

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

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## Been There, Done That!

*Editor's Note: Last month's Perspectives column related the story of a Wilmington, Delaware family who opted for practical, useful Bimah decorations for their son's Bar Mitzvah instead of flowers. The story brought the following response from the Frank family of Charlotte:*

My wife and I read with interest your January 1996 *Perspectives* Editorial. You lauded the decision of a Wilmington, Delaware family who wisely chose designer food baskets instead of flowers as Bimah decorations for their son's Bar Mitzvah ceremony. The well made point of your editorial is Charlotte youth should be inspired to emulate this effort.

Let me share with you what one Charlotte youth did this past

parents to his standards and requested "payment" for the savings they realized.

The food, toiletries and other items were then taken by the now young man and his family to the Women's and Children's Shelter in Charlotte. The balloon decorations were taken to a local senior citizens home to brighten the residents' days.

After his Bar Mitzvah ceremony the young man continued to



Joel Frank pictured with his Bar Mitzvah Bimah decorations at the Women's and Children's Center

spring and summer as part of his Bar Mitzvah preparation: This boy cut grass and performed odd jobs in his neighborhood. He requested payment in non-perishable foodstuffs, toiletries, disposable diapers, etc. He made his clients aware of his "mission" and they were generous. Some of the results of the boy's efforts were put into baskets, decorated modestly and put on the Bimah when he became a Bar Mitzvah. Other smaller items and toiletries were cleverly incorporated into centerpieces for the celebratory events. The boy, of course, held his

do odd jobs, etc. but asked now to be paid in cash for spending money. He regularly and faithfully put a bit of his earnings into a "pushke" and recently donated the contents to Jewish Family Services.

Our purpose for writing to you is to tell you it is not necessary to look hundreds of miles north to learn about young people with character, commitment and responsibility. We know because we live around the corner and we are telling you about our son, Joel.

Mel and Caren Frank

## A Skilled Peres Faces Challenges and Opportunities

By Dr. Kenneth W. Stein

When Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated two months ago, Israel was in the midst of normalizing its internal and external condition as a state. Shimon Peres assumes rule over a bustling economy, a divergent people running at a frenetic pace, and in the midst of making peace with Arab neighbors. Israel is traveling into uncharted waters without outsiders determining whether and what Israel should be. It is novel in Jewish history for Jews

to select choices without someone else saying you can not.

Enormous challenge and unlimited opportunity face Peres. He must develop a renewed trust from an Israeli public that already respects his distinguished record of public service, but has doubts about Peres whether he can be tough enough in negotiating acceptable agreements with Syria and the PLO. He needs to finalize those relations

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## Lion's Luncheon Kicks Off 1996 Women's Division Campaign

### New Lion of Judah and "Lion Cubs" Inducted

The Lions Luncheon for the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's annual Women's Campaign was held on January 4 at the home of Harry and Gloria Lerner. The Lions Division is chaired by Bobbi Bernstein and co-chaired by Lee Blumenthal.

"I am so pleased that the luncheon was held in the Lerner home

"This passage, written more than 2000 years ago, seems as timely to our recipient as if it were written for her today. I know of few women who can accurately be described as a woman of valor but Mattye demonstrates all these outstanding qualities: courage, compassion, generosity and commitment to the highest ideals of Judaism. This woman of valor, Mattye,

\$5000 to the campaign) included a special group of contributors with minimum gifts of \$1800.

"Today is unique in the history of Charlotte's Women's Division. We have started for the first time, our "Lion Cub" Division. I am pleased to report that we have 8 new gifts of \$1800 as of today and there are 9 other women in the commu-



(l-r) Lee Blumenthal, Lion's Division Co-Chair, Betty Kane, National Chairman UJA-Women's Division and Bobbi Bernstein, Lion's Division Chair

because Gloria and Harry have both played such vital leadership roles in our community," said Bobbi Bernstein. During the luncheon she also announced that the event was being underwritten by Mr. and Mrs. Lerner.

In other exciting news, Mattye Silverman was welcomed as a new Lion of Judah woman and presented with a Lion of Judah pin. Bobbi Bernstein welcomed Mattye to the Lion of Judah family reciting the following quote from the Book of Proverbs, "A woman of valor, who can find? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her and he hath no lack of gain".



(l) Jill Newman, Co-Chair '96 Campaign and Betty Kane

is praised because she 'feareth the Lord.'

"She is prized because of her service to others, most particularly to her husband, and she is seen as an important and effective member of her community, both needed and appreciated."

"This year the luncheon (which is usually held for women contributing a minimum gift of

nity who are already giving a minimum gift of \$1800."

Each woman at the luncheon in this division was presented with a special Lion Cub pin designed here in Charlotte.

"We look forward to including other women in this division during future campaigns," said Jill Newman, Campaign Co-chair and new Lion Cub member.



Mattye Silverman-New Lion of Judah