

# The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

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## Rita Mond: Magic Is As Magic Does

By Harvey Cohen

The difference between the magic David Copperfield performs and the magic retiring editor Rita Mond performs every month offstage, is that Copperfield's magic is an illusion, Rita's is very real.

Every month for the past 16 years, Rita Mond magically made the newspaper appear in your mailbox. How she did that almost single-handedly is a story in itself. But, go back to the first paragraph and see if you caught a key word in describing Rita. The word, in case you missed it, is "retiring." She is not retiring in the sense that she is shy or bashful. You can't be an effective editor and be either of those things. Neither is she retiring in the sense that she is departing or leaving the newspaper. After all these years, she may focus her unlimited energy into other areas of the newspaper.

In an attempt to create a little magic of our own, we asked Rita to reflect on the past, comment on the present and predict the future. This is what she had to say:

"When Ann Langman and I first started *The Charlotte Jewish News*, we knew relatively little about putting a newspaper together. We had both been involved in doing bulletins for various organizations (in fact we

started the *Keeping Posted* for the Jewish Community Center); in my high school days, I was a feature writer for the school paper. By trial and error we managed to work together as coeditors and friends for over six years strictly as volunteers. It was a 'fun' thing and a challenge for us; truly a 'labor of love.'

"For the next five years, continuing still as a volunteer, by myself, I saw the paper grow in scope and readership and in advertising. Every month I tried to improve and innovate new ideas into *The CJN*. There were happy moments, tiring moments and always, always, challenging moments. And there was 'the icing on the cake' we were recognized 10 times by the CJF for 'outstanding newspaper with advertising.'

"Six years ago when the paper took up more and more of my time, I went on staff of the Federation, i.e. from volunteer to professional status. I am currently a member of the American Jewish Press Association and the International Jewish Media.

"I wish that I had a crystal ball, or really could work magic to predict the future for the paper. I hope that it will continue to grow and be a viable part of the Charlotte Jewish community. I feel strongly that the paper is at the point where it should be coming out twice



Rita Mond

a month, for there is so much interesting, important and educational information that one can not presently include in a monthly. The paper is an important link between all factions of the community.

"I wish the new editor much success and hope that the community will continue to support their publication. I appreciate having had the opportunity to serve all these years as its editor."

For a moment, let's look at who this practical dreamer is, whose dream of yesterday benefits everyone in the Jewish community today. Her dream, incidentally, was shared in 1978 by Marvin Bienstock, former director of the Charlotte Jewish Federation, Ann Langman and Martha Brenner.

She is the wife of Irving Mond and mother of three children: Darren, Jered and Mrs. Jodi

Michel, who is expecting the first Mond grandchild (Rita would tell you that whatever she is, she is first a wife, mother and soon to be grandmother). Originally from Chicago, Illinois, she has lived in Charlotte for 32 years. She has a B.S. in Zoology from the University of Illinois and was awarded a Fellowship to Washington State University to pursue graduate studies in Parasitology. Her professional career was in the field of Cytology doing cancer research. She said that one of her greatest thrills was seeing work that she had done to initiate a new operative technique for colon cancer written up in the *AMA Journal*.

Rita was president of the Charlotte Chapter of B'nai B'rith Women (BBW) and served for several years on the executive board of District Five of BBW. She is a life member of BBW. She was the first woman ever to be recognized for "outstanding service" by the N.C. State Association of B'nai B'rith Men. She has served on the boards of many other Jewish organizations including NC/Va ADL, Hebrew Day School, Sisterhoods of Temple Beth El and Temple Israel, Foundation of the Jewish Community, and was a member of the Board of

Directors of Temple Beth El. She also served on the boards of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Mental Health Association.

What do all these things have to do with being an editor, you might ask? Simply, everything! The mix of her background, coupled with her interests and commitment to family and the community are essential to her view and the scope of that view. In that context, Rita has performed a service to the Jewish community that created a magic all its own and she will continue her brand of legerdemain in whatever she does.

Gratitude all too often is left unspoken, generally because our attention doesn't have to be diverted to think about activities that are running smoothly. Rita's magic made that smoothness happen. From every Jewish organization you wrote for and about during these past 16 years, and for every reader you kept informed over these past 16 years, thank you Rita Mond! May the magic you started continue to flourish as *The Charlotte Jewish News* embarks on a new beginning. Abbracadabra!

## Irene Opdyke, Righteous Gentile to Speak At CJF Women's Division Program

Judy Kaufmann and Ann Langman, cochairs of the Women's Division Education Committee of the Charlotte Jewish Federation, are proud to announce a very special program to be held Sunday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m., at Temple Beth El.

Guest speaker, Polish-born Irene Opdyke, hid 12 Jews in the basement of a villa belonging to a German major for whom she did housekeeping during WWII. During those years, she risked her life many times to aid Jews, even though it was considered a capital crime, punishable by death. She is one of 5,000



Irene Opdyke

individuals in the world recognized for bravery during the

Holocaust.

At the war's end, she was interred in a displaced person's camp in Germany. She left Europe in 1949 and came to New York City without skills, friends, family or financial support. Since that time, Opdyke has become a U.S. citizen and settled in California where she is active in civic and community affairs. In recognition of her wartime heroism, she was awarded the Medal of Honor by Yad Vashem in Jerusalem in 1982. She also earned international acclaim through the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous, and has been awarded the title of "Righteous," given to Gentiles who risked their lives to save Jews.

Ms. Opdyke is a vibrant and dynamic personality who travels constantly to satisfy speaking engagements. Committee members, Dorothy Ashendorf, Alice Buxbaum, Wendy Hennes, Susie Lepow, Linda Levy, Nancy Tarbis, Marilyn Tuckman, Marci Willenzik and Women's Division Chairman, Sara Schreiber, cordially invite the entire community to attend this event. It is free and open to the public. Please RSVP to Audrey Krakovitz, Federation staff associate, 366-5007, ext. 209.

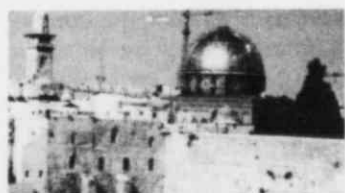
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## JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

### Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 10  
Gorelick Hall, Shalom Park  
9:30 A.M.

The Nominating Committee has recommended the following people to serve as Members of the Board for a **three year** period ending in 1997:

Lynne Sheffer	Butch Rosen
Diane Schwartz	Milton Tager
Norman Levin	Jonathan Goldberg
Judie Van Glish	Gary Silverstein

Also recommended for a **two year** period ending in 1996:

Mark Lerner	Todd Gorelick
Evelyn Berger*	Ron Weiner*

Also recommended for a **one year** period ending in 1995:

Jack Levinson	Phil Solomon
Adam Bernstein	Shel Goldstein*

\*Elected by Board during 1993, recommended to complete term.

Recommended to serve as officers for 1994/1995:

President: Harry Lerner (one year term)  
V. President: Rich Osborne (President Elect)  
V. President: Sara Schreiber  
V. President: David Swimmer  
Secretary: Paul Edelstein  
Treasurer: Allan Oxman