

# The Charlotte Jewish NEWS

Vol. I, No. 1

Charlotte, North Carolina

January 1979

## From an Idea to Printer's Ink!

The Charlotte Jewish Federation, the Hebrew Academy and the Jewish Community Center are proud to be the initial cooperating sponsors of this community newspaper which we believe will make an important contribution to the Charlotte Jewish community.

The newspaper, edited by Ann Langman, will be published once a month and circulated to all members of the community free of charge. It will contain news about the events held by the sponsoring agencies and items of interest to the community from other groups and institutions. The newspaper will hopefully replace many of the individual publications and flyers of the sponsoring agencies.

All the Jewish organizations and institutions are invited to participate as sponsors and to be involved in this joint effort. We are especially pleased that this venture represents a collective effort by the sponsoring groups working together for the good of the community.

If an organization does not desire to become a sponsor this paper will still attempt to publish their announcements and news items subject only to space and deadline requirements. Of course our editor will reserve the right to make the final determination as to the materials that are to be published. She will be ably assisted in her duties by Rita Mond, co-editor.

The newspaper is a pioneering effort which we believe has the potential to effectively provide news and information to all members of the community. We are very excited about its future potential and hope that all of you will participate fully in making it an important media of communication.

John Galsworthy wrote in "Over the River": "The beginnings and endings of all human undertakings are untidy, the building of a house, the writing of a novel, the demolition of a bridge, and, eminently, the finish of a voyage." So too, the beginning of a newspaper. We also

hope that you, our readers, will feel that this is YOUR paper and will share your opinions and viewpoints by way of letters to the editor, newsworthy happenings of your organizations, special columns and interesting stories. We want you to share with us, as well as we want to share with you.

We want those of you who have a journalism background, or are frustrated journalists to feel free to join our staff. We also invite those of you who are not aspiring journalists to help us in other capacities such as: photographers, copy readers, and advertisers. An order blank for advertising appears elsewhere in this issue. Any organization that brings in an ad for the NEWS will earn 10% of the cost of the ad, and if you are a businessman and want to place an ad we will gladly contribute 10% of the cost to the organization of your choice.

All the organizations in the community should have received a mailing from us on how to prepare a news release for publication in the NEWS. We hope that it has been informative and helpful. Due to our printing process it is most important to follow these guidelines. If any of you have any questions please feel free to contact our editor. All articles must reach our box at the J.C.C. by the 8th of each month. The NEWS is, and will be, a "bridge of communication."

The NEWS has been thought about for some time as a way of bringing our community closer together. Several people were involved in bringing this to fruition - namely, Ann Langman, Marvin Bienstock, Rita Mond, and Martha Brenner. It took a long time before this came to be - but as it is said, "Anything worth having, is worth waiting for." And wait we did, patiently! We look forward to hearing from all of you, and a long, healthy association with the community.



L. to R. — Bob Abel, Marv Bienstock, Harry Lerner, Gen. Aharon Yariv.

## General Yariv Opens 1979 Federation Drive

"There are many risks, but Israel will take them for the sake of peace." This was the message brought to almost two hundred Charlotte Jews on Tuesday, December 12th by General Aharon Yariv, former head of Israeli Intelligence and the chief negotiator in the Sinai disengagement talks following the Yom Kippur War.

General Yariv, a member of a Community Service For Peace jointly sponsored by Temple Israel, Temple Beth El and the Charlotte Jewish Federation. The service was held at Temple Israel and conducted by Rabbi Harold Krantzler, Rabbi Richard Rocklin and Canton Frank Birnbaum.

The evening marked the open-

ing of the Federation's 1979 Campaign drive. In remarks by Harry Lerner, the new President of the Federation and co-chairperson of the drive, the audience was reminded that the 1978 drive crossed the \$600,000 mark for the first time except for the Yom Kippur War. He traced the accomplishments of the Federation over the past four years, noting that more than \$1,000,000 had been raised for Israel during the same time the Federation had become a major source of support for the Hebrew Academy, JCC, the Blumenthal Home, Hillel and 28 other local, national and overseas institutions and organizations.

"In 1979," he said, "The (Continued on Page 6)

## New Americans Program Successful

Twelve Soviet Jewish families have begun a new life in the United States because of the help that they have received from volunteers of Charlotte Chapter B'nai B'rith Women and the Charlotte Lodge of B'nai B'rith. Without the financial aid of the Charlotte Federation of Jewish Charities this could not have been realized.

