

Holocaust Exhibit and Lecture to Commemorate Yom HaShoah

The N.C. Council on the Holocaust, the Jewish Community Center, the Charlotte Jewish Federation and the NCCJ are cosponsoring a Yom HaShoah program on Sunday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Shalom Park in Gorelick Hall. It will feature a candlelighting service and guest speaker Dr. Gene Owens of Myers Park Baptist Church. He will speak on "Christian View of the Holocaust." Also on view in the Speizman Galleries will be the Holocaust Exhibit featuring photographs, posters, memorabilia, etc. collected from survivors and liberators in our area. A photographic exhibit by Stuart Klipper, "From Emptiness: Sinai, HaNegev, Midpar Yehuda," will be on display in Gorelick Hall.

Refreshments will follow the program and the entire community is invited to attend.

Holocaust Exhibit

The Holocaust Exhibit will

open that evening in the Speizman Galleries. From 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. there will be a private showing for media people, teachers and special guests.

The exhibit will be available for viewing April 7 until May 12. Schools and churches are encouraged to visit and may call 366-5007 to make arrangements for their classes and groups. A copy of the N.C. Council's latest output will be given to each teacher for use in class.

It is important that we all know about the Holocaust...and to remember that it must never occur again!

"From Emptiness"

Until May 3, The Jewish Community Center of Charlotte and The Light Factory Photographic Arts Center are cosponsoring **From Emptiness: Sinai, HaNegev, Midpar Yehuda**, photographs by Stuart Klipper.

They are being shown at The Jewish Community Center of Charlotte and at The Light Factory Photographic Arts Center. The opening reception for the exhibit will be on Sunday, April 7 at the JCC 1-3 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. at The Light Factory Photographic Arts Center, the Park Elevator Building, South Boulevard and Arlington.

For Klipper, these black and white and color photographs of Israel are voyages of discovery and reclamation. It is from emptiness that we thrive, from that no-place that we find a place in which we might dwell. In the tradition of Christian painting, a vertical picture is likely to be populated by angels to the like, filling the sky with perhaps even an ascension. But here the sky is empty of such figures. What is crucial is the Genesis-defined difference of Earth and Heavens, pushing up and wafting above each other.

Soviet Jews in Charlotte to Double

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food, automobiles and even cable television service."

Of the 31 Soviets who settled here in 1990, 29 were "free cases" or had no relatives living in America. In 1991, five of the families will be joining other family members who have already resettled here and the other four will be "free cases." Two of those families will be from Tashkent in the eastern portion of the Soviet Union, offering a distinctive cultural flavor not seen before in previous families.

The Coalition provided financial support to the families for up to four months. Emigres attended classes to learn English and about American and Jewish customs and holidays. They received free doctor and dental care (most of which was donated by physicians in the Jewish community) and assistance in finding jobs and getting social security cards and drivers' licenses.

Penny Eisenberg, resettlement volunteer coordinator, said a pool of more than 250 volunteers was assembled to help drive emigres to classes, doctor's appointments, job interviews and the like; act as host families; move furniture; set up apartments; tutor in English, job interviewing techniques and other skills; and more.

The resettled families live in apartments and have Jewish host families to help in the assimilation process. Since they arrived early this past summer, all of the adults have learned English and earned their driver's licenses. The children are adjusting nicely to classes in local schools, with those in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg system attending English-As-A-Second

Language (ESL) sites.

All but one of the adults — a 64-year-old woman — have found jobs. The Soviets are employed in a wide range of fields, including electronics, auto service, health care, education, day care, food service and music.

Charlotte's Jewish community originally agreed to settle the Soviet Jews during 1990 and to continue the absorption process over the next several years. Original estimates called for the local community to raise approximately \$1 million as part of Operation Exodus, \$340,000 for local resettlement and \$660,000 to assist the effort in Israel. To date, the local community has raised more than \$1 million. However, the tremendous number of Soviet Jews who have requested to emigrate far exceeded what was originally expected and officials believe that more money will need to be raised.

Israel budgeted \$3 billion for the absorption process, while the

rest of the world has committed to raise another \$600 million. The U.S. portion of that total is \$420 million. Given the dramatic rise in the numbers of Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate, those figures are expected to fall short of the amount needed for resettlement.

The Charlotte Jewish organizations that have been involved in the resettlement effort include Jewish Family Services, the Charlotte Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Center, Temple Beth El V'Shalom, Temple Israel, Lubavitch, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, HaLailah Chapter B'nai B'rith Women, Charlotte Chapter B'nai B'rith Women, Hadassah, B'nai B'rith Men and BBYO. All of the groups provided either free membership or tuition or volunteers to help. Non-Jewish agencies involved include International House, Presbyterian Hospital, Mercy Hospital, Employment Security Commission, the Department of Social Services and the Health Department.

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Office of Continuing Education and Extension, UNC-Charlotte
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