

## Editor's Comments

*"If you will it, it is no dream....."*

When I arrived in Charlotte twenty-four years ago, we had two temples, Temple Israel (conservative) and Temple Beth El (reform), and the Amity Country Club. The possibilities of bringing the Charlotte Jewish community's educational, religious and recreational facilities together in one location, accessible to all, was only a dream.

Sixteen years ago, the N.C. Hebrew Academy of Charlotte was founded and later the Amity became the Jewish Community Center. Another congregation, Temple Beth Shalom (reform) had also been formed. Things were happening!

Discussions about the Jewish community's joint venture began in earnest in 1978 under the guidance of a council of presidents of the institutions. Then in 1980, it became evident that the desire for the project was wide-spread and the Foundation of the Charlotte Jewish Community was formed.

Today, the dream has become a reality. Phase I, the Blumenthal Jewish Education Building and the Leon and Sandra Levine Jewish Community Center Building, has now been completed at Shalom Park. Our children from the Hebrew Academy and the religious schools of Temple Israel and Temple Beth El (which currently has a joint school with Temple Beth Shalom) will attend classes at the Education Building which also will house a nursery school and Jewish library.

The Jewish Federation, Jewish Social Services, the JCC and the Foundation will have their offices in the complex, and at last, *The Charlotte Jewish News* will have a place to call "home". In the middle of the buildings is Gorelick Hall, a large multipurpose room, behind which are two kitchens.

The Community Center Building ("J") has a gymnasium, health club, indoor track, racquetball courts, indoor pool, exercise and dance rooms, arts and crafts rooms, lounges, snack bar, etc. Shalom Park's grounds include swimming pools, tennis courts, track and athletic fields.

Shalom Park will benefit everyone in Charlotte/Mecklenburg County and beyond. Foremost, it will provide a focal point for the local Jewish community, a place to meet, study, learn and play. The Jewish Community Center's programs will be open to everyone. Other non-profit organizations, such as Hadassah, ORT, the entire B'nai B'rith family, will be able to use the facilities upon request. All types of activities, cultural and recreational, will enrich our community life.

This supplement is dedicated to all who worked so hard and diligently to make "the dream come true" and it is a thank you to all who have given so much of their time and money to accomplish what we have.

You will note that much emphasis is placed on the early days of establishing the Foundation; this is for the many families who arrived after the "wheels were set in motion". For over a year this paper has had its back page covered with photos of the progress of the building and you can see for yourself, on May 18, the "real thing". Much of the material contained in this supplement has been reproduced from old issues and the quality of the photos, therefore, may not be of the best. All of the originals, unfortunately, were lost when the JCC on Sharon-Amity burned to the ground. Just like Rome was not built in a day, Shalom Park was a concentrated effort for approximately seven years. It is a first for any Jewish community in the world to have built such a complex, and a first that we can be mighty proud of!

This supplement has been made possible through the generosity of our many advertisers. We are exceedingly grateful to them. We hope that you, too, will show your appreciation by patronizing them.

"Together we are... Together we will... Together we have...!! We really have only just begun. Working together has created a sense of trust and rapport between our leaders. We now will have to reinforce that rapport by working together harmoniously under one roof. We can only aspire for greater and better things to come.... and *The Charlotte Jewish News* will continue to keep you up-to-date on what is happening in our community.

— Rita Mond

## Community Plan

A group of public-minded citizens have been working on a plan which would afford an opportunity to Temples Beth El and Israel, the Jewish Community Center and the Hebrew Academy to relocate their facilities on a 41-acre tract of land on Providence Road. They have also been discussing raising funds to construct a community educational facility and a gymnasium.

Herman Blumenthal, a member of the group, announced that consideration was being given to the formation of a community foundation to acquire the 24-acre tract of land now owned by Temple Beth El and an adjacent 17-acre tract presently owned by an investment group.

It is hoped that sufficient funds could be raised by the foundation to pay for the cost of a joint educational facility designed to provide for the educational needs of the participating institutions. The construction of a gymnasium for the JCC is also being considered. The Board of Directors of Temple Beth El, Temple Israel and the JCC have voted to endorse the concept in principle. However, meetings are now being held with representatives of these institutions and the Hebrew Academy to explore in greater detail the basis of their participation. After these meetings are completed, a determination will then be made whether the project is feasible. Mr. Blumenthal estimated that it would probably be a few months before his group would know whether the concept was acceptable to the participating institutions, its scope, and the probability of its success.

