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# The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

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## Soviets Celebrate Their Freedom

By Lynne Cojac

On Sunday evening, December 8, a Chanukah spaghetti dinner was prepared and served for Charlotte's Jewish Soviets by the post-confirmation class of the Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies of Charlotte. The dinner was held at Temple Israel and supervised by the High School's Director of Studies, Sue Brodsky, with assistance from Gale Nordin.

Later in the month, the Soviet families enjoyed Chanukah gifts from 10 second and third grade classes at Country Day School. Barb Zelickson, who teaches third grade there, helped make the arrangements with Penny Eisenberg, volunteer Soviet Jewry coordinator, and Jane Morgan, the Social Studies Coordinator for Country Day's Lower School. The entire lower school is studying the Soviet Union in an International Studies Unit this year. Toys, clothes and canned foods were contributed.

Some of the Soviets who have arrived in the past five months are:

Gene and Sophia Bessonov with daughter Masha, age 7. The Bessonovs have no relatives here. Their host family is the Flohr family.

Michael Klebanov's sister, Luba Moysik, and her husband Gregory arrived along with Luba's parents, Victor and Ada Klebanov. Luba was an internist in the Soviet Union and Gregory was a mechanical engineer. Their daughter, Helen, is nine years old and attends school at Lubavitch. Their host family is the Pinion family.

Irina Rosovsky's brother, Michael Kutsenko has resettled here with his family. Michael is a chemical engineer and speaks excellent English. His wife, Marina, is a chemist. They are



CHSJS post-confirmation students celebrated Chanukah with some of our new Soviet Jewish families.

the first family to arrive with their dog! At present, they have no host family.

Gyena and Natasha Nemirovsky arrived with their daughter, Svetlana, and Gyena's parents. Gyena is a photographer; Natasha teaches and does beautiful needlework. Svetlana is a gifted ballerina and is attending school at Hawthorne Traditional. The grandfather is a photographer, house builder and painter. Their host family is Norm Sandler and his son David. Jillian Goldberg and Phyllis Schultz have also spent a great deal of time with them.

Raisa Bunich's sister and brother-in-law, the Vaynshteyns (soon to be Weinstein) arrived with their 24-year-old son, daughter, Anna Valdman, and son-in-law.

Raisa Nemirovsky's brother

and his family, the Barringo family, arrived on Dec. 13. The parents are Dima and Larisa, with daughters Nonna, 17 and Ella, 10. Their host family is Sue Neidlinger and her children.

On Jan. 6, the Domashevskiy family arrived. This family consists of two parents, their daughter and her son, and Mrs. Domashevskiy's mother.

Many of the Soviets who have recently arrived are feeling the pressures of our depressed economy. Jobs have been harder to find and several have been unable to secure work. If you have business contacts through which you might be able to help with this, please call Jewish Family Services at 364-6594 as soon as possible. A phone call or two from you could be invaluable. Please help them to get the new year off to a good start.

## JCC Board Holds Staff Appreciation Evening

On January 14, the board of the Jewish Community Center held a staff appreciation evening. The staff was invited to a lovely dinner at The House of Hunan, Cotswold, by the board members. It was a wonderful opportunity for both staff and board to become better ac-

quainted. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.

The JCC staff thanks the board members for a delightful evening. A special thank you to Hal Levinson, president, and Jill Newman for arranging the evening.

## Jewish Agency Reopens Office in War-Torn Capital of Georgia

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Jewish Agency is back in the aliyah business in Tbilisi, capital of the now-independent republic of Georgia, formerly part of the Soviet Union.

The Jewish Agency's office in the City Hall overlooking the central square was in the path of recent fighting, as rebels sought, then succeeded, to unseat President Aviad Gamsakhurdia.

The Jewish Agency emissary in Tbilisi, Mikhael Krichi, was forced to relocate on Jan. 3, opening a makeshift office in a private apartment.

Gamsakhurdia, who was elected president of the republic with 87 percent of the vote only nine months ago, fled the capital on Jan. 6.

The Jewish Agency has since returned to its old premises to resume processing requests for immigration to Israel.

But hundreds of applications

for emigration documents by Georgian Jews were burned when the Interior Ministry building in Tbilisi was destroyed in the fighting. Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz disclosed.

But the Jewish Agency has reached an agreement with the Georgian government for an Interior Ministry official to work in the Jewish Agency office to expedite the requests of those Jews for whom permission to See OFFICE REOPENED Page 16

## Steven Haas to Appear in Special Benefit Concert

Steven Haas, a well known tenor and a former member of the Charlotte Jewish community, will be appearing in concert on Mar. 1. Sponsored by Temple Beth El V'Shalom, the concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. at Shalom Park in Gorelick Hall.

Cantor Haas has performed extensively in Europe, Australia, Israel and throughout the United States. He is a former Temple Beth El V'Shalom soloist, and has most recently appeared at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, S.C. and on Public Television's highly acclaimed Opera Pops and Sizzles broadcast. He has been the Cantor of Temple Beth Shalom, Miami Beach, Florida, for the past 2 1/2 years.

Cantor Haas will delight his audience with a repertoire of Israeli and Yiddish melodies, operatic arias and popular songs. Featured will be a special grouping of songs in honor of "Sepharad 1992."

He and his wife Nina have



Cantor Steven Haas

recently returned from the Miami Federation's 2nd Megamission to Israel which was composed of approximately 1,000 people. He served as their Cantor on this trip.

A reception will follow the concert at which time you will have the opportunity of meeting with Cantor Haas.

Tickets are available at \$15 each at the Temple's office, or they may be mailed by calling Jill Kofman, 545-5802 or the Temple, 366-1948.

## Federation's "Come to the Cabaret" Entertains Capacity Crowd



The Atrium was the site for the Federation "Kick-Off." Young and old gathered for this special evening.

Much excitement was generated as 350 members of the Jewish community attended the Charlotte Jewish Federation Campaign Kick-Off, "Come to the Cabaret," on Jan. 18 at the Two First Union Atrium.

The evening began with a social hour at which beverages and hors d'oeuvres were served. Program highlights included outgoing President Emily Zimmer's remarks and the presentation by Shelton Gorelick of a menorah to her in recognition of her two years of presidency.

Introductions of the officers of the merged Foundation and Federation, incoming President Shelton Gorelick and the Fed-

eration's new Executive Director, Daniel Lepow, were made. Shelton Gorelick addressed the 1992 Federation Regular Campaign, reporting that the campaign at present is running at a 12% increase. He stressed the challenge to meet our campaign goal of \$1.25 million as we "Answer the Challenge Together."

Special acknowledgment was made to the board members of the recipient agencies who receive funding from the Federation. These agencies are the heart and soul of human service programs offered in Charlotte, Israel and worldwide. A video See KICK-OFF Page 13

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