

# The Charlotte Jewish

# NEWS

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## JCC Moves Ahead

The JCC building committee, comprised of Harold Josephson (Chairman), Henry Lerner, Buddy Abrams, Brenda Meltsner, Paula Musler, Norman Maxwell, Mark Bernstein, Abe Luski, and Ben Jaffa, Jr. has made great strides. They are working under a real sense of urgency to put the building fund contributions into the kinds of changes desired by the community, and to fulfill the needs of a rapidly growing center.

Several months ago the firm of Omni Architecture was retained to draft proposals. The resulting two approaches for the major changes are in the final stages, waiting for approval by the June board meeting. Harold Josephson stated that: "We are committed to creating a facility which the community can look at and walk into with pride." In addition to a completely new physical appearance at completion, the JCC will house kitchen facilities which will be able to cater meals for 150 people, an auditorium which will comfortably seat 200, and lounge and recreation areas. Also included will be multipurpose rooms for classes, special activities, board and committee meetings, and community organization meetings.

The committee extends its apologies for the inconveniences that will occur during construction. In the meantime, with the busy summer season upon us, the JCC will undergo a short term face lift for the present facility.

In addition to a paint job for the front of the building, the pool area is undergoing a completion of its transition, which began last year. What will be seen are crepe myrtle trees, plantings, additional lounges, tables, and umbrellas. What isn't visible is a complete new water system serving the pools. The playa lake\*, between the drinking fountain and the stairs, has been permanently desiccated. The honeysuckle, which has been the cause of insect annoyance during the past years around the pools, has already been eliminated. It is hoped that every member will have an enjoyable summer with the present facilities, and look forward to enjoying the new ones in 1980.

\*Note: A playa lake is a body of water which appears in a desert following a rainstorm.

## Holocaust Square

*"During the years 1939-1945 eleven million human beings, amongst them six million Jews, one-third of the Jewish population, were tragically slaughtered by the Nazis and their collaborators. We dedicate this square to their memory, and to our belief that a reminder is necessary so history dare not repeat itself."*

The above quotation is the inscription on the monument that will be located on Holocaust Square, at Dilworth and Morehead, and dedicated on June 10th at 12:15 p.m. This is being done by Temple Israel in conjunction with

Convenant Presbyterian Church

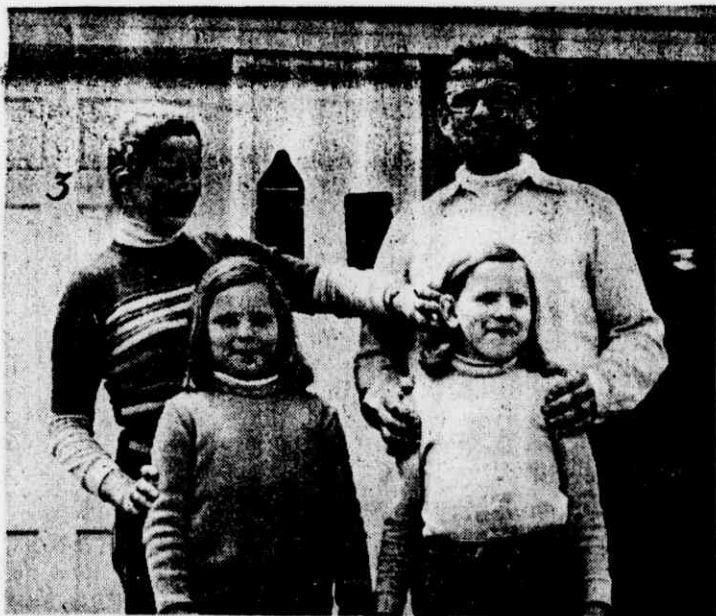
which is also located at the Square.

Participating in the program, which will be done simply but with religious reverence, will be Mayor Ken Harris, Rev. Randy Taylor from Myers Park Presbyterian Church, who is the president of the Charlotte Clergy Association, and

Julian Hirschfield of Gastonia. Mr. Hirschfield is a survivor of the brutality of the Holocaust. Also participating will be the rabbis and Marvin Bienstock, director of the Charlotte Federation.

All members of the Jewish community are urged to be present at this historical occasion.

## From Leningrad With Love Twins Attend Academy



Genrietta, Isaac, Veronica and Mary Baikin.  
 by Sally Schrader

Our newest Russian family arrived in Charlotte from Leningrad via Rome on April 24th. They are Isaac and Genrietta Baikin and their 8 year old twin daughters, Veronica and Mary. Isaac says that they are very happy that they came to the USA and are very grateful for the help and care they have received here. They were astounded by the high quality work done by HIAS.

Isaac is a mechanical engineer with strong electrical training. Genrietta is an electrical engineer with some experience in computer programming and in teaching computer science. Because of their limited knowledge of English they realize that they probably cannot begin working as engineers but hope to find technical jobs in their field.

Both have their N.C. learners permits and are presently taking driving lessons. They will be looking for a good used car soon.

The girls are attending school at the Hebrew Academy and are thoroughly enjoying it and doing very well in their studies. Veronica and Mary have also participated in several events in the Dilworth community and school with Darcy Bienstock and made friends with a number of people there. This summer they will be attending camp at the JCC.

The Baikins have met all the other Russian Jewish families here. They are also interested in meeting other people in the community. They live at the Yorktown Apts. (148 Tyvola Rd., apt 4) and can be reached at 527-3411. They are most anxious to learn more about Charlotte and in becoming a part of the community. They have attended religious services at Temple Beth El and Temple Israel,

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## NCCJ Implements Special Studies

Under the auspices of the National Conference of Christians and Jews a Holocaust study to be implemented in the public school system has been undertaken. Several meetings have been had with definite goals established. The first of these goals was to identify materials for teachers, form a learning packet and distribute a copy of that packet to each junior and senior high school. This task was accomplished in April. The committee involved received feedback that teachers in several schools were pleased and enthusiastic about receiving this material which will support their teaching activities. There was also a feedback about the attention being given in instruction to the Holocaust.

The second goal was to examine the social studies curriculum K-12 and identify appropriate inclusions of other historical events such as the

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## Yiddish Leibt

Fifty people from all over the south - N.C., S.C., Georgia, and Florida - attended the recent Wildacres Yiddish Institute. They came from near and far not to talk about Yiddish but to talk about and lecture on topics of concern of people who "use" Yiddish. Workshops were held in basic and advanced Yiddish, Jewish culture and folklore, and Jewish theatre and music. In between there was time for meals, snacks, and socializing.

### Speaker-in-Residence

The group was privileged to have with them Abraham Shulman as their guest lecturer. Mr. Shulman spoke on "The Life, Times and Writings of Isaac Bashevis Singer" and on "Jewish Humor". He was born in Warsaw, Poland, where he lived until the outbreak of World War II. He lived for ten years in Australia, and then ten years in Paris, France. He came to the United States in 1961.

In Australia Mr. Shulman edited a Yiddish monthly, *Oyf-boy*, and in Paris edited a Yiddish daily, *Unzer Shtimme*. He is presently a member of the editorial staff of the *Jewish Daily Forward* and writes for many Yiddish and English magazines. He has written two books, *The Old Country* and *The New Country* (both in English). His next book *Coming Home to Zion* has an introduction by Golda Meir and is just off the presses. A novel, *The Anthropologist and the Girl*, will be published this fall, in French, in Paris. He has written Yiddish essays and several Yiddish plays, all musicals which have been produced in Canada and New York. One of them, *Ah Bintel Brief*, was produced last year as a showcase by a New York off-off-Broadway theater.

### 1980 Yiddish Institute

The interested involvement of the Blumenthals and the staff

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Yiddish Institute Wildacres, May 1979  
 Planning Committee

Front row l. to r. - Rose Luski, Estelle Hoffman, Sarah Ackerman, Baila Pransky, and Mae Goldman.  
 Second row - Abe Luski, Leo Hoffman, George Ackerman, Julius Goldman, John Pransky, and Herman Blumenthal.

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