

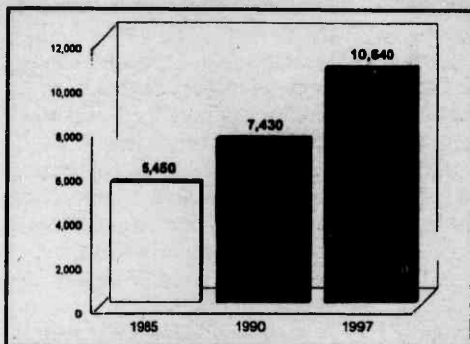
# The Charlotte JEWISH news

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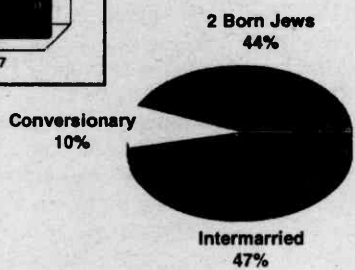
Cheshvan-Kislev 5758

November, 1997

The recently completed Demographic Study of the Charlotte Jewish Community revealed some surprising facts. Among them:



The Jewish population of Charlotte has almost doubled in the past twelve years.



Population in Jewish Households

The intermarriage rate in Charlotte is 47%, the highest rate of intermarriage in cities surveyed since 1985.

Intermarriage

## Gorelick families to sponsor Dennis Prager lectures

World renowned author, scholar, television and radio personality Dennis Prager will be in Charlotte on December 7 to speak to Federation's Major Givers, the Bernstein Leadership Development Group and to the community.



Considered "one of America's five best speakers" Dennis Prager is one of America's most respected radio talk show hosts and commentators. He has been broadcasting on KABC Radio in Los Angeles for 15 years and has his own daily national television show.

Prager is also a respected scholar and author. His most recent book, *Think A Second Time, 44 Essays On 44 Subjects*, was published by Harper Collins. Bill Bennett called it "one of those rare books that can change an intelligent mind," and USA Today columnist and Professor of Law Susan Estrich called it "brilliant, a tour de force."

His next book *Happiness is a Serious Problem* due in January 1998 from Harper Collins, is his long awaited book on happiness, about which he has lectured around the world for ten years.

For ten years Mr. Prager has conducted a weekly interfaith dialogue on radio, with representatives from virtually every religion in the world. Since 1985 he has been writing his own newsletter, first the quarterly journal *Ultimate Issues* and now, twice monthly *The Prager Perspective*.

This is the second time that Mr.

Prager has lectured in Charlotte. His last visit was also sponsored by the Gorelick families in November of 1993. "The response to Prager's lectures here four years ago was so overwhelming that we wanted to bring him back" said Shelton Gorelick.

"I have been listening to his lectures on tape and reading his monthly newsletter for years and find him to be very persuasive in his arguments for why to lead a Jewish life" continued Bill Gorelick "We are very excited that he will be back in Charlotte and I encourage everyone to come hear him."

Mr. Prager will be in Charlotte on December 7 and will speak to Federation's Major Givers and Bernstein Leadership Development participants at the home of Joel and Cindi Ostrow. This presentation will be followed by a community lecture at 8:00 p.m. at Temple Israel. ☆

## And the Survey says . . .

By Susan Kramer

Remember all the activity in the Adult Lounge in the JCC last March? The bank of phones, the scores of volunteers patiently sitting and dialing, the unmistakable feel that "something big" was going on?

Something big was indeed happening: for the first time ever, a comprehensive demographic study was being done on the Jewish community in Charlotte. The results are now in. In a community meeting at Shalom Park on November 2, Dr. Ira Sheskin, noted professor and demographer from the University of Miami, unveiled the results of the study that was conducted over a 10 day period in March of 1997.

Noting that complex decisions must be made by the Jewish Federation and its agencies, Dr. Sheskin stated that this study will be a valuable tool for the Federation, synagogues, and Jewish agencies and organizations to use in planning to build upon the community's strengths and to develop projects and programs to address its weaknesses. It will provide information that will help the community set priorities and will guide decision-making into the

21st century.

Dr. Sheskin commented on the three major driving forces that helped define the need for, and the nature of, this study.

First, the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey and its report of significant rates of intermarriage and problems of Jewish continuity have seriously impacted the agenda of the American Jewish community. Concern about Jewish continuity is as great in Charlotte as in another community. This study was designed, in part to provide Federation, Federation agencies, synagogues, and Jewish organizations with the information they need as they endeavor to provide programs that will contribute to the development of a Jewish community, that will provide compelling reasons for young Jews to maintain their Jewish identity and to remain active members of the community.

The report examined the correlation of factors such as level of Jewish education and travel and emotional attachment to Israel with the current level of Jewishness of respondents and their households. The findings

from these questions will not only satisfy the need for this information in Charlotte, but will also contribute to a growing body of knowledge that will prove useful to the American Jewish community as a whole. The Jewish continuity focus of this survey will provide essential information to guide Federation's emerging role in assuring a strong, vital Jewish community in Charlotte and throughout the United States.

Second, the Jewish community in Charlotte faces a major decision with respect to the future of the Jewish Day School. The need to assess the community, and its likely support for a new day school to replace or supplement the current Orthodox Chabad facility, was a major focus of this survey. In households with Jewish children, a significant battery of questions was asked to both directly and indirectly measure the likelihood that these households would choose to send their children to a new Jewish day school and would be willing to support such a facility financially.

Finally, the study provides data to assist in Federation's

(Continued on page 4)

## Nationally acclaimed "The Second City" to perform at JCC Gala

Plans in full swing for the February 14 event to honor Leon Levine

Exciting plans are underway for the Jewish Community Center's 1998 Gala on February 14th. The black-tie event, paying tribute to Leon Levine, will be held at the Westin Hotel. "It will be a spectacular evening," promise co-chairs Jill Newman and Lori Sklut, "and one that raises needed funds to help insure the future of the JCC."

Other committee members involved in planning the Gala are Jeff Gorelick, Tammy Menaker, Melissa Raphael, Marsha Scheer, Pam Segal and Mary Wojnowich. JCC President Eric Sklut is spearheading the Gala's fundraising efforts.

