

**Your Federation Dollars at Work**

**Oasis Senior Enrichment Program at the JCC**

Oasis is a senior enrichment program offering mental and physical stimulation to seniors who have a desire to be active. Along with enriching programs comes an outlet for socializing and creating friendships. As an example, Oasis brings you the "Red Hat Society."

By Stephanie Glick

If you're anything like me you'll furrow your brow and ask, "What is the Red Hat Society, and how important can it be with such a frivolous name?" The answer is simple. The Red Hat Society was founded by Sue Ellen Cooper and her friends of Fullerton, CA, and is based on the poem "Warning" by Jenny Joseph.

Its purpose is to empower women over the age of 50 who have "behaved" for a better portion of their lives. According to the non-laws of the Red Hat Society, it's time for these societal



The Red Hat Yentas

beauties to live it up - in some cases for the first time, but certainly not the last.

As of October 31, 2003, there were 13 official chapter listings in Charlotte, NC. The JCC's Oasis Senior Enrichment Program will induct lucky number 14 at the glimmer of the New Year with its very own chapter, "The Red Hat Yentas."

So without further adieu, I will leave you with the poem with which it all began...



**Warning**

By Jenny Joseph

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple  
With a red hat which doesn't go  
and doesn't suit me.  
And I shall spend my pension on  
brandy and summer gloves  
And satin sandals, and say we've  
no money for butter.  
I shall sit down on the pavement  
when I am tired  
And gobble up the samples in  
shops and press alarm bells  
And run my stick along public  
railings  
And make up for the sobriety of

my youth.  
I shall go out in my slippers in  
the rain  
And pick the flowers in other  
peoples gardens...  
But maybe I ought to practice a  
little now?  
So people who know me are not  
too shocked and surprised  
When suddenly I am old, and  
start to wear purple.

Oasis Senior Enrichment Programs at the JCC are for all active seniors. As a United Way Member Agency, we welcome all seniors from the Greater Charlotte area, regardless of religious affiliation. The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte also provides considerable support to Oasis.

To learn more about Oasis or its Red Hat Society Chapter, The Red Hat Yentas, please contact Stephanie Glick, JCC Senior Adult Services Coordinator, 704-944-6730 or sglick@shalomcharlotte.org. ☆

**Thinking of joining The Red Hat Yentas?**

Here are answers to some common questions:

**Q: Can women of all backgrounds join or does she have to be Jewish to be a member of The Red Hat Yentas?**

**A: Yes! All women with a vision of empowerment and humor are encouraged to join The Red Hat Yentas.**

**Q: Do I have to be 50 to join?**

**A: No, women ages 49 and under are indeed welcome to join and are often referred to as Pink Hats.**

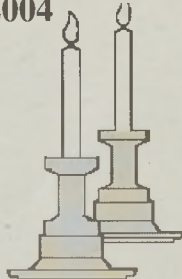
**Q: What will my husband and children think?**

**A: According to recent research, we believe the official response of the Red Hat Society would be, "Who cares?"**



**SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING FOR JANUARY 2004**

- Friday, January 2, 5:05 PM
- Friday, January 9, 5:10 PM
- Friday, January 16, 5:17 PM
- Friday, January 23, 5:24 PM
- Friday, January 30, 5:31 PM



**"One of the few advantages to not being beautiful is that one usually gets better looking as one gets older."**

—Nora Ephron, author, screenwriter, and director, "On Never Having Been a prom Queen," *Esquire*, August 1972

**CONTENTS**

Federation News .....	pp. 2-6	Women's News .....	p. 19
Synagogues and Congregations .....	pp. 7-12	Jewish Traveler .....	p.20
Library .....	p. 13	Community News .....	pp. 21-24
Schools .....	pp. 14, 15	Mazel Tov .....	pp. 25-26
Foundation of Shalom Park .....	pp.16-17	Jewish Community Center .....	pp. 28, 29
Jewish Family Services .....	p. 18	Dining Out .....	pp. 30, 31

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