

# PERSPECTIVES

by Harvey Cohen

## To Drink or Not to Drink, That is the Question!

This month's editorial cartoon relates to an article that appeared in the May 23, 1995 Charlotte Observer. It seems that an analysis of a survey taken in Los Angeles and New Haven, Connecticut, found that within a one year period, 13% of Jewish men suffered from major depression as compared with 5.4% of non-Jewish men. In contrast, another result of the survey found that Jewish men had a 2.8% rate of alcoholism as opposed to 14% for non-Jewish men. Dr. Itzak Levav of Brown University in Providence, R.I. said, "...maybe in cultures that do not use drinking as an outlet for release of tension, sadness and distress, those things show up as depression."

Whoa, wait a minute! Does that mean if Jewish men drank a little more they would be less depressed? What a choice! Drink and be happy; don't drink and be depressed.

What about Jewish women? The survey found Jewish women did not show unusually high rates of depression. How's this for an idea? Instead of depressed Jewish men turning to drink to relieve their depression, how about turning to their wives or sweethearts for comfort and understanding? That seems like a healthier alternative to me.

# Federation Connection

## 1995 Annual Campaign A Big Success

The 1995 Annual Campaign has closed. We have pledged \$1.347 million to support the many recipient organizations here and abroad. This represents a 4.8% increase over the funds pledged in 1994. My thanks go to all those who participated in the campaign. Many stretched generously to give dollars that don't come easily. Special thanks also go to Sara Schreiber, campaign chair, for all of her commitment and effort. Sara, of course, was supported by a terrific group of volunteers and our small, but dedicated staff. The big payoff for all of us comes this fall when our community can allocate these newly pledged dollars, so they go to work for all of us in 1996.

Federation facilitates, plans and raises funds. It identifies needs, provides encouragement and resources, but we typically don't think of Federation itself as directly providing services. This generalization is true, but, like most generalizations, misses some key exceptions.

The Federation Services Committee, chaired by Diane Schwartz and co-chaired by Jack Levinson, coordinates the committees and groups which offer many services and activities in our community. These include *Shalom Y'all*, *New Federation Generation*, *Charlotte Jewish News*, *Speizman Jewish Library*, *Uptowners* and *CLAL*. Some of these activities require only a few hours each month from a handful of volunteers and staff; others have dedicated staff and substantial volunteer support. None occurs spontaneously. If you have thoughts on any of these services or would like to participate in delivering them, Diane and Jack would be very glad to hear from you.

Todd Gorelick chairs the Israeli Programming Committee. This committee replaces the Mis-



Rich Osborne  
Federation President

sions Committee which Todd chaired last year. Todd has renamed the committee to better reflect the broader range of activities with which it is involved. Todd has (in the midst of becoming a first time father- Mazel Tov!) helped coordinate a visit to Charlotte in May by the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce. The Committee also seeks to encourage more travel to Israel, on UJA missions, of course, but also in other venues, sponsored either locally or by other national Zionist or religious groups. Todd too would love to hear from you if you're interested in interactions with or travel to Israel.

I hope everyone has a great summer.

Rich Osborne  
President

## Letters to the Editor



Whether you are a Jewish War Veteran (JWV) member or not, you will be interested to know that the organization has a stamp distribution program. As a post, if we send the national JWV headquarters as many stamps as we can assemble, they will distribute them among patients at VA hospitals, to the handicapped, the homebound and to stamp clubs in schools.

May I please ask that you clip all the stamps from letters you receive from here and abroad and send them to me about the first of each month. Many duplicates are welcome. I, in turn, will forward all the stamps received to national headquarters where they will be distributed.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Rabbi Israel J. Gerber

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### CJP Trip to Israel

In remembrance of the great teacher, Rabbi Akiva, Lag B'Omer is a time to show appreciation for all teachers. The Charlotte Jewish Preschool teachers were each presented with a pin inscribed "Dedicated to Caring." The teachers had also been honored by the PTO earlier that day with a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.



Scott Brander put his special wish in the Walling Wall.

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### Anne Frank Diary

"The Diary of a Young Girl," by Anne Frank. In addition, the documentary includes remarkable, thought-to-be-lost film footage of Anne Frank herself.

To capture Anne's story fully, "Anne Frank Remembered" relies exclusively on the eyewitness accounts of those who knew her best - her family, friends, relatives, classmates, and finally, her fellow concentration camp inmates. Many of these interviews are conducted at the original sites where the events took place, including Anne's school and the secret hiding place in Amsterdam, as well as transit camp Westerbork and death camps Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, where Anne Frank died about three weeks before the camp was liberated.

"Anne Frank Remembered" is the first production made with the

complete cooperation of The Anne Frank House Amsterdam, which has provided the filmmakers with access to the secret annex in which Anne and seven others went into hiding when the Nazis stepped up their persecution of the Jews in 1942. Filmmaker Jon Blair also received first-ever permission to restore the furnishings of the annex to what it had been when the Franks were in hiding.

Among the eyewitnesses interviewed is Miep Gies, who was an employee of Anne's father Otto and served as a primary lifeline for those hiding in the annex. In one of the special's most moving moments, Mrs. Gies comes face-to-face for the first time with Peter Pepper, the grateful son of Dr. Fritz Pfeffer, one of those whom she sheltered.

In addition, the film reveals Otto Frank's post-liberation letters that have only recently been discovered and have never before been seen or heard by the public.

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