

Passage to Freedom Campaign Was a Success

By Michael Minkin
CJF Director

How did we do with the Passage to Freedom Campaign? It's one question in a series I've been hearing recently. The following is a sampling of what I've recently been asked, along with my answers which I believe affect you and the entire community.

Just how well did we do with the Passage to Freedom Campaign to help liberated Soviet Jews?

Very well! We set our goal at \$100,000 and we should raise that amount. The community should feel good about its response to this important appeal of assistance.

The new Federation campaign is about to begin. Will my Passage to Freedom Campaign contribution be used when evaluating my pledge for 1990?

No. But that's not to say we're going to discourage anyone from giving more. The overall community and UJA needs are increasing.

Will there be another Passage to Freedom Campaign or was it a one-time fundraiser?

We asked the Soviets to let our people go. We'll continue to ask them to do so. Consequently, as they are released, we'll need to respond to special needs, and that means food, clothing, shelter and transportation. I expect we will be coming back for Passage to Freedom II or III. And I think we should be happy to participate in the deliverance

of our Jewish brothers and sisters.

Aren't we asking a lot of Charlotte Jews, especially as we build new synagogues?

My experience has been that when the community knows the needs — when they are aware of what's happening — they always respond with care and compassion. We know how to do the right thing.

Will the community be asked to settle any Russian families?

It's possible. Most of the Soviet Jews are going to larger American cities and Israel. We've had some inquiries. The Federation is looking into ways of assisting if called upon to resettle people.

Why don't more Soviet Jews go to Israel?

The Israeli government is actively working on that and more families are now headed to Israel. Don't forget, these people have been regularly brainwashed on the dangers and evils of Israel and Zionism. It takes some reeducating. Moreover, many have families already settled in the U.S. and they want to be with them.

Is anyone from Charlotte going to visit the centers in Austria or Italy to see first-hand the Jews coming out of the Soviet Union?

It would be a good idea to do that. We've brought people into the community who have been there, and we've heard from them. We're aware of the needs, hence our response to the Pas-

sage to Freedom Campaign. I think it's time for us to send local representatives. Perhaps we can tie it in with our upcoming Community Mission to Israel in June.

What else do you expect from the community?

We have to keep the pressure on, especially while Gorbachev stays in power. Who knows what will happen after him? We have to remind our elected representatives from the President down how much we believe in freedom of passage and human rights. We should continue to visit the Soviet Union and meet with Jews there. Everyone's Federation contribution is more important than ever. Each of us can make a big difference.

Farber Story

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How does a clothing salesman-turned-piano player become a comedian operating the only no-smoking nightclub in America?

Jerry Farber, a North Carolina Tar Heel born and bred, moved to Atlanta in the early 1960s to work for Marcus and Farber, Inc., a ladies' clothing firm owned by his father. But, while Jerry was being groomed to take over the family business, his heart was in show business. The same was true when Jerry was a student at the UNC-CH where he entertained on weekends, and in the United States Army, which awarded him a Letter of Commendation for troop shows.

Working the Atlanta nightclub circuit, Jerry became one of the city's most celebrated performers. In 1986, he was the Atlanta Magazine Entertainer of the Year. Always attentive to his audience, Jerry has changed with the times. Originally, he was known as the piano player who told jokes. Now, Jerry is a first-rate comic who still spices his routines with a romantic keyboard style.

JERRY FARBER'S place opened in 1983, giving Jerry a solid platform for his thinking-person's humor. But, Jerry also uses his stage to promote a number of charities, particularly the Children's Wish Foundation for youngsters with terminal illnesses. Following is a partial list of charities and causes that have benefited from Jerry's fundraising and promotional efforts: The American Lung Association, American Cancer Society, National Kidney Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association, American Diabetes

Missions Update: Keshet Tishem

There will be a recruitment meeting at Meg Goldstein's home on Thursday evening, October 12. The community is invited to attend. Edith Steindler, National Missions coordinator, will be our guest speaker. The itinerary is shaping

up into an exciting and stimulating experience that will cover the country both visually and intellectually through presentations from experts and diplomats while having the opportunity of meeting with Israelis from all walks of life.

CJF Long Range Planning

Under the watchful and careful eye of Evelyn Berger, the Long Range Planning Committee has had its initial organizational meeting with Barry Swartz, Council of Jewish Federations consultant to the Southeast Region. Barry talked to us about Long Range Planning and how the process should be structured. The next meeting, sched-

uled for October 11, will feature experts from our community and New York who will help us envision the demographic picture in Charlotte and nationally in preparation for an appropriate study of the issues facing us. Groups will then be focused on tackling these issues.

General Assembly Meets Next Month

The General Assembly, Nov. 14-19 in Cincinnati, Ohio is rapidly approaching. Attending this year's GA are Mike Minkin, Lisa Placock, Emily Zimmern, Evelyn Berger, Paul Putterman, Steve Menaker and Moses Luski. The community is invited. The General Assembly is the largest ingathering of Jews in North America, giving us the opportunity to explore, in an indepth and analytical way, the Jewish agenda.

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