



The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

Vol. 12 No. 3

Charlotte, North Carolina

March 1990

Operation Exodus Begins Federation Board Unanimously Supports Russian Resettlement Effort

In keeping with the Charlotte Jewish community's commitment to our global Jewish community, the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Charlotte Jewish Federation unanimously agreed to participate in the resettlement locally of Soviet Jews.

The Council of Jewish Federations, in an historic and unprecedented request, has asked Federations throughout the United States to help resettle 80,000 Soviet Jews who are waiting for placement. In keep-

ing with the equitable, collective responsibility formula developed by Mendel Berman, President of the Council of Jewish Federations and his task force, Charlotte has agreed to participate by beginning to resettle Soviet families.

According to the request of CJF and UJA, communities throughout the United States and Canada are being asked to resettle families and raise money to help defray the cost of resettlement of Soviet families emigrating to Israel. In addition to

the 40,000 Soviets who must be resettled in the United States, the North American Jewish community is asked to help raise an additional 420 million dollars above and beyond their regular obligations to help defray the emergency costs of Israel's resettlement and needed aliyah. This special campaign has been named "Operation Exodus," and will be implemented in Charlotte later this year.

In addition to resettling a number of Soviet families or raising our fair share of dollars

to go into a national pool earmarked to help defray the cost of resettlement in the United States, we must also raise 56% of our 1988 campaign result which translates into \$660,000 payable over a three-year period. What makes this effort even more challenging is that the dollars are needed now since the needs of the emigres must be met through the building of houses in Israel, job training in Israel, teaching of English and Hebrew, and the list goes on and on.

Locally, the Charlotte Jewish

Federation is spearheading the development of a coalition for Soviet Jewry which will be a communalization of the total effort to help meet the needs of Soviet Jews. All agencies and organizations will be participating in this historic event. As developments break, the Jewish community will be kept informed. For more information on the historic efforts now taking place, or if you would like to help in the Soviet resettlement, please call the Charlotte Jewish Federation office, 366-5007.

Briefing on Soviet Jewry

- **Anti-Semitism is growing in the Soviet Union.** With the economy slipping from chaos to catastrophe and ethnic strife tearing apart the Soviet empire, "Russian nationalists look for culprits and they usually find the scapegoats of history: the Jews." (New York Times, January 28, 1990)
- **Soviet Jews fear pogroms.** A gang of sixty goons from Pamyat, a chauvinist Russian national movement, interrupted the January 18 meeting of the Moscow Writers Union with shouts of "Yid" and "Jewish prostitute" (New York Times, January 25, 1990) and "Comrade Jews — leave the hall! We're masters of the country! The pogrom will come in a few months!" (New York Times, February 2, 1990). The intruders were not arrested.

In Moscow, one Jewish resident, Polina K. Esphtein, said the level of fear was considerable, with her neighbors telling tales of new Pamyat members having to supply names and addresses of at least four Jews to their leaders. "We are preparing for a night of the long knives," she said. (New York Times, February 2, 1990)

In Leningrad, members of Pamyat and other nationalist groups have been reported openly picketing a subway station shouting anti-Semitic slogans and threatening to harm Jews (New York Times, February 2, 1990).

"The situation for Jews is terrible now," said 29-year-old Oleg Rothman, who directed a computer software concern in Riga,

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Community Coalition for Soviet Jewry Formed

Emily Zimmern, president of The Charlotte Jewish Federation, has appointed Penny Eisenberg as chair of the Ad Hoc Task Force on Soviet Jewry. Penny, with the help of the committee and Jewish Family Services (an agency of the Federation), will make recommendations to the Federation Board for a total communal effort to help meet the needs of Soviet Jews fleeing to Israel and the United States.

As early as late January, a Task Force on Soviet Resettlement has been meeting to study the costs and logistics of resettlement locally. Members of this committee are: Penny, Dorothy Ashendorf, Mark Barkan, Peggy Gartner, Richard A. Klein, Irving Mond, Rita Mond, Debby Rosenberger, Peggie Rovman, Sally Schrader, Marcia Simon, Rabbis Groner, Seigel and Wilson, Adrienne Rosenberg, Jewish Family Services director, and Michael Minkin, executive director of CJF.



OPERATION EXODUS: Some of the faces of our Soviet Jewish brothers and sisters who left the USSR to begin new lives in freedom in Jewish communities across the U.S. Photo/Robert Cumins

The Charlotte Jewish Federation, in cooperation with local agencies and organizations, is beginning the massive mobilization to help in the resettlement process which will include the need of additional funding. It is also looking into the need of raising money later this year to help defray the cost in Israel.

Because of the added work load on Jewish Family Services, additional staff will be required. Sally Schrader has been hired to work with resettlement of the

Russian families in Charlotte. Dr. Jared Schwartz has agreed to chair the campaign portion of this endeavor. Marcia Simon and Adam Bernstein are helping to establish a marketing plan for this massive undertaking. Richard A. Klein will chair the education/awareness committee with the help of our rabbis and the JCC staff.

For further information, please call any of these chair people or Mike Minkin, executive director CJF, 366-5007.

Yom Hashoa Program Sponsored by JCC and Federation

On April 22 at 7:30 p.m., the Charlotte Jewish community invites everyone to attend a special program on the commemoration of the six million Jews and five million others who were killed during the Holocaust. The program will begin in Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park with the lighting of 11 memorial candles by the second generation of Holocaust survivors and by liberators of the concentration camp victims.

Pianist, singer, actress Claudia Stevens will appear in "An Evening with Madame F" which is based on accounts of musical life in Nazi concentration camps by Fania Fenelon in her book, **Playing for Time**. A musician and cabaret artist, Fenelon, with other prisoners, performed for



Claudia Stevens

the SS in order to survive the death camps of Auschwitz and Bergen Belsen.

Ms. Stevens, whose amazing versatility mirrors that of Fenelon, recreates the unimaginable

horror of Auschwitz and the courage of its inmates. She plays and sings pieces actually performed by the musicians of Auschwitz, including songs of faith and resistance, from a score developed for her by composer Fred Cohen.

The program, which is free and open to the public, will be followed by a dessert reception.

Posters of the Holocaust, through arrangement by the Charlotte members of the N.C. State Holocaust Commission, Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz, Celia Scher, Irving Mond and Henry Hirschmann, will be on display April 1-30 in the Speizman Galleries of Shalom Park. The community is encouraged and invited to view these posters.

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