

Community News

Newcomers

Welcome to Lina and Michael Newman

By Chelsy Woods Klein

Not many people can find the silver lining when a tax auditor comes for a visit, but for Lina Newman, 59, the auditor's visit was the gateway to a better life.

Lina's husband Michael, 61, worked for the New York state department of tax and finance when he was sent to Charlotte for an audit.

When Michael arrived in Charlotte he knew that he had found a place where he and Lina could retire - Charlotte has a mild climate with four seasons and is close to Lina's son, daughter-in-law and new grandchild - so, retire they did.

The Newmans moved to Charlotte in December of 2007, after two years of planning for their retirement and move. Once in Charlotte they immediately set out to find the Jewish community. "I knew that it would be a big part of our social life," said Lina. "If you want to be able to make friends and become part of a community you have to be part of the temple." The Newmans quickly joined Temple Israel where they have started making friends. Along with joining the temple, Lina has become very involved in Hadassah and was nominated to be of the ways and means commit-



Michael and Lina Newman

tee of Temple Israel.

Lina and Michael have started to really love living in Charlotte. Lina, who used to live in Hickory 20 years ago, has made the adjustment to Charlotte a lot better than she did to Hickory. "The adjustment has been made easier because there are so many other transplants," and also because the Jewish population in Charlotte is growing by leaps and bound, unlike Hickory 20 years ago. Lina said that she felt awkward and out of place in Hickory because the pace of life was significantly slower than she was used to in New York, but also because there were so few Jews and so many "good old boys."

Pleasantly, the Newmans have had a lion's share of good experiences since moving to Charlotte. They were able to find a friend right away in a very unexpected place. Lina and Michael were

heading into a store in one of Charlotte's strip malls, when a woman stopped Michael to ask if he had a heart attack from "the game" the night before, referring to Michael's sweatshirt. When Michael, who was wearing a UNC sweatshirt, replied that he didn't, the woman explained that her husband nearly died from all of the excitement, from that point on the two families have been friends.

One thing that the Newman's

were surprised by was the traffic in Charlotte, especially at Christmas. The Newmans had just moved to Charlotte weeks before Christmas when they were thrown right into the holiday mayhem. They had been reading articles in the newspaper and hearing stories on the TV about Charlotte's unprecedented growth and how, if the city didn't expand the streets and beef up public transportation, the population would out pace the city's capacity - the Newmans saw this firsthand.

Now that the holidays are over and the Newmans have figured out

how to navigate through Charlotte's traffic Lina and Michael have started to feel at home in Charlotte and are eagerly awaiting the completion of their dream home while loving every minute of life in Charlotte.

For anyone considering moving to Charlotte, Lina has this to say, "The South is know as 'the Bible-belt' and if [you] have a religious background then [you] should find a religious institution for social interactions. There's a connection that begins at these religious institutions that I'm sure carries over after the services are over." ☆

NEWCOMERS Resources

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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.

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Gil Hoffman, a reporter from The Jerusalem Post, chats with Stan Stein, after a community luncheon sponsored by AIPAC. At the luncheon, Hoffman told the participants what is going on in Israel and what everyday life is like for ordinary citizens.

We want to thank the Jewish community for your support and condolences on the passing of our father Hal Oestrich.

- Mitchell and Ken Oestrich
Atlanta, GA

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