Israel where they have been thrust into modern society like a bullet from a rifle.

The story from one Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) worker goes like this: The JAFI volunteer took a woman and her children to their new apartment where he showed them around. In the kitchen, the volunteer made sure to show the woman the gas stove

and how the burners turned on. She practiced turning them on and off a few times until the volunteer was satisfied that she wouldn't blow the place up. "This is fantastic," the woman said, referring to her new gas stove, "but what is it for?"

It is from these guileless beginnings that the women of Ethiopia are striving to build themselves a prosperous future. Our community has allocated \$12,905 of our Israel and Overseas funds for the JAFI for a Personal Entrepreneurship Program for Ethiopian Women. Specifically, our funds will help 20 pre-selected women who have moved from the isolation of Ethiopia to the metropolis that is Eretz Yisrael.

The needs of Jews in Charlotte and around the world continue to be foremost in the minds and hearts of their fellow Jews. Please don't forget the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte when you are called on to make a pledge at one of our events or by telephone on Super Sunday. It is you who helps improve life for Jews in Voronezh, Hadrea-Eiron, and Charlotte, North Carolina. ☆

Charlotte Torah Center/ Congregation B'nai Shalom Events for February 2002

The Charlotte Torah Center/ Congregation B'nai Shalom continues its highly successful interactive Jewish learning in late February with the following activities:

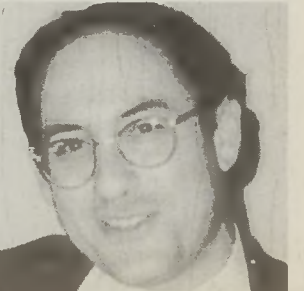
Thursday, February 21: Rabbi Yosef Edelstein will be speaking at the Morrison Branch of the Public Library, at 7:00 PM, on "The Purpose of Life in Less Than an Hour."

Friday, February 22: 12 noon, Lunch and Learn — "Maimonides (the Rambam): His Life and Greatest Hits."

Saturday, February 23: 4:30 PM — Torah Study: "Holy Threads: The Priestly Garments, and What They Symbolize."

Saturday, February 23 at 7:00 PM: "Mysteries of Purim: Haman, Amalek and Adolf Hitler."

Sunday, February 24, 10:30 AM: Great Jewish Texts: continuing learning in Luzzatto's "The Way of God."



Rabbi Yosef Edelstein

Sunday, February 24, 7:00 PM: "Drunkness and Purim: Is There More To It Than Just Being Wild and Crazy?"

All events will be led by Rabbi Yosef Edelstein and will be held at 135 Lutomma Circle (off 6800 block of Sardis, just south of Lansdowne), unless otherwise indicated.

Please call 704-367-9727 with any questions you might have about CTC events. ☆

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Now Forming:

Jewish Genealogical Society of the Carolinas

If you are interested in meeting to discuss the possibility of such a society for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and sharing knowledge and information with respect to Jewish genealogy please contact:
Valerie Bergin at 803-980-4161 or email: mikebergin@earthlink.net

In order to affiliate with the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies certain criteria must be established. We need a minimum active membership of ten adults, regular meetings, a newsletter, and a serious undertaking of genealogical research projects.

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