

Jewish Family Services

JFS Board Update

By Lynne Sheffer
JFS Chairperson

We are fortunate to have three new individuals on our board: Ellen Goldberg, Teresa Brenner and Marilyn Shapiro. Their professional skills, respectively, as an accountant, attorney and bookkeeper, as well as their community involvements, will be an asset to the board and agency.

The JFS board thanks the following who have recently completed their term of office: Dorothy Ashendorf, Steve Horowitz and Penni Wallas. Their time, commitment and talents have been of great benefit to the agency.



Thanks Go to Charlotte Federation

The beginning of the Federation campaign each year has always been an important time, with our hopes that enough dollars will be raised to support the agencies that are so important to our community.

As chairperson of Jewish Family Services, the significance of the annual campaign seems more intensified to me as JFS is one of Federation's largest recipients. Without Federation's financial help the agency could not exist. Campaign dollars allow the agency to provide quality social work and counseling services to individuals and families wishing to be seen within a Jewish framework.

Thank you to this year's allocation committee for their tremendous support and to the campaign workers and community members for their contributions. We hope that this year's campaign will be the most successful to date. Demands for services and financial assistance for families in need is continually growing.

— Lynne Sheffer

Holiday Time is Very Special at The Blumenthal Jewish Home

The richness of Judaism radiates throughout the Blumenthal Jewish Home all during the year. In December, its brightness was enhanced by the glow of candlelight and the spark of giving. The lights of Chanukah menorahs added their bright glow to the short days of December. Volunteers from Winston-Salem and Greensboro brought their warmth to the observance as they arrived each night of Chanukah to light the menorahs in the four dining rooms of the Home. Outdoors, the glow from the 20-foot-high menorah in the courtyard illuminated the surrounding sky as well as the hearts of residents and visitors.

December in the Blumenthal Jewish Home shines brightly not only with the monthly schedule of concerts, entertainers, birthday parties, volunteer activities, and events and outings but with the spirit of Jewish celebration that is also present. Weekly "Rabbi's Hour" programs were conducted by Rabbi Thomas Liebschutz of Winston-Salem and Rabbi Richard Harkavy and Eliezer Havivi of Greensboro, with Rabbi H. Scott White of Charlotte who began in January; a morning Shabbat was celebrated with the Temple Emanuel Pre-School of Winston-Salem; a Chanukah party was enjoyed with a Brownie troop; volunteers Barry and

Leah Strulson conducted the Havdalah service; and Shabbat services were attended Friday evenings and Saturday mornings in the Home's synagogue.

Blumenthal Jewish Home invites individuals and groups to add their spark to the rich heritage preserved at the Home. For information about the volunteer program and individual or group tours, call Sue Clein, Director of Marketing/Public Relations/Volunteer Services. For admissions information, call Melinda Hartley, Director of Admissions. For charitable gifts, call Bruce Schlosberg, Director of Development. The number is 919/766-6401.



Thoughts from Adrienne

By Adrienne Rosenberg, JFS Director



Our first Soviet Jewish family resettled by the Charlotte Jewish community arrived the first week of May, 1991. Since then we have helped to resettle 27 families for a total of 100 people. Only 10 of these people have left the Charlotte area; the remainder are all here. Those of you who have not made the opportunity to meet our emigres, I really feel it is your loss. For here is a group of motivated people who have left their homeland to avoid anti-Semitism and poor economic conditions. They have left almost everything they owned and knew behind to come to a country with a different language, a different money system and way of handling systems, and where past job skills may not be seen as viable. Some come to join family members already living in Charlotte, but many know no one when they come.

Our families have come from such places as Moscow, Tashkent, Riga, Minsk, Leningrad, Belussia, the Ukraine, among others. They usually come with at least one grandparent (because Russian families are still more traditional in makeup than are most current American families). They have ranged in age from one year old to those in their 80s. For most of them, being Jewish means they have been identified as a nationality; they have had no formal Jewish training.

Our community, largely through the coordinated efforts of Jewish Family Services, is responsible financially for up to four months until they get established with jobs. What this means is we pay for apartments and utilities, driving lessons, English lessons, and health screenings and help with finding jobs. The Jewish Community Center and the two Temples donate memberships for one full year. The Jewish educators, Jewish Family Services and the Jewish Community Center are involved in programs for accul-

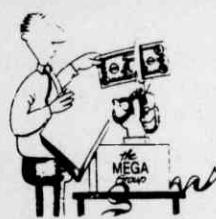
turation.

But I would like to invite all of you to know what it means on the "one basis." Can you imagine leaving the United States, taking only what you can carry in 8-10 pieces of luggage, and going to a country with a different language and where things you had come to think as "normal" are no more? True, you may have a nice apartment, language classes, but the pressure will be on you to become self-sufficient in no more than a four-month period. Your references may not be seen as viable because you have no references in this country. It might be scary except for the fact of wonderful efforts on the part of individual people who outreach to you.

And here is where everyone in our community has an opportunity to help and participate. From coming to the airport to greet new families, to helping to set up apartments, to taking people to lessons and appointments, to visiting and answering

questions, to finding jobs, to tutoring, to taking people around and showing them what Charlotte has to offer. I promise that you, too, will be aware as I have become, how lucky we are to live in America, how warm and appreciative are our Russian brethren, how they give back and want to become friends, and how motivated they are to become self-sufficient. Sally Schrader, resettlement coordinator, and Penny Eisenberg, volunteer, handle a great deal of the tasks needed to be done for resettlement. But they cannot do it all. Nor should they, for this is a total Jewish community project.

I am promising you the payoff will be in good feelings only. Please won't you call me at 364-6594 and tell me how you want to get involved. Even one hour a week would make a difference in the life of people so wanting to be productive citizens and members of the Charlotte Jewish community.



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