

## CJN Has New Editor

—Cynthia Chapman

Some of our readers, especially those in other states, will be surprised to learn that Harvey Cohen is no longer the editor of this newspaper. It was with regret that the Executive Board of *The Charlotte Jewish News* accepted his resignation. Mr. Cohen is now focusing his attention on his advertising business, Prime Communications, and we wish him all the best.

Harvey became editor two years ago and helped the newspaper move into the computer age. As editor, he brought a new focus on modern graphics to the paper. He also fulfilled a mandate from the Board and the Federation; he cut production costs. We are grateful for his contributions. He built on the legacy left by Ann Langman and Rita Mond who began the paper as a labor of love years ago.

Because *The CJN* has always been seen as a communication vehicle for the community, the cost of the paper is underwritten by the Federation. Revenue from advertisers is essential as well. But as we all know, the demands on community budgets and organizations continue to grow and this newspaper is no exception. The Executive Board of the paper

continues to struggle with production costs versus revenue. Quality and content are concerns as well.

Permit me to introduce myself as the new editor. My name is Cynthia Chapman. Some of you know me from my associations here several years ago with Temple Israel, a havurah group, adult education classes at the JCC and my poetry published in *The American Jewish Times Outlook*. I return from over two years in Pennsylvania to the Jewish community I love. I am grateful to have the chance to be the editor of the paper which has always served as my own personal link to this community. As the editor, I need your help; the paper needs your help.

*The CJN* needs your advertising support, your voluntary subscriptions and your input to be the community lifeline we would like it to be. You need to be my eyes and ears. I can't include any news in the next issue if I don't know about it or I don't get it in time. Thank you to all who submit information, especially those who are our links with organizations throughout our Jewish community. I can't do it without you. Please feel free to call or send in information. I look forward to hearing from you.

## Guidelines for Submissions to The Charlotte Jewish News

—The CJN Executive Board

- All Jewish community organizations are invited and encouraged to submit timely articles to *The CJN* monthly.
- The deadline for receipt of articles for *The CJN* is the 10th of the month preceding the issue.
- Articles must be typewritten.
- Suggested length of articles is between 500 and 700 words.
- Editing of the articles is at the discretion of the editor.
- Photos are welcome, preferably black and white.

POINT OF VIEW COLUMN WILL RETURN NEXT MONTH!

**Deadline for the  
September Issue of  
Charlotte Jewish News  
August 9th!**

### The Charlotte Jewish News

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## One Voice . . . Segulah

—Cynthia Chapman, Editor

I started studying Hebrew at the JCC with Amalia on my way toward conversion. I remember struggling to see the differences between the resh (r) and the dalet (d). (I still have problems.) I also remember the excitement I felt when I learned something that had resonance for me, such as suddenly recognizing on the page a word I knew the sound of (because I had heard it in services at temple).

One of my favorite things was for Amalia to explain the lines and translate them word for word. Hebrew and American English have a different structure and syntax. Suddenly, things would have more meaning and clarity for me. One word, and her translation of it, stuck with me

and that word is "segulah."

Amalia explained it means "unique" although one most often finds it translated as "chosen." We Jews are unique in our historic relationship with Torah, with G-d, with the world at large, and with each other. And for me, a convert to Judaism, it seems that no other word best describes my own path or my role as editor of *The CJN*.

I am, after all, the first Jew by Choice to serve in this capacity. I came to Jewish life through intellectual and spiritual pursuit. I gained a sense of community and connection with history that I never found anywhere else in the world. I am different from many of you in this regard. You who were born Jewish have different experiences than I do. You who

converted because of marriage to a Jew have a different experience from me as well.

But, the reality of human existence is that we are all unique, all individuals. We live within the larger community but none of us is exactly like someone else. This is true even of twins. How can we human beings share so many experiences and yet have such different perspectives? As an old joke says, if you have two Jews, you can get three opinions.

That is why I decided to call my column "One Voice... Segulah." That is all it is, my voice, unique in some ways, and very similar in some ways to your own voices. Now you know something about me, nu? So, go ahead, read the rest of the paper already!

## Religious Absentee Voting Bill Ratified

—Cynthia Chapman

An important piece of legislation has been approved by the North Carolina General Assembly. The law regarding absentee voting has been amended to permit people to vote on an absentee ballot for religious reasons. Senator Leslie Winner is a member of Temple Beth El and was instrumental in bringing this legislation before the General Assembly. As Senator Winner noted, it is a small step in favor of religious pluralism.

