

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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Editorials

Will It Be a Happy New Year?

For the past two weeks I have put off writing this editorial, so that I could write a cheerful New Year message, hoping that the Mideast situation would not escalate. It is with heavy heart, I'm afraid, that we will be welcoming the New Year. The prospect of a war becomes more and more evident each day as, once again, American servicemen and servicewomen are overseas to protect the world against a madman aggressor. Innocent American citizens and other members of the western world are being held as "hostages" in Kuwait and Iraq. Who knows what their fate will be as they are being used as pawns by Saddam Hussein. If he succeeds in "swallowing up" the surrounding Arab nations, what will be the fate of Israel?

During my lifetime I have seen what three wars have done to our American young people and their families. The first was World War II and the infamous Holocaust; then the Korean War, followed by the Vietnam War. Hopefully, the situation in the Mideast will not end up being number 4.

We will be going to temple on Rosh Hashanah to pray and rejoice over the New Year; we eat apples and honey to symbolize the "sweetness" of another year. On Yom Kippur we fast and atone for all our sins and the transgressions of others. These holidays will take on an even greater and deeper meaning now as we pray that Saddam Hussein will withdraw from Kuwait and cease his maniacal scheme to take over the Arab world. His "reign of terror" will have to be stopped! De ja Vu, Hitler...we hope not!

Let our prayers be answered and the year 5751 be a year of happiness, good health, prosperity and PEACE for all of us.

— Rita Mond

Marc Has Left His Mark

Charlotte life hasn't been quite the same since Rabbi Marc Wilson arrived on the scene five years ago. The rabbi didn't just adopt the community, he embraced it and enriched it. Marc has left his mark.

It's hard to image who else might have committed so forcefully for Rachel House and the numerous other causes that Rabbi Wilson spearheaded. He has been a powerful, influential voice for better Jewish education, and his efforts should bear fruit in the years ahead.

His spirit and enthusiasm from the pulpit have been infectious. He enjoys his heritage, he loves to sing and his Judaic knowledge is awesome to those who have attended his services and participated in his Sidra Searches. His sermons were poignant, memorable. But, in case you should forget them, it was usually possible to see them again in *The Charlotte Observer*, *The Charlotte Jewish News* or the many other publications where he was a welcomed regular contributor.

The personal circumstances that made Rabbi Wilson decide to step down from his position at Temple Israel are regrettable. His tenure has been an exciting, challenging one. Rabbi Wilson's goals set the tone for the Charlotte Jewish community of the 1990s and beyond: more involvement in synagogue life, upliftment for Jewish education, outreach to the disenfranchised, more participation and feedback from young people, important dialogue with non-Jews and upholding the principle of tzedakah.

The rabbi has wisely used his spiritual position to challenge, probe and motivate congregants and the community. His intellect and wit on the bimah will be missed.

We wish him well on his new endeavors. Accordingly, we hope Marc Wilson remains a vital force in the community, continuing to voice his concern and support for the important activities he championed during a professional leadership tenure that was all too brief.

**Focus on Higher Learning:
Israeli Education in 1990**

In order to familiarize readers with the institutions of higher learning in Israel, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency gave an overview of some of the institutions.

Bar-Ilan University

Bar-Ilan University, founded in 1955, is Israel's third largest university, the only institution of higher learning in Israel that combines secular studies with a rich program of Judaic studies as an academic requirement. Bar-Ilan is also the only university recognized and chartered in the United States by the New York Board of Regents.

The university currently offers undergraduate and doctoral degrees in five faculties — humanities, Jewish studies, law, natural sciences and social sciences — in addition to schools of business administration, education and social work.

Located on a modern 135-acre campus in Ramat-Gan near Tel Aviv, Bar-Ilan has a student

body of over 12,000 and an academic faculty of more than 1,200.

The school offers students from abroad the possibility of a one-year study program in Israel during their freshman, sophomore or junior years.

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev was founded in 1969, inspired by the lofty inspirations of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister. It was charged with a vital mission: to spearhead the development of the Negev desert, which covers more than 60 percent of Israel's territory.

With campuses in Beersheba and Sde Boker, Ben-Gurion

University is a major center of education and research in Israel, and plays a leading role in the establishment of industry and the promotion of education and culture in the communities of the Negev.

Undergraduate and graduate students may choose from a wide array of courses in the faculties of natural sciences, engineering sciences, health sciences, and humanities and social sciences.

Far-reaching desert-research projects have resulted in important breakthroughs and new applications, not only for the development of the Negev, but for many countries throughout the world.

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Opened in 1925, with a nucleus of three research institutes — chemistry, microbiology and Jewish studies — the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has grown into a multidiscipline institution comprising seven faculties and 14 schools, housing the Jewish National and University Library (the national library of Israel), as well as Israel's only school of agriculture, school of pharmacy and school of veterinary medicine.

Spread over four campuses at Mount Scopus, Givat Ram, Ein Kerem and Rehovot, the university's enrollment of over 19,000 students includes a cross section of Israel's population.

It has attracted distinguished scholars, as well as outstanding young men and women to its student body from all over the world, and countries worldwide turn to the university as a leader in agricultural expertise. About one-half of all Ph.D. students in Israel study at Hebrew U.

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology

Ranked among the leading technological universities in the world, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology is Israel's only comprehensive technological and scientific university and its largest center of applied research.

The Technion is home to a number of educational and testing facilities that can be found nowhere else in Israel, including its faculties of aerospace engineering and architecture and town planning, the Norman and Helen Asher Institute for Space Research, the Solid State Institute and the Samuel Neaman Institute for Advanced Studies in Science and Technology.

Founded in 1924, Israel's oldest institution of higher learning has been closely integrated with Israel's historical development. Over the years, more than 30,000 Technion graduates have helped plan cities and transportation networks, provide innovative resources for water and power, and have made indispensable contributions to Israel's agricultural and industrial development, economic growth and national security.

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UJA Says Need for More Operation Exodus Cash Urgent

United Jewish Appeal National Chairman Marvin Lender says it is vital that all cash raised in the Operation Exodus Special Campaign to aid the absorption of Soviet Jews in Israel be transmitted to UJA as soon as possible to meet the needs of the swelling Soviet-Jewish immigration to the Jewish State.

Lender spoke after returning from a meeting on Operation Exodus at the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

"The tide of immigrants from the Soviet Union — nearly 70,000 so far this year — can only be expected to rise in the coming months, reaching an expected total of 150,000 by the end of the year," he said. "And it's up to us to help them resettle in Israel."


"We must meet their needs," Lender emphasized.

"This unprecedented influx

makes it even more necessary that we remit \$140 million in cash to the Jewish Agency by UJA's target date of September 30," he continued. "We've already sent half of it — \$70 million. We're gratified and deeply appreciative for the response of our communities. But we still have to reach that September 30th goal."

"So, we're posing this challenge for every community: We're asking all of them to send their Exodus cash to UJA as speedily as they can, so that we can see to it that the funds get where they're needed as quickly as possible. Let's get those pledged dollars working."

The Operation Exodus Special Campaign has raised more than \$370.2 million in the 17 weeks since it was officially launched early last April.



**Letters to
The Editor**

We encourage our readers' viewpoints. Letters should be submitted typewritten and double-spaced and signed. Please include your address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit.

Deadline for all copy for Oct. is Sept. 10; for Nov. issue, Oct. 5.