

Jewish Traveler, Maxine Silverstein, Discontinues Her Bi-Monthly Column

By Amy Krakovitz

Twins, twins, twins. Yes, they are a repeating theme in Maxine Silverstein's life. She herself is a twin, and though it seems to have skipped a generation, she has two sets of granddaughters who are twins, as well.

Maxine and her twin sister were born in Newark, but lived in Brooklyn till they were 11 years old when their father's job in the textile industry brought them to Charlotte. For a city girl who was used to apartment living, the house with the yard, a dog, and a bicycle were great treasures that made Maxine love her new home from the start.

Her family joined Temple Beth El, but she met Gary Silverstein, a third generation Charlottean and member of Temple Israel, when they joined BBYO in high school. And for any skeptics who scoff at high school romances, Gary and Maxine have just celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

As a young couple, they were both employed by Eastern Airlines, careers that gave them a taste for travel. When the opportunity arose to purchase Mann Travel from David and Lila Mann, they took it, though like any first-time business-owner, they were a little anxious. But it turned out to be a great success.

"I feel like I'm a dream maker," Maxine says of her work as a travel agent. "I help people's dreams

come true."

As a travel agent, Gary and Maxine were able to take advantage of promotions and deals and travel all over the globe. Her experiences and connections to Jewish places at her destinations led to a sideline "career" as the travel writer for *The Charlotte Jewish News*. Since 1994, Maxine has written about locations around the world and her stories and pictures have appeared every other month in *CJN*. It was a feature that the whole community enjoyed, not just because of the fascinating cities and sites she wrote about, but because she always managed to find some Jewish connection in every corner of the planet. To add to the depth of her pieces, Maxine always researched about the Jewish history of a place and

included that with descriptions of the synagogues, museums, restaurants, and historical sites she visited.

"Just knowing that I would be visiting and writing about these places helped me reconnect with my Judaism," Maxine says. "Walking into synagogues all over the world gives you such a wonderful spiritual feeling. ... This was one of the highlights of traveling for me."

While Mann Travel continues to expand, so does Maxine's family. She now has five grandchildren (four of them are the aforementioned two sets of twin girls) and has decided that writing for *The Charlotte Jewish News* will no longer be part of her repertoire. She and Gary will continue to travel for both business and pleas-

ure but spending time with her family will now take precedence.

We at *The Charlotte Jewish News* will certainly miss receiving and publishing her stories, and we think that our readers will, too. ☆



Maxine and Gary Silverstein



Maxine learns to tango on a trip to Buenos Aires.

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