The change made to General Statute 163-226(a) permits an absentee vote to be cast by the voter who, because of the obser-

vance of a religious holiday pursuant to the tenets of the voter's religion, will be unable to cast a ballot at the polling place on the day of the election. This means that if an election falls on a religious holiday that people who wish to do so may vote via absentee ballot.

This became an issue of community concern when a Charlotte City Council primary election fell on the second day of Rosh Hashannah. When it became clear that absentee voting would not be allowed for this election, Rabbi Murray Ezring of Temple Israel filed a lawsuit. Jews who did not want to engage in secular activi-

ties on the religious holiday needed the right to vote absentee. A federal judge allowed the absentee voting for that primary and Leslie Winner promised to follow up by pursuing legislation to change the situation.

This legal change is certainly a significant step forward for all people who understand the importance of religious pluralism and freedom. Senator Winner commented that the response of members of the legislature to the need for change was "very heartening."

Our community's thanks go to Senator Winner and those who made the passage of the legislation a reality.

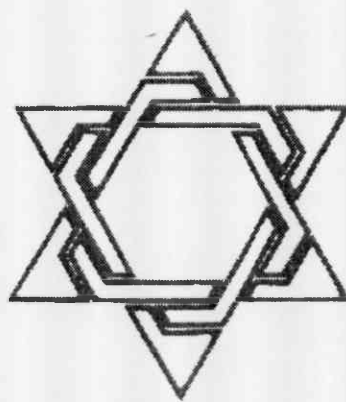
## The Big News:

-- Cynthia Chapman

June was a big month in the news for Jews. *The Charlotte Jewish News* office mailbox was stuffed with responses to the Israeli election, the Southern Baptist Convention and church burnings in the South.

Jews and Christians alike reacted to the resolution passed at the Southern Baptist Convention to redouble efforts to convert Jews to Christianity. Abraham Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League, angered by the Convention's attitude, stated that, "Black churches are burning while the Convention fiddles with a resolution to convert Jews." Reverend Billy Graham responded. The letters to *The Charlotte Observer* made for lively reading.

One of my friends here in Charlotte, a woman who has in-depth knowledge of both Jewish and Christian scripture, told me her response to Christian missionaries is clear. "Do you



believe G-d is a liar?" she asks. Of course the missionary will respond with a resounding no. "Then there is no need for Jews to convert. It says in the Bible that G-d made an everlasting covenant with the Jewish people. Either G-d still upholds that covenant or G-d is a liar," she continues. This has proven very

effective in ending the discussion.

Leaders of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jews around the U.S. united in their condemnation of church burnings in the South. Funds are being collected by each major group to help rebuild churches. The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding in New York established a fund, "From the Ashes," to help rebuild *Mattews - Murckland* Presbyterian Church in Charlotte which was burned on June 6.

The burning of any religious structure is offensive to people of conscience. For Jews in particular it evokes memories of The Night of Broken Glass in Germany, when synagogues were burned as the Nazi regime flexed its powerful muscles, and the twice-destroyed Temple in Jerusalem. So we wish for the churches—may your houses of worship be speedily rebuilt in our days.

## -- Letters to the Editor --

Dear Editor:

Showtime in conjunction with Paramount Pictures is producing a movie based on the life of Dr. Gisella Perl, a survivor of the Holocaust. Originally from Sighet, Hungary, Dr. Perl aided many of her fellow inmates while imprisoned in Auschwitz (1944-1945) and Bergen-Belsen (just prior to liberation). She lost nearly all of her family to the Nazi death camps.

Sponsored by the United Jewish Appeal and the Joint Distribution Council, she came to America where she helped to raise funds for her fellow refugees. She was eventually granted permanent citizenship by President Truman, through the help of Rep. Sol Bloom (NY) among others. Dr. Perl set up her private medical practice on Fifth Avenue in

NYC and always remained involved with many fellow survivors - some of whom she knew during the war. She was involved with Mt. Sinai Hospital in NY and later, when she moved to Israel in the early 1980's, she worked with The Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem. Dr. Perl passed away on December 16, 1988.

It is in the interest of doing justice to Dr. Perl's story that we ask for a response from any reader who knew her. Contact us at: (818) 265 - 8404 or E-mail at [MMAGUS@aol.com](mailto:MMAGUS@aol.com). Letters may be sent to: 1549 Riverside Drive No. 4, Glendale, CA 91201

In appreciation,  
Marcia Magus  
Showtime Entertainment Group