



Holiday Shopping Guide

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The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

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Federation/UJA Shabbat Weekend To Feature Dr. Reuven Hazan

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, in conjunction with Temple Beth El and Temple Israel, will host a Federation/UJA Shabbat weekend Jan. 22-23. Featured speaker, Dr. Reuven Hazan, will discuss "Israel and the Peace Process; The Changing Dynamic in the Middle East."

Dr. Hazan is currently on the faculty of the Political Science Department at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He received his PhD in Political Science from Columbia University. Prior to joining the staff of Hebrew University, Dr. Hazan was Parliamentary Assistant to Abba Eban. Additionally he served in



Dr. Reuven Hazan

the Israeli Foreign Office and was stationed at the office of the Consulate General of Israel in New York.

JCC Presents "A Night in Venice"

"A Night in Venice," the annual Gala Auction and Dinner Dance of the Jewish Community Center, is being held at the JCC on Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the JCC Senior Adult and Youth Programs.

Don't be left out of this magnificent evening. The dinner will be catered by "Something Else" and you will dance to the music of "Easy Street." The auction will be bigger and better than ever, with a very wide variety of items, among them trips, jewelry, gift certificates, dinners at some of Charlotte's finest restaurants; the list goes on and on.

Some tickets are still available at \$125 per couple (\$85 is tax



Guests at last year's gala enjoyed the "line dancing"

File Photo

deductible). Table reservations and general reservations are to be made through Becky Cohen at the JCC, 366-5007. You must have at least 10 people to reserve a separate table; others will be

seated by the committee. Dress informally and enjoy the Italian cuisine, the music and the auction and know that while you are having a great time, you will be helping others.

U.S. Query to Moscow: "What Happened to Raoul Wallenberg?"

By William Korey

Next month marks the half-century anniversary commemorating a unique American relationship with a foreigner, Raoul Wallenberg. But if that relationship is to go beyond mere celebration and take on substance, the Clinton Administration will have to pose a vigorous challenge to Moscow concerning a continuing cover-up of one of our epoch's great crimes.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the U.S. War Refugee Board in January 1944 with the task of saving Jews and other Nazi victims in Europe. When the Nazis occupied Hungary in March of that year, Washington prevailed upon neutral Sweden to open a special section of its legation in Budapest to help rescue Hungarian Jewry (no Allied power had been allowed to perform such a role).

Selected to head the distinctive and unusual diplomatic section—which served as a veritable outpost of U.S. non-military intervention—was 32-year-old Raoul Wallenberg, a distinguished Swedish diplomat who had studied architecture at the University of Michigan.

Wallenberg arrived in Budapest in July 1944 with a virtual "mission impossible" task. The exploits of the extraordinarily gifted and courageous diplomat in fulfilling the War Refugee

Board's mandate are too well-known to require detailed recapitulation. A dynamic combination of nerve, bluff and pluck enabled him to rescue from death marches and gas chambers a remnant of European Jewry and, thereby, stem—at least in part—the tide of carnage.

In January 1945—with chaos reigning in Budapest as the advancing Soviet Red Army took control of most of the city—the KGB seized Wallenberg, flew him to Moscow, and jailed him in the notorious Lubyanka prison. A massive cover-up then began.

At first, Moscow declared it was protecting Wallenberg. Then it denied that he was in the USSR. A decade later, "evidence" was produced that Wallenberg had died of a heart attack. More recently, that documentation was called into serious question, even as it was asserted that all the pertinent files had somehow been destroyed.

If some KGB documentation has since been made available, other records have been deliberately suppressed by the authorities. The cover-up continues. Precisely why Wallenberg was arrested and what happened to him afterwards remain shielded from public view.

In the beginning, high-ranking American officials such as

Secretary of State Edward Stettinius and Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau, Jr., pressed Moscow—unsuccessfully—for an accounting of Wallenberg's fate. During the 1980s, American officials—using the Helsinki human rights process as their public platform—were persistent about raising the issue with their Soviet counterparts.

Still, these interventions remained at the ambassadorial level, and did not indicate to Moscow that a deep preoccupation about Wallenberg was felt at the highest levels of policy-making. But that's precisely where it ought to be, given Wallenberg's desperate efforts in support of American human rights policies.

In January, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the War Refugee Board will take place. It would be a fitting tribute to its legacy for President Clinton to insist that Russian President Boris Yeltsin provide a complete accounting of what happened to Raoul Wallenberg.

William Korey is the former Director of International Policy Research at B'nai B'rith. He is the author of *Promises We Keep: Human Rights, The Helsinki Declaration and American Foreign Policy*, published by St. Martin's Press.

(Reprinted from Near East Report.)



Louis Silverstein, c. 1900, son of Benjamin Silverstein, a founder of the first Charlotte Jewish congregation, Agudath Achim (1895), the forerunner of Temple Israel. Photo/H. Baumgarten, Charlotte's first commercial photographer and a founding trustee of the Hebrew Benevolent Society (the Hebrew Cemetery in 1870).

The Public Library
and

The Charlotte Jewish Historical Society
request the pleasure of your company
at a reception to mark the opening of

"Seventh Street to Shalom Park"

a multimedia exhibit celebrating our Jewish heritage

on Sunday, the fifth of December
at seven o'clock

at the Main Library
310 North Tryon Street, Charlotte

Musical entertainment by Viva Klezmer!

City Fair parking will be validated

(Please see page 11 for December and January Special Events)

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