

# Women's Division of Federation

## Meet the Members of Our Cabinet

Each month a member(s) of our Cabinet will be profiled in the CJN.

By Sandra Weinstein

We're proud to feature two outstanding ladies, Dorothy Ashendorf and Baila Pransky. Dorothy is a relative newcomer to Charlotte and is originally from Georgia; Baila has resided in Charlotte for 25 years and is formerly from Massachusetts.

### Baila Pransky

"My identity with Judaic values and Jewish responsibility developed early on, within a family environment steeped in Jewish pride and deep concern for Jews throughout the world. Childhood memories recall gatherings at our home, in Malden, Mass., where lively discussions (in Yiddish) focused on the urgent needs of the synagogue, the poor, refugees, Palestine and later Israel, and always the politics of the day.

"The choices of Jewish involvement, upon our arrival in Charlotte 25 years ago, though limited, were fraught with challenges...to enrich our children's Jewish education and environment and to strengthen the Jewish community's identity within the greater Charlotte area. We found great stimulation in our grass roots efforts and the drive and purpose has never ended.

"Through the Charlotte Jewish Federation and Women's Division, the arena provided for forging ahead with our Jewish commitments is substantial. There is room for diversity and creativity, a marvelous sense of reaching every facet of the Charlotte Jewish community and beyond, and having an impact on its growth and success.

"Each campaign year brings forth exciting demands and challenges along with the opportunity to share the messages of optimism for the survival of our Jewish people; the delight in discovering interested and dedicated supporters who hear our message and respond positively; and the great pleasure in working with a group of knowledgeable and dedicated women and men."

Baila has participated on several boards over the years



Baila Pransky



Dorothy Ashendorf

of dedicated service: Federation, Charlotte Chapter B'nai B'rith Women and Temple Israel Sisterhood. A highlight to our community was the involvement and establishment of the Yiddish Institute of which Baila was a founder. Her interest continued and the Charlotte Yiddish Troupe was formed with Baila as director. They performed for many of our surrounding communities bringing them an evening of music and poetry in Yiddish, Hebrew and English. Baila Pransky has participated actively and given so much to our community and we thank her for her dedication through the years.

### Dorothy Ashendorf

"I was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. My immigrant parents were very devoted Jews who believed that the continuation of the Jewish people would be through a Jewish education: learning Jewish history, to read and write in Yiddish; Yiddish poetry, Yiddish songs, etc. They and perhaps a hundred more Jewish souls in Atlanta felt so strongly in their desire to continue the life of the Yiddish language that they formed a Yiddish School. They rented a house, hired Yiddish teachers and planned a proper curricu-

lum. I and my sisters attended this afternoon school which was under the auspices of the Arbeiter Ring. I attended for seven years.

"The school in Atlanta was one of perhaps twenty such schools in the South. They would convene a regional conference once a year with the focus on the education of their children.

"Atlanta was one of the southern cities where famous Jewish dignitaries would come to lecture, perform and teach. Men from the Jewish cultural world such as Haim Greenberg, Nachman Syrkin, Peretz Heishbein came to Atlanta. Our parents would take us to the lectures and performances. I remember that I did not comprehend the lectures but I shall never forget the face of the visitor and the faces of the Atlanta Jews who were present. Mind you, the artists did not come to Atlanta for a 'one night stand.' They stayed at least a week and contributed so much to the mundane life of the immigrant Jew.

"The life I was exposed to as a child and young teen was to make an everlasting impact on me. I had a natural inclination to join a Young Judea Club, then Junior Hadassah and Senior Hadassah. My devotion and support of Palestine and subsequently, the State of Israel, was an inherent happening for me.

"My interest in the Jewish Federation and its Women's Division occupies a very important part of my *raison d'être*. I have served twice as Women's Division Chairperson in Atlanta. However, the rank one holds in Women's Division does not, for me, in any way reduce my interest or fervor for a strong and secure Israel.

"Two and one-half years ago I moved to Charlotte. I was very flattered when I was asked to serve on the Women's Division Cabinet. Here, I knew I would find women of all ages and from all walks of life, with one common interest: to work toward a strong, viable, intelligent Jewish community for Jews here in Charlotte and for Jews all over the world.

"I have not been disappointed!"

## Singing in Praise of "Four Great Women"

Women in the Jewish community are invited to listen to the first woman Cantor serving the Upper Midwest at the Women's Division luncheon to be held on Wednesday, February 22 at 11:45 a.m. at the Marriott Executive Park Hotel.

Holly Callen, Cantor at Mount Zion Temple in St. Paul, Minnesota, will perform her one-woman show, "Four Great Jewish Women." She sings and talks about Anne Frank, Henrietta Szold, Golda Meir and Queen Esther.

Cantor Callen has won numerous awards and contests, such as the Metropolitan opera district auditions; the San Francisco Opera Merola auditions; the Richard Tucker Memorial Award, first recipient; the J.A. O'Shaughnessy Memorial Award, first recipient.

Ms. Callen is involved in many community service organizations. She served as Campaign Chair for the 1988 Campaign of the Business and Professional Women's Division of the Minneapolis Federation for Jewish Services. She is an active member of the United Jew-



Holly Callen

ish Appeal's Young Women's Leadership Cabinet.

In addition, Holly Callen is an avid sports fan and is perhaps best known for her renditions of the National Anthem at Viking football and Gopher basketball games. When she is not singing, she can be found at Kenwood Financial group of Minneapolis, Inc. where she is an investment advisor and a principal of the firm.

Linda Spil is chairing this event. Cost of the kosher luncheon is \$12.50 per person. The luncheon is open to all women making a \$125 minimum gift to the 1989 Women's Division Federation/UJA Campaign.

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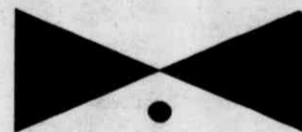
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