

# CAJE



## Charlotte Jewish Historical Society Featured in New Tourist Brochure

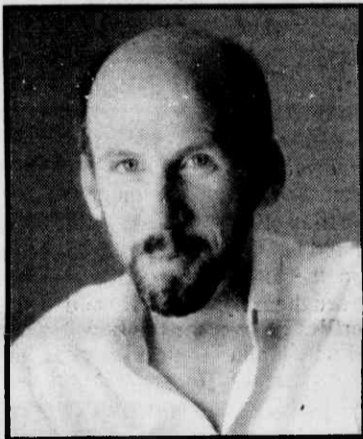
The Charlotte Jewish Historical Society is one of seven local history resources and nineteen area historic museums and sites, featured in a new tourist brochure published by the Charlotte Regional History Consortium. The Charlotte Jewish Historical Society, a project of the Carolina Agency for Jewish Education, is a founding member of the Regional History Consortium whose mission is to promote cooperation among and interest in the region's history organizations and resources. Founded in 1994, the

Consortium's geographic region covers 13 counties in the metrolina area. The new publication is funded by a grant awarded to the Consortium by the Charlotte Convention and Visitors Bureau. Free copies of the brochure are available in the CAJE Resource Center at Shalom Park, or at various racks and stands around the area, at welcome centers and other visitor facilities, including the member museums, resources and history sites. ✪

## Seeing Shavuot In A New Light

By Leonard Felder, Ph.D.

Eleven years ago my wife Linda Schorin and I got married. In addition to the traditional Ketubah (wedding contract), we wrote our own vows about our intentions to listen to each other patiently, that we would help one another grow spiritually and emotionally, and that we promised to set aside time each week and each month to make sure we relaxed and had fun together. Fortunately, we've taken a few moments each year on our wedding anniversary to look at these vows and see how we're living up to them. We both realize our promises to each other have to be reviewed often — or else we'll slip back into old habits or take each other for granted.



Leonard Felder, Ph.D.

I had never thought of Shavuot as a wedding anniversary for the marriage between God and God's people until several years ago when I was doing research for a book about the deeper meanings and daily applications of the Ten Commandments. I found that in several ancient and modern rabbinic commentaries, and especially in the mystical Kabbalistic teachings, there are numerous references to Shavuot as the anniversary day on which we reexamine our vows and ground rules on how to be in a loving partnership with the Divine Presence. The 16th Century Kabbalists of Safed described the all-night study of Torah passages on the eve of Shavuot as similar to a bride preparing to enter into a great wedding of souls the next day, just like we entered into an eternal partnership at Sinai approximately 3,500 years ago.

What are the vows and useful ideas we need to look at and study each year in order to have a healthy relationship with God and to be God's loving partner in repairing this broken world? Clearly Jewish tradition says we should review the Ten Commandments each year on Shavuot to see what will make our connection to God meaningful and strong.

When I was growing up in the 1950's and 1960's in Detroit, I didn't really understand the Ten Commandments. All those harsh

"Thou shalt nots" in the English King James translation felt rigid and antiquated. But when I was in college a psychology professor told me, "If you truly want to understand what human beings struggle with in their daily lives, look at the Ten Commandments. We all have difficulties with honoring one or both of our parents. Nearly every person has feelings of jealousy and coveting, where we compare our looks, our kids, our creativity, or our income and comforts to someone else's. Most of us get tempted at some point by someone who seems more attractive, alive or supportive than our own spouse. Many of us struggle with the need to experience a healing and spiritually uplifting Shabbat each week but we sometimes feel like we can't quite let go of certain chores or get our minds to stop worrying, planning or thinking about our jobs. In addition, a great number of people are afflicted by the idols and distractions of modern life — too much TV, too much drugs or alcohol, or a problem with overeating. These ten ideas on how to live peacefully are not outdated relics but the very issues that almost everyone struggles with on a daily basis."

That got me curious and for 23 years I've been studying with numerous rabbis and scholars how to appreciate the daily usefulness of these ten challenging vows on how to live a

(Continued on page 24)

## New Videos in the CAJE Resource Center

The new CAJE membership year begins July 1. Join today and get an extra month free to enjoy the best and most complete Judaic video library in the Carolinas. (And the most complete Jewish music collection, Jewish games, posters and other media materials!) Family memberships begin at only \$18 a year and entitles the member to unlimited borrowing privileges throughout the school year, 1997-1998. Such a bargain. Give the gift that keeps on giving by presenting a CAJE membership as a gift: the gift of Jewish education in your home for you and your children. Acknowledgement cards are promptly sent out announcing your special present to the recipient. All CAJE memberships are tax deductible donations. Special premium awards are given to contributors at the \$100 or more level. Call for the details, 366-5007, ext. 272.

The newest videos on the shelf, ready for borrowing include:

**For Kids**  
Alef Bet Blastoff Series (6 videos, 1/2-hour each) for kids of all ages (Lights of Freedom, One Big Family, Fixing the World, You've Come To The Right Place, A Chanukah Mitzvah, Whale of A New Year).

Shirim K'Tanim (#1, #7), music from Israel for kids of all ages performed by Uzi Chitman.  
**For Adults**  
Jewish American Patriots (75 min.)  
World of Sholom Aleichem (75 min.) ✪

**SWIMMER INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.**

*Providing Personal & Commercial Insurance In Charlotte For Over 43 Years*

DAVID SWIMMER  
CRAIG KATZMAN  
HARRY SWIMMER  
.....  
BRUCE KANTOR  
LIFE & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

725 PROVIDENCE ROAD · CHARLOTTE, NC 28207  
704/333-6694 · FAX 704/333-3864  
WATS 800/438-4933



Mercedes-Benz E320

## Live the Legend.

**A Legendary Car, Without The Legendary Price.**

It takes time to make a legend. Years of quality workmanship. Years of design breakthroughs. Years of safety study and modifications.

It took years of perfection to make the 1997 Mercedes-Benz E-Class. But Beck Imports of the Carolinas doesn't think it should take years of saving to own one. Come test drive the E320 and find out how to live the legend of a Mercedes-Benz E-Class without the legendary price.



Exclusively Mercedes-Benz

5141 E. INDEPENDENCE BLVD. CHARLOTTE, NC 28212 704.535.6400  
http://www.becknc.com