

## Volunteer of the Month

by Linda Levy



Each issue, this column features a volunteer from one or more of the many groups, agencies or organizations that add to the quality of life of the Charlotte Jewish community. This month the column is pleased to feature

### Irving Mond.

Irving Mond is a familiar face around the Jewish Community Center. Nominated by Charlotte Jewish Preschool Director Debbie Block, Irving Mond volunteers in many different capacities. He assists the disabled youngsters at the Preschool and other J programs. He is never doing just one thing. Just watch him in action as he takes one kid swimming, talks with the group and treats them to ice cream while entertaining them.

What else does he do as a volunteer? He does routine tasks like driving mobility-impaired members of the community to doctor's appointments, shopping and services at Temple Israel. He was active with the Russian resettlement program in our community. He speaks about the Holocaust in Charlotte area schools and churches. He also takes on special assignments such as tutoring a pre-Bar Mitzvah student newly arrived in Charlotte.

He has taught Hebrew to recent converts to Judaism. He participates in Operation Snowflake, a program in which Jews volunteer during Christmas in area hospitals so regular hospital staff can spend the holiday with their families. What can you say about a man who volunteers in the Carolinas Medical Center emergency room on Christmas Day? It would come as no surprise if Irving were telling stories and making jokes about Santa showing up if he wrecked his sleigh. Anyone who knows Irving Mond knows he loves to tell a story and a joke.

When Mr. Mond is serious, it is often about the Holocaust. When asked why he volunteers, Irving explained, "I don't look for glory. I am a survivor of the Holocaust, grateful that God let me live. I can't forget. When I speak at the schools, I get an unbelievable reaction. I encourage students to study and remind them that the next ten years of their lives are the most important." Irving points out to the students, "If you don't study, you'll be nothing."

A-popular speaker, Irving's 1996-97 school year speaking calendar is rapidly filling up! Sometimes Irving gets paid for his speaking engagements and when he does, he donates the money to Habitat for Humanity. His volunteer effort then has a double benefit.

Mr. Mond retired about eight years ago as a sales executive for one of the leading women's cosmetics manufacturers. He's been busy volunteering all eight years. "There's so much to do," he explained. "We have to help each other, and unfortunately, there are very few people who help," he commented.

Irving is married to Rita Mond, the Advertising Coordinator for *The Charlotte Jewish News*. For sixteen years Rita edited of the newspaper. It was a real labor of love for years because Rita volunteered her services as editor before getting paid. Irving also volunteered for the newspaper and made many trips with Rita to the printing company.

The Monds have three grown children and three young granddaughters. Sons Jered and Darren live in Charlotte. Daughter Jodi resides in Atlanta and was formerly the Director of Fund Raising for the Atlanta Chapter of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation. Jodi is now a stay-at-home mom.

Irving was thoughtful as the interview concluded. "We need many more volunteers to help in the world. There are so many sick and poor people. We can do much good by helping."

We salute you, Irving Mond—a diversified volunteer! May you go from strength to strength.

# The Charlotte Yiddish Institute

Sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Charlotte, NC

**Celebrating our 18th Season  
August 15-18, 1996  
Wildacres Retreat at  
Little Switzerland, NC  
It's our "Chai" year - Come  
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Featuring an Outstanding Faculty: **Dr. Chava Lapin**, highly acclaimed lecturer on East European and Jewish culture; teaching positions at Queens College, Yeshiva Univ., Columbia Univ., Moscow Univ., National Director, Center for Cultural Life at the Workmen's Circle, N.Y.

**Zalmen Mtlotek**, noted Jewish musical authority, orchestral and choral director, musical conductor of Broadway productions, gifted pianist and singer.

**Michael Alpert**, multi talented musician and folk dancer, founding member of "Kapelye" and "Brave Old World" klezmer bands, who brought klezmer musicians to Eastern Europe, touring with Itzhak Perlman.

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The Charlotte Yiddish Institute is open to men and women knowledgeable in the Yiddish language and dedicated to enhancing their knowledge in a culturally stimulating, heymish atmosphere.

Enjoy nature walks and scenic splendor at the Wildacres Retreat, a mountaintop conference

center of 1400 acres set in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina, at 3300 feet elevation. Wildacres is devoted to the betterment of human understanding. Its facilities are administered by the Blumenthal Foundation and operate on a nonprofit basis. The Wildacres Retreat is located 112 miles from Charlotte, approximately a three-hour drive.

**Arrival and Registration:**  
Thursday, August 15, 1996  
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Departure:**  
Sunday, August 18, 1996  
11:00 a.m.

**Fees:** \$235 per person (double occupancy only). The fee covers tuition, room, kosher meals, and gratuities. Full fees must accompany registration.

**Guest Rooms:** All rooms have a private bath and are located in two

modern lodges with a scenic mountain view.

**Cancellation Policy:** Full fees will be refunded if cancellation is made before July 24, 1996. An administration charge of \$50.00 will be charged on all late cancellations.

**Transportation:** Van transportation available from the Charlotte airport to the Wildacres Retreat, approximately a three-hour drive. Cost is \$50 round-trip, per person. Please include payment with registration. A van departs from Charlotte airport at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on August 15 and will return to the Charlotte airport at 4:00 p.m. on August 18.

For additional information contact: **Baila Pransky, Coordinator** (704) 366-5564; **Zalman Tulman, Reservations and Travel Information** (704) 541-1803; **Liebe Pollard, Reservations** (704) 366-7846.

### 1996 Charlotte Yiddish Institute Reservation Form

Please enter registration for \_\_\_ person(s) listed below for the 1996 Charlotte Yiddish Institute at Wildacres, August 15-18, 1996.

Full payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$235 per person Institute fee)

Full payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$50 per person Transportation fee)

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names in English and Yiddish: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your check made payable to: **Charlotte Yiddish Institute/JCC, 5007 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.**

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