

# PERSPECTIVES

by Harvey Cohen

## Writers and Their Thoughts Plus a Guideline for You

*Editors note: My column this month is in two parts and, as the headline tells you, is about writers and writing. Part Two contains a message for all writers who contribute to the CJN, whether for their organization or as an individual.*

### Part One

Given the choice, if you'd rather have a root canal done than write for publication, don't worry, there's nothing wrong with you. You've got lots of company. And with that thought in mind, I felt you might find some comfort in the words of other writers about writing.

*Writing is easy; all you do is sit staring at a blank sheet of paper until the drops of blood form on your forehead.* - Gene Fowler

*I write to find out what I'm talking about.* - Albert Albee

*It took me fifteen years to discover I had no talent for writing, but I couldn't give it up because by that time I was too famous.* - Robert Benchley

*Remember, we writers have a rare power not given to anyone else; we can bore people long after we are dead.* - Sinclair Lewis

The first two quotations are more meaningful to me than the last two. I doubt that I will ever become famous for my writing. That being the case, my writings will not live beyond my own self. I do, however, sometimes put things down on paper to be sure that what I'm trying to convey is clear.

Now, as to the drops of blood, I haven't been quite there yet, but I have felt the pressure of trying to write something for this newspaper, or a script, for example, with the deadline upon me and the project far from completion. My stress level goes up along with my blood pressure. For me, deadlines are a way of life and I learned how to live with them and conform to them years ago.

Part Two deals with an important topic - a CJN deadline. I know, it's like another root canal for you. Read it anyhow.

### Part Two

OK, all you writers who send material to the CJN for publication. Part Two is for you.

You may have the job of resident writer for your organization, a job you really don't want, but being the good soul that you are, you do it anyhow. Or, you may just be sending a wedding announcement to the paper and don't write anything on a regular basis. In either circumstance, you worry about spelling, about grammar and punctuation. The last thing you may worry about is whether or not your material gets to the CJN office in time for publication. I realize that because you're busy or you've been out of town or ill, or something else, CJN may not be on the top of your mind. That, however, can't change the newspaper's deadline.

Most people and organizations know and respect our deadline of the 10th of the month preceding publication and for that I thank you. One thing I've not done clearly in the past is spell out the deadline policy when the 10th of the month falls on a Saturday or Sunday. So, here is the policy to cover that situation. **Regardless of which weekend day the 10th falls on, your deadline is the Friday before at 5:00 p.m.** If I receive material on the following Monday, it probably won't appear in the next issue.

Enforcing these deadlines is important if the newspaper is to be produced and delivered on a timely basis. But there's another factor most people don't think about.

As you might imagine, a great deal of planning goes into the preparation and production of this newspaper. Any delay in executing the plan forces an army of people you never see to be delayed. The company that prints the newspaper is on a timetable, therefore we're on a timetable based on their production schedule.

I'm writing about deadlines in this column simply because it's the best way to reach everyone at one time who contributes to the newspaper.

I don't like deadlines any more than you, but they are a fact of life that can't be ignored.

## Letters to



## the Editor

Dear Editor,

We are writing to express our dismay at your choice of editorial cartoons for the September, 1995 issue of the Charlotte Jewish News. Mr. Jim Hunt's choice of metaphors to express the concern of the Jewish community regarding the impact of interfaith marriage upon American Jewish life and faith is misguided at best. His depiction of a broken hourglass with the "sand of interfaith marriage running out, thus depleting the Jewish faith, reflects an unfortunate attitude. In fact, there are many interfaith families who have chosen to include themselves within the Jewish community and to affirm the Jewish faith in their families.

Temple Beth El, the Reform Jewish congregation in Charlotte, strongly takes issue with the position of this cartoon. The interfaith families within our Jewish community represent a rich and valuable resource to all of us. We can offer numerous examples of such families who have contributed of their time, money and commitment to the Jewish faith and the Jewish community.

If we devote our energy to welcoming all who wish to be a part of our Jewish community and who choose to include themselves in our midst, we may discover a rich resource as yet largely untapped. We invite the larger Jewish community to join with the Reform community in doing so, thus strengthening our entire community.

As a partner in Shalom Park, Temple Beth El expects the Charlotte Jewish News to be representative of all elements of the Charlotte Jewish Community.

Sincerely,  
James M. Bennett, Rabbi  
Temple Beth El  
Mitch Rifkin, President  
Temple Beth El

## Federation Connection

At its August meeting, the Board of the Federation elected the following community leaders to two year terms on the Allocations Committee: **Harriet Aliweiss, Anita Blumenthal, Bill Gorelick, Bob Haber, Nancy Kipnis, Marcia Simon and Mike Van Glish.** **Bobbi Bernstein** was elected to fill the remaining year of a vacant two year term. They join **Shel Goldstein, Stacy Gorelick,**

campaign cabinet, including **Phyllis Schiffman, President, Women's Division; Bob Speizman, chair of Major Gifts Division; Todd Gorelick and David Swimmer, Co-chairs of Chazak Division (\$3,600-\$9,999); Alan and Ruth Goldberg, Nancy Kipnis and Jack Levinson, Co-chairs of Pacesetter Division; Jon Goldberg, Craig Katzman, Alison Lerner and Donna Lerner, Co-chairs of the \$365-\$1,249 Division; Andy Dinkin, Cindy Fox, Mark Lerner and Alison Levinson, Co-chairs of Telepledge; and Dan and Stacy Levinson, Co-chairs of Super Sunday.**

Should these or other campaign workers call upon you to help with the 19% Annual Campaign, please try to respond. People give for perceived needs, but they give to other people. We need your help if we are to raise the moneys necessary to fund the programs and services that our Jewish community should and must have.

Finally, a word about staffing: Federation staff is working hard to assure that staffing changes do not affect Federation programs. While we continue to search for a new full-time Executive Director, **Adrienne Rosenberg, Director of JFS, has assumed the responsibility of Acting Executive Director Lou Wernick and Vicki Hopkins have joined the staff as part-time support for campaign and Federation services, respectively.** We will miss **Audrey Krakovitz** and wish her well in her future endeavors and are very grateful to **Adrienne and staff** for their continued hard work under tough conditions.



**Rich Osborne**  
Federation President

**Mark Lerner, Phyllis Schiffman, Eric Sklut and Milt Tager** who are serving the second year of their two year terms. The Board is very pleased to have such a terrific group of community-minded leaders helping to decide how to allocate the funds raised in the 1995 Annual Campaign. The Committee is chaired by **Sara Schreiberman** and I serve as ex-officio

Meanwhile, the 1996 Annual Campaign is moving toward launch with Federation/UJA Shabbat on December 8-9. **Brn Gorelick and Jill Newman** have recruited a great

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