

Spring Into Action; Business Network in May

April showers may bring May flowers, but May professional networking may bring June business opportunities that blossom well throughout the year.

That's the intent behind the Temple Beth El Business and Professional Networking Group.

(Although we are sponsored by Temple Beth El, meetings are open to the entire Jewish community.)

Since May is the fifth month of the year, here are five solid reasons to consider joining our group:

- To partake in the mitzvah of Jews helping Jews
- To grow your business
- Because you're new to Charlotte
- Because you're thinking about changing your career or seeking a new job
- Oh ... and membership is free

We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. This month, it is May 1 and May 15.

Networking starts at 6 PM; round-table introductions, dialogue and referrals begin at 6:30 and last until 7:30 PM. Periodically, we get high-powered (and well-connected) Jewish business people to share their success stories with us.

Meetings are held in Shalom Park, Luski Hall in the Education Building, located between Temple Beth El and the Jewish Community Center alongside the

J's parking lot. Enter through the Education Building's main door, take the elevator or stairs to the second floor and turn right after you exit. Luski Hall is the last room on the right at the end of the hall.

For more information, contact co-chairs Maddy Baer at mbaer1@carolina.rr.com or 704-841-0858; or Joel Kveskin at joel@jdkmarketing.biz or 704-846-4835. ☆

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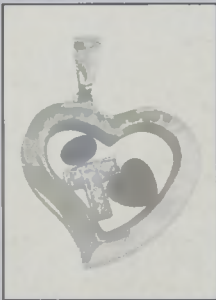
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B'nai B'rith Institute of Judaism

(Continued from page 5)

Kobilinsky holds a BA from Columbia University, which she attended while she was also at Juilliard. She received a Masters of Sacred Music and Investiture as a Cantor from Hebrew Union College's School of Sacred Music, and currently serves as Cantor of Congregation B'nai Yisrael of Armonk, NY.

Kobilinsky's discussions will be: Current Trends in Synagogue Music; Yiddish Music: "The Little Shpiel That Could"; The Impact of Jewish Historical Events on Israeli Pop Music; and on the patio, Kol Ishah - The Voice of a Woman and Chazzantes.

Arun Bhagwat will be the

entertainment. He grew up in Pune in western India. He graduated from engineering college there and came to the US for graduate studies, following which he joined the IBM Corp. While in India, Arun studied classical piano from the age of eight for six years. He led a six-piece band in college.

Arun retired from IBM four years ago and has devoted his time since then mainly to his music. In both New York and Sarasota, FL, where he moved two-and-a-half years ago with his wife, he has played at different venues - restaurants, private clubs, sing-along groups, and for ethnic audiences, including Club Shalom at

Heritage Hills in Westchester, NY. Arun complements his fine singing voice with skillful playing of the keyboard and accordion.

Tuition Fee

Reservations are \$315 per person, double occupancy. Single supplement is \$125. \$10 discount for early registration by June 1. Please send your name, phone number, email, address, and any special accommodations you need along with your check to B'nai B'rith Institute of Judaism, c/o Maxine Smith, 7504 Fairlawn Dr., #103, Raliegh, NC 27615. Maxine can be reached at 919-845-0495. ☆

Elie Wiesel, A Decade Against Indifference

(Continued from page 1)

civilization. But when he saw where the priest's home was, only 30 feet from the fence around the camp, he was astonished that the priest and all of the other neighbors in close proximity had just allowed the atrocities in the camp to continue.

One component, of course, he said, was anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism is world's oldest group prejudice. But, in his assessment, anti-Semites are delusional. They are convinced that Jews control the world. And the other component is indifference.

So what do we? Because we have suffered, he said, we can't allow others to suffer. We don't

want other children to be killed. The best thing to do is to tell our story. And tell it he has, in *Night*, and so many other books that told the tale and gave the warnings to the world. But it doesn't seem to have helped, Wiesel fears. If the world had listened there would be no Rwanda, Kosovo, Darfur; no hunger, no sickness. But, he said, this just means that we have to work harder.

Scholar's Breakfast

The next morning, Bill Gorelick hosted a lovely breakfast in the Weinstein Adult Lounge for college and some high school students to meet face to face with Professor Wiesel. Again, the ques-

tions from the young people were thoughtful and challenging. Again the answers were profound and sincere.

It's clear that Wiesel enjoys these encounters with the young people of the world. "I am first and foremost a teacher," he says. Having the youth in his presence fulfills that need in him to educate and enlighten.

Finally, a surprise awaited Professor Wiesel just when he thought his visit to Charlotte had ended. The fourth and fifth graders from the Charlotte Jewish Day School entertained Wiesel with several songs, including inspiring solos by Paige Rabinowitz and Sammy Lerner.

The visit ended with a personalized tour of the Day School. Each student stepped forward to describe his or her classroom and the subject that they were learning that day. Wiesel set the children laughing when they passed a sign on a door that proclaimed one class a "Nut-Free Room." "I cannot go in," Wiesel joked.

Finally the Day School presented the beloved professor with a gift of a mezuzah with the cover from his book *Night*. And then our guest left for the airport.

Shall I say it was a letdown or a disappointment that he left? No, of course, we knew that he would have to go. But there is a feeling of emptiness that he leaves behind him, because when he is with you, his presence fills the space in and around you. We hear the cliché "larger than life" so often, but here indeed is man, larger than life. A small man in stature, perhaps, but his impact is still being assessed by those whom he has touched. ☆

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