The first official American citizen from this group is Chris Barkan, who was born seven months ago to Mark and Lucy Barkan who are presently residing in Taylorsville, North Carolina. The new "tarheel" brings our total to thirty-seven who have been helped.

The "new Americans" project began in the summer and fall of 1974 when eight families arrived in Charlotte. Only two families from this original group have remained in this city. The Betelman and Ginn families moved to the New York area and the Katzens to California to seek better employment. The three families from Odessa, the Gleizers, Nuremburgs, and the Shukhats moved to Brighton Beach, New York to join their many friends from home who had settled there. Michael Gleizen married a daughter of another immigrant family in January, 1977. The Odessa families are all happy and successful and very appreciative of the help they received from the Charlotte community.

The Ehrenburg and Ostrovsky families, the two who remained here, have bought homes in Charlotte, made

friends and seem to be happy here.

The Gurevich and Barkan families arrived in 1976. Jacob and Emma Gurevich recently moved to Philadelphia to be reunited with Emma's mother and sister. Their daughter, Zhanna, who is attending school there, is probably happier now that her folks are with her.

The Barkans who moved to Taylorsville (near Hickory) because of a better job opportunity have bought a home there. They are eagerly awaiting Mark's parents who will be joining them soon. These new arrivals will be our thirteenth family to be helped.

Gregory and Alla Kaminker and their son, Ilya, arrived in Charlotte in April, 1977. Gregory's father, mother and

sister, Rita, came in June, 1978. Both families live in the Abbey Apts. Gregory, Alla and Rita re employed. Now all of our families are self-sufficient financially.

All this could never have been accomplished without the dedication of Sally Schrader, who has been "family, friend and teacher" of all the families, with the exception of the first four. There has been tremendous support from the entire Charlotte Community, both Jew and non-Jew; the doctors, dentists, and merchants.

There are many families in Rome who are waiting for a "new home" and need our help. The Soviet Union issued over 25,000 Visas in 1978 and only half of these people have settled

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## Academy Students Score

	National Norm	Vocabulary	Reading	Word Study Skills	
Grade 1 (N-5)	1.1	2.58	3.24	3.5	
Grade 4 (N-6)	4.1	6.23	5.23	6.65	
	National Norm	Math Concepts	Math Comprehension	Math Application	Spelling
Grade 1	1.1	2.34	2.34	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Grade 4	4.1	5.87	4.67	5.28	6.6
	National Norm	Social Science		Listening	Language
Grade 1	1.1	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	2.4	Not Applicable
Grade 4	4.1	5.92	5.42	6.50	5.58

## Academy Students Exceed National Norms

Recently the students in the first thru sixth grades at the North Carolina Hebrew Academy at Charlotte were given the Stanford Achievement Test. This is the same test used in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg public schools. The test consists of six parts for the first grade and eleven sections for the fourth thru sixth grades. In almost every category the Hebrew Academy students exceeded national norms by at least one year. In some parts of the test a few of the grades were more than four years above national standards. The results for the first and fourth grades, the two largest groups, are included in a box to the left.

Social Scientists tend to offer two explanations for such high scores. First, the students are learning in school. Second, the pupils come from homes in which education is stressed. Both explanations seem to be appropriate in this situation. The three teachers at the school are educated and sophisticated people. The student-teacher ratio is 10 to 1 in the morning (3 teachers and 30 children) and 8 to 1 in the afternoon when the 7 kindergarten children are no longer there. The children learn

at their own pace. They are given homework assignments even in the first grade. The pupils also appear to come from highly educated homes. Many of them are from homes of academics (three teach at UNCC), attorneys, rabbis (Rocklin and Tucker), doctors, engineers, or other professionals. All of the students are from Jewish families, a group known for stressing education.

At first glance it may seem surprising that the first graders scored at the third grade, second month level after being in the first grade only one month. But all these kids attended kindergarten at the Hebrew Academy where they learned how to read. The first graders also scored at the second grade, third month level in math, but they learned some arithmetic in kindergarten as well.

It is interesting to note that these children are attaining these high levels while devoting almost one half the school day to Hebrew studies. Possibly, learning a foreign language and culture not only fails to hamper ones ability to master English materials but even enhances English learning.

## Inside This Issue — J.C.C. Spring Class Schedule