

Reflections at the Start of a New Secular Year

By Phil Warshauer

I'm not one to make New Year's Resolutions in January or the month of Tishri. However, there is something about a new year that makes me review the past and look toward the future. It has been a little over a year since my arrival in Charlotte as the Director for Planned Giving for the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community. It's been a year of adjustment, challenges, excitement and change.

The entire community has been so welcoming. It didn't seem to matter if I was attending worship services, exercising at the Levine JCC or attending one of the many interesting lectures that seem to take place virtually every week. I



Phil Warshauer (right) at the Appy State-Michigan game with his youngest daughter.

was told in advance that Charlotte was a welcoming place and those who advised me were right. I can now comfortably say that "Charlotte is my home."

I have become familiar with the area golf courses and have assisted in the press box at Panthers' home football games with their media relations department. My new hometown welcomed my alma mater, Wake Forest, in a bowl game and in March will host the ACC and NCAA basketball tournaments. As you may have determined, athletics are a big part of my life, along with my family and our Jewish heritage. So, from celebrating my parent's 50th anniversary and my mother's Bat Mitzvah to attending the Appalachian State-Michigan game with my youngest daughter, the past year has been a great one. The next year should be even better and begins with my oldest daughter traveling to Israel.

On a professional note, the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community's year seemed to parallel my own. Hopefully, more people know about the Foundation than they did a year ago and even more will be able to speak about it a year from now. Our Foundation now manages assets in excess of \$40 million and



in 2007 distributed grants throughout the Charlotte Jewish community in excess of \$1.1 million. While the assets of our Foundation and the grants that have been distributed should fill each of us with pride, it still leaves each of our institutions inadequately endowed. They each require larger endowments to provide the type of programming that we all have come to expect and require to support the future population. Much has been accomplished but there is much work to be done. Future funding that will be essential for you, me, your children, and my children.

Over the past year, the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community has strengthened its relationships with each of our Jewish community organizations, building upon the strong foundation that had been established by those who preceded me. We are working together with each of them identify their future needs and create a strategy for growing our endowments. These endowments will help to offset the costs of the programs that are so vital to our community. There are so many professionals and volunteers who are committed to a variety of Jewish organizations. It's a privilege to work alongside each one of them individually and collectively.

I have also had the opportunity to meet so many individuals throughout our community who have established endowments or added to existing endowments. They have done so for a variety of reasons and in numerous ways. Their gifts range in amounts but all are equal in that they come from the heart and the soul of each donor. It is their way of giving back.

As we enter the New Year, we should all do so with excitement about the challenge and opportunity that confronts each of us. We can all do our part to strengthen and preserve the Charlotte Jewish community. I'll do my part to increase the visibility and role of the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community. I hope you'll take the time to join us in our efforts and be equally resolved in making our hometown a special place. ☆

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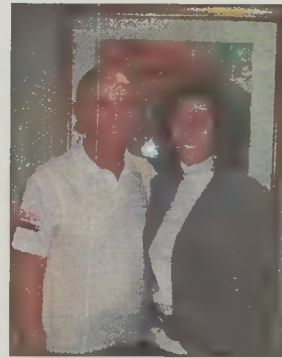
Newcomers

Welcome to the Barers

What makes people who have lived in the New York area for all of their lives uproot and relocate to Charlotte? Each family has their own reasons and their own story, but for the Barers it was really quite simple. "We wanted to improve our quality of life," says Shellie Barer. "We wanted a more moderate climate but still wanted four seasons. We were also attracted to the substantial and vibrant Jewish community of Charlotte."

Both were born in Brooklyn, but Shellie was raised in Queens. Harvey Barer left New York to attend law school at Harvard, but returned and raised his family on Long Island. Shellie, too, raised her family on Long Island, and both most recently hail from Great Neck.

Harvey and Shellie have been married for 8-1/2 years and moved to Charlotte just five months ago, after Harvey retired from practicing law and serving as a Village



Harvey and Shellie Barer

Justice in New York. The first thing they did when they arrived in Charlotte? "We sought out the JCC," Shellie explains.

Those of us who already live here know what a challenge navigating the streets of Charlotte can be. "We are eternally grateful for

the GPS we received as a going-away gift," the Barers laugh.

While the Barers have gotten excellent referrals for shopping areas, doctors, and other things from their new friends, Harvey says that he is still looking for a barber.

But it's the climate in Charlotte that has really enraptured the Barers. "One of Harvey's favorite things about Charlotte is the golf," Shellie tells us, "and he enjoys all the outdoor activities that the temperate climate allows."

In addition to the outdoor activities that they can participate in year-round, the Barers have also increased their participation in the Jewish community. "All our expectations for this phase of our lives are being exceeded.

"We've found the community to be very warm and welcoming," they conclude. To other newcomers, they advise, "Don't be shy. Make an effort to get involved." ☆

Are you a newcomer to Charlotte?

Would you like to be featured in this new and growing section of *The Charlotte Jewish News*? We are looking for people who have been here less than a year who wouldn't mind answering a few questions and sitting for a photograph. Please call 704-944-6765 if you or someone you know would like to be our next Newcomer feature family.

Are you the owner or proprietor of a business that would be of interest to newcomers?

Let them know who and where you are by advertising in the new Newcomer's Resources Guide.

NEWCOMERS Resources

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704-319-5700 • www.hamptonsouthpark.com



SouthPark's most prestigious hotel. Surrounded by retail shopping, dining, and entertainment venues. Features 124 beautifully decorated guest rooms and suites. We offer special Bridal, Shopping, and Couple's Night Out Packages. Select rooms feature balconies, patios, mini refrigerators, microwaves, whirlpools, and garden bathtubs. Two room suites feature full refrigerators, microwaves, sofa, recliner, end tables, and select suites have a whirlpool spa and fireplace.

"Your trees drink their fill, the Cedars of Lebanon that you planted; birds make their nests in them, the stork - the fir trees are her home. The high mountains are for wild goats; the rocks, a refuse for badgers."

- Psalm 104:16-18