August, 1979

## Complex Supported

The board of the North Carolina Hebrew Academy met last month to discuss the development of a complex for Jewish facilities in Charlotte and the effect it would have on the Academy. After a prolonged discussion of the issues, the board voted strongly in favor of the concept. The presentation was made by Herman Blumenthal, Mark Bernstein and Harry Lerner.

Academy President, Dr. Stephen Fishman, characterized the complex as an opportunity for the Academy to become more visible within the Jewish community. He also said that communal facilities will promote a greater degree of interaction between Academy students and those attending Temple schools.

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At their recent meeting Temple Beth Shalom's Board of Directors unanimously passed a motion to actively participate in the Conglomerate Community Citizens Foundation considering acquisition of the 17 acres of land adjacent to the 24 acres owned by Temple Beth El.

"This project deserves our full consideration and support in the form of constructive ideas, financing, and member participation. Realizing that Beth Shalom is geographically the closest active Jewish organization to the proposed land acquisition and development, we appreciate the conglomerate planning to move all Jewish activities into our back yard."

Allan Oxman, president, said: "Beth Shalom is now completing major building renovations, but our budget could easily include financial assistance to support this dream that has been around for a lot of years."

September 1979

## Institutions and Their Presidents and Directors Involved with Shalom Park 1979-1986

### Foundation

Herman Blumenthal  
Alvin E. Levine  
Mark Bernstein  
Exec. Director:  
Marvin Bienstock  
Federation

Harry Lerner  
Richard A. Klein  
Stan Greenspon  
Ron Katz  
Exec. Director:  
Marvin Bienstock  
JCC

Ben Jaffa Jr.  
Bob Abel  
Harold Josephson  
Miles Levine  
Exec. Directors:  
Marvin Bienstock  
Harold Cohen  
Marty Schneer  
Stan Swig  
Academy

Steve Fishman  
Mike Shapiro  
Peggy Gartner  
Directors:  
Rabbi Sandy Tucker  
Raphael Panitz  
Eleanor Weinglass  
Berta Straz  
Temple Beth El

Bob Conn  
Mark Perlin  
Allen Gordon  
Sally Schrader  
Rabbi Harold I. Krantzler  
Temple Israel

Aaron Gleiberman  
Marvin Barman  
Jerry Levin  
Bill Ashendorf  
Rabbi Richard Rocklin  
Rabbi Marc Wilson

## Complex Moves Ahead

A letter of intent to Herman Blumenthal, Leon Levine and Alvin Levine expressing a substantial interest in the Providence Road Community Project was signed to the JCC after obtaining unanimous approval of the Center Board of Directors last month. The letter demonstrates the Center's serious desire to participate in the project and to encourage the citizens group to continue its efforts to develop the plan. Similar detailed letters are being sought by the citizens group, from Temple Beth El, Temple Israel and the Hebrew Academy, to determine basic elements of involvement of these organizations in the project, according to Herman Blumenthal, spokesman for the group.

"As all of the organizations demonstrate the same enthusiasm

as the Center for the project we will proceed with the formulation of more specific planning and evaluation," Mr. Blumenthal stated. A charitable foundation to obtain the title to the property will be organized, a community planner will be employed and a committee to select an architectural firm will be established.

In the meantime, presidents of the Charlotte Jewish Institutions have been meeting regularly to study and attempt to resolve the numerous questions and problems that are presented by a project of this magnitude. The council consists of Harry Lerner, president of the Charlotte Federation, Aaron Gleiberman, president of Temple Israel, Bob Conn, president of Temple Beth El, Alan Oxman, president of Temple Beth Shalom,

Ben Jaffa, Jr. president of the JCC, and Dr. Stephen Fishman, president of the Hebrew Academy.

Harry Lerner said, "I am encouraged by the constructive and positive progress of these meetings and am optimistic about the outcome. We are facing an exciting new frontier of interrelations between Jewish institutions that involve unique and highly interesting questions. I believe that we will succeed although many problems remain."

Ben Jaffa, Jr., president of the JCC also expressed pleasure with the progress to date. "While there are still serious questions to be resolved, we are optimistic about the project and the Center's future involvement in it."

October, 1979

We are looking forward to the opening of Shalom Park.  
Charlotte's Jewish Organizations

BBYO  
B'nai B'rith Lodge  
Charlotte Chapter BBW

HaLailah BBW  
Hadassah  
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