

## Charlotte Jewish Federation

### Update Leadership Development

By Ken Stern

The start date is fast approaching for the third Federation-sponsored Leadership Development program. Inquiries for participation have been received in the Federation office and nominations have been submitted by past participants, members of the Steering committee, and by various Jewish organizations in Charlotte. Invitations to prospective participants have been mailed and the class is filling up fast. A November orientation is being planned, with the formal start of the program to begin in December.

The Leadership Development program is a 15-month-long educational program aimed at new and potential leaders within the Jewish community. Its goals are to provide participants with a better understanding of contemporary Jewish issues, provide leadership training, and to instill an interest in Jewish communal activities. The group will be limited to 40 participants who will meet monthly to discuss

a variety of topics. Participants will observe meetings of various boards within the community to better understand how boards operate. Participants will also serve as members of ad hoc committees that will address various needs in our community and provide the forum to develop and understand committee functioning and leadership skills. Additional opportunities will be available to attend a UJA Young Leadership convention in Washington or to travel with a mission to Israel.

The Steering committee, Ken Stern, chair; Lisa Platock, Scott Menaker, Phyllis Schiffman, Mike Yaffe, Jack Levinson, Bobby Damsky and Pam Appelbaum, Federation staff associate, has been meeting to develop the program agenda, nominate prospective participants, and set the groundwork for a program that will be educational, rewarding and fun. Interested in the program? — this is the final call for participants. Call Pam for details at 366-5007.

### UJA Missions: Best Way to Visit Israel

By Nicki Levine

Okay, I've got three young children, a full-time staff attorney position representing kids in trouble, a husband who's active in the community...why am I chairing UJA Missions to Israel? Because I was lucky enough to fulfill a lifelong dream of going to Israel and truly found the reality to be everything I dreamed it would be and I want everyone in Charlotte to have the same wonderful experience.

Eretz Yisrael is indeed the exquisite miracle we all want our homeland to be. UJA Missions allows you to experience everything — hands on. No other trip

will touch your heart the way this trip will. No other trip will take you to lunch with Soviet Olim, jeep riding with gutsy Sabras, mountain climbing at Masada, shopping at Sefat art galleries and the Ben Yehuda street mall, a B'nai Mitzvot celebration for neglected and abused children at a youth Aliyah Camp, a school graduation at a kibbutz, a Yeminite dinner...and UJA does it all first class.

In the upcoming months, I will share lots of information about our UJA Missions and hope you will realize your dream of "next year in Jerusalem" with us. L'Shana Tova Tikateyvu.

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## Operation Exodus is a Reality

By Michael Minkin  
CJF Exec. Director

As an American Jew I am experiencing the most exciting decade of my life. I am witnessing the emigration of Soviet Jews. They are finally able to leave for lands of freedom. I am filled with great hopes for the Soviet Jews and also great fears, wondering if Israel can absorb them. Operation Exodus, the absorption and resettlement of Soviet Jews, has become a reality.

The dream that began in Washington in the Mall of the Capitol on Dec. 6, 1987 is now a reality that we are witnessing today. Operation Exodus represents a Soviet aliyah which may be the greatest wave of Jewish migration we will see in our lifetime. We are fortunate to be able to witness Israel's population of 3.6 million expanding in numbers we never would have dreamed could happen.

The cost of bringing close to 200,000 Soviet Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel and resettling them carries an astronomical price tag. The government of Israel is providing three

billion dollars. World Jewry's share is \$600 million, with American Jews providing 420 million dollars through the United Jewish Appeal's Operation Exodus campaign. It is critical to know that the 420 million dollars is above and beyond our regular Federation campaign and is pledged in one year and payable over three years. It is important to know again that Operation Exodus goes beyond our regular commitment, which must be maintained in order for our local services to continue.

The price tag of Operation Exodus is one of simple mathematics. \$151.2 million is needed to transport new immigrants and their belongings from the Soviet Union to Israel. That's almost \$45,000 per family. \$58.8 million is needed to repair and enlarge the existing absorption centers and to build new facilities. Many of these facilities were built years ago and are outdated. They are in desperate need of repair in order to house the new immigrants. \$210 million is needed for direct absorption. This unique progressive approach to absorption is providing 85% of the

striving Soviet emigrants with their own apartments in communities in Israel. They are moving to the major cities of the State of Israel as the government of Israel provides them with baskets of service which meets the needs of their families. This includes rent, utilities, Hebrew classes and basic household necessities.

The new Exodus has begun at a rate and a pace that could exceed 150-200,000 Soviet Jews this year. We in Charlotte are lucky to participate in this endeavor. Under the watchful eyes of Bill Gorelick, Meg D. Goldstein and Dr. Jared Schwartz, General Campaign chairs; Emily Zimmern, president; and Bobbi Bernstein, Coalition chair, this entire endeavor will be possible. Resettlement has come alive in Charlotte, just as it has come alive in Israel with the help of the leadership of the men and women of our community.

This is our opportunity, yours and mine, to participate in history in the making. Everyone is urged to give generously to Operation Exodus, to give fully to the regular campaign and by so doing, help to keep our Jewish dreams alive.

## Won't You Join Us on The Panim Mission?

One of the South's largest UJA Missions to Israel is scheduled to depart from Atlanta on January 9 and return there on January 18. More than 650 people have already signed on for the Southern Region's Panim Mission.

Edith Steindler, the UJA professional assigned to Charlotte and responsible for the Panim Mission, said there will be two El Al 747s leaving from Atlanta. One of them will fly nonstop to Israel; the other makes a stop in New York.

Highlights of the Mission will include meetings with top-level Israeli government leaders, Shabbat at the Western Wall, visits to the Golan Heights and Masada, a Bedouin style dinner in the desert and meeting a plane of Olim from the Soviet Union at Ben Gurion Airport.

Mission participants will be staying at either Jerusalem's Laromme or Sheraton Plaza Hotels. The communities participating include large ones, such as Atlanta, and the region's smallest. Steindler said Israel's finest guides have already been secured to lead the 18 or more buses that will travel around the

country.

The mission schedule includes visits to important shrines, museums, JNF forests and even an Israeli Air Force Base. One day will allow participants to choose among six or seven different tours around Jerusalem or Tel Aviv.

"But we've also given people plenty of free time to see Israel for themselves," Steindler said. "There are opportunities to have a lunch or dinner on your own, or even an entire afternoon. This Mission will have a pretty good pace, but it gives participants some opportunities to slow down and see the sites on their own."

Bobby Rinzler from Atlanta will be chairing the Mission, and Richard A. Klein of Charlotte will cochair. Steindler said that anyone interested in obtaining more details about the Panim Mission should immediately contact the Charlotte Federation office, 366-5007; Richard Klein at 542-1403 or her at the UJA Florida office, 305-428-6677. Cost of the Mission is \$1745, but with a \$750 minimum Federation contribution, substantial subsidies are available.

## Values Are Important to Federation Work

By Pam Appelbaum

During graduate school, many of my colleagues questioned how social work relates to Jewish Federation work. This was definitely a thought-provoking question. In fact, as I develop in my position as staff associate at the Charlotte Jewish Federation, I continually tend to evaluate the relationship between Jewish Federation work and social work.

Knowledge and values are basic social work principles. While social work knowledge is drawn from a multitude of professions, values are unique to social work practice. For example, self-determination and respect are values unique to social work practice. In Jewish Federation work, social work values are transferrable to Jewish self-determination and maintaining Jewish dignity.

As a federation professional, my staffing portfolios include Women's Division, Leadership Development, Community Relations, Missions and Young Adults. My goal is to ensure the

See VALUES next page

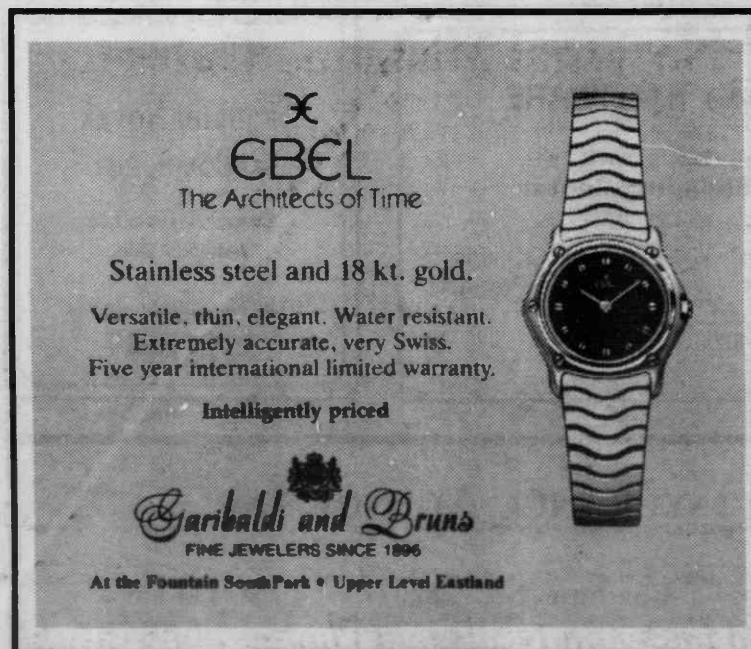
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