

Random Thoughts...

by Muriel Levitt

The difficulty of adapting to a different city can be a devastating experience when you happen to be past the age of car pools and P.T.A. Very young parents with little children seem to have a minimum of problems adjusting to the trauma of a long distance move. They buy a house, let their kids run loose, and eventually the neighborhood responds.

But when you are forty or over, the picture changes somewhat. Most probably your children have grown up and out. The empty nest syndrome is bad enough when you go through it in familiar territory, but when you find yourself in strange surroundings it can be murder. Having been transferred up and down the eastern seaboard, I am a self-appointed authority on the above subject.

If you have never been a Jewish joiner, you'd better learn to be one now. Even though organizations may not be your favorite thing, it's pay your dues time. Fortunately for newcomers, Charlotte is farflaytzed with Jewish affiliated groups and you can take your pick. They all have lofty aims and worthy purposes and you cannot go wrong no matter which you choose. In fact, you might even try joining several for optimum results.

I have found that Char-

lotteans are basically friendly. This does not mean that you should sit at home waiting for the world to beat a path to your door. Rather it means that after you have attended meetings at the "J" and services at a temple, you chat with those people you meet there and finding some that you like, invite them to visit you soon. Nine chances out of ten they'll accept and you're on your way to new friendships and experiences.

Making friends on a one-to-one basis is not very difficult. Charlotte is a luncy town and you will see ladies munching away in all the favorite noon-time haunts. It's a great way to relax after a morning or before an afternoon of shopping. So, when you come across a kindred soul, why not suggest a luncheon date. You'll get to know each other and if you're both compatible, won't it be great!

You may find this hard to believe but one of my favorite places to meet people is in front of supermarket shelves. I have used this gambit in several cities. Invariably ladies congregate before the food displays, each one commenting audibly on the insanely high prices. It only takes a brief moment before you are commiserating with one another and presto — you are exchanging names and

telephone numbers. I have met some terrific women in exactly this fashion. No wonder I keep a watchful eye whenever I approach the pyramids of cans and boxes.

If your husband is a golf or tennis buff, you'd be amazed at how many contacts he's liable to make at course or court. Strangers who share common interests quickly form more than a casual bond. Repeated playing dates often lead to sociability between couples. Many a lasting friendship has also evolved from a chance meeting while waiting for play to begin.

Another great way to become acclimated to your new home is to speak to everyone you meet. My husband says that I have an inborn ability to communicate with anyone, anywhere, any place. I do rather well with salespeople and grocery checkers, but I positively shine with waiters and waitresses. If you come to a strange town and want to know anything at all about shopping, theaters, restaurants, or places of interest, just ask a waitress. I don't know why but your average everyday waitress is a positive fountain of information about anything you want to know. Service people are usually helpful, concerned citizens who will go out of their way to give a stranger assistance.

Lastly, and certainly not the least important, is joining a temple. There are three Jewish temples in Charlotte and you won't have to look for them, they'll look for you. According to your choice and religious persuasion, there is a house of worship to please everyone. Attending services regularly is an absolutely super way to meet and greet local people while enriching your life with the rewarding experience of prayer. Temple affiliated groups abound and each would be delighted to welcome a new member. Joining and becoming actively involved will practically insure your acceptance into the community.

From city to city, from state to state, the same problems exist. I have been there and I know. Since moving to Charlotte I have been blessed with many acquaintances and several true, dear friends. I have also been fortunate enough to retain close relationships with people from every state in which we have lived. My correspondence is voluminous, my phone bill is staggering, my cup runneth over!

To Fulfill A Need

By L. Louis Albert,
ACSW Director of
Social Services

Having recently arrived in Charlotte, I have had the opportunity to meet with many people over the last few weeks. Invariably, the second question that I am asked is "What kinds of services will you be providing to the Jewish community as the Federation's Director of Social Services?"

I'd like to take this opportunity to describe the various services that will initially be offered. In general, program areas will include services to the elderly and services around vocational problems.

One of the major goals of any geriatric program is to help to maintain the older adult at home and connected with the community. One way of accomplishing this is to offer a comprehensive evaluation of the older person's needs and situation in social, emotional, financial, physical and legal terms. Where unmet needs may exist, assistance is offered in connecting the person with the best possible resources that are available. Eventually, I look forward to developing some of these needed concrete supports, such as transportation and homemaker programs.

In addition, the elderly person may be experiencing many changes in his/her life: changes in health or mobility, changes in relationships both with friends and family, and losses through death. In some instances counseling may be indicated to help deal with these changes which could be causing excessive stress for the person. The aging of a parent(s) is an issue affecting the entire family. Therefore, services will be available to help the whole family cope with the stresses that often occur during this period.

Family life education programs will be presented to the community on aging and other related topics. These programs are intended to be both informative and preventative in nature. The format will include a combination of lecture and small group discussion

around issues that are raised.

Another area of need that has been identified by the Federation is vocational. In recent years Charlotte has had a rapidly increasing number of newcomers relocating here. Many people already in the community have been greatly affected by the hard economic times and have lost their jobs. These two groups of people share at least one thing in common. They are dealing with a major change in the stability of their lives which may be causing a disruption. These types of situational crises will be addressed in two ways. First, counseling services will be available to families coping with the pressures of moving to a new community and looking for work and to families who are experiencing the effects of unemployment after losing a job. Second, a job bank will be developed to assist people who are seeking employment. This type of service, however, must rely heavily on the cooperation of the entire business community in notifying me of openings.

The Social Services Department is located in the Jewish Community Center and I may be contacted at 366-0357. I would encourage anyone with concerns in these areas to feel free to call me. If you know of someone who might benefit from these services, please encourage that person to call or make a referral yourself.

For the Record

By Norman Olshansky
Regional Director
Anti-Defamation League

A tract put out by the American Messianic Fellowship for the purpose of proselytizing Jews to Christianity is headed "How A Rabbi Found Peace." The narrative which follows is allegedly the personal testimony of Dr. Max Wertheimer, identified as the former Rabbi of Temple Israel in Dayton, Ohio and a graduate of Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. The front cover of the brochure shows a young man with short hair, neatly cut beard, glasses ... in skullcap and tallis. From reading the brochure, one would be led to believe that a modern-day Rabbi "found Jesus" and is now encouraging other Jews to do the same.

This is but one example of misleading, unethical, proselytizing on the part of Messianic Hebrews. In fact, a little background on Dr. Max Wertheimer might indicate how half-truths are used to dramatize the mission and witness of the Messianic Hebrews. Wertheimer indeed is a graduate of Hebrew Union College and was a Rabbi at B'nai Yeshurun Synagogue in Dayton, Ohio which is now Temple Israel. I emphasize now because Dr. Wertheimer was a graduate of Hebrew Union College in 1889

where upon he joined the Rabbinate.

From information I received from the American Jewish archives, Wertheimer suffered a major tragedy in the death of his wife and went through what was described as a "mental breakdown." Wertheimer later left the Rabbinate and became a Baptist minister teaching Bible in Ada, Ohio. Photographs which I have received of Wertheimer as a young adult bear no resemblance to the photograph of the young Rabbi on the Messianic tract.

The right of religious groups to practice that part of their religious convictions which includes proselytizing is not in question. However when that proselytizing is targeted towards Jews, unethical and/or deceptive, we must and will object. Such is the case with the American Messianic Fellowship and their distortions related to the "personal testimony" of Dr. Max Wertheimer.

For more information concerning Messianic Hebrews, proselytizing directed towards Jews, and other issues of concern to the Jewish community, contact your local Rabbi, Jewish Community Leadership, and/or the Anti-Defamation League at 3311 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230.

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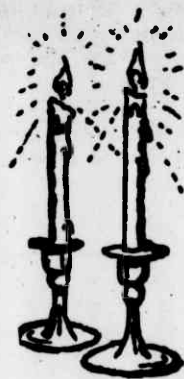
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THE SPIRIT RETURNS...



The Jewish Calendar



CANDLELIGHTING

Sept. 5 — 7:38 p.m.
Sept. 10 — 7:31 p.m.
Sept. 12 — 7:29 p.m.
Sept. 19 — 7:19 p.m.
Sept. 24 — 7:12 p.m.
Sept. 26 — 7:09 p.m.
Oct. 1 — 7:03 p.m.
Oct. 2 — 7:02 p.m.
Oct. 3 — 7:00 p.m.

JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Sept. 10 — Erev Rosh Hashanah
Sept. 11 — Rosh Hashanah - First Day
Sept. 12 — Rosh Hashanah - Second Day
Sept. 19 — Erev Yom Kippur - Kol Nidre
Sept. 20 — Yom Kippur (Yiskor)
Sept. 24 — Erev Succoth
Sept. 25 — Succoth - First Day
Sept. 26 — Succoth - Second Day
Oct. 1 — Erev Shemini Atzereth
Oct. 2 — Shemini Atzereth (Yiskor)
Oct. 3 — Simchat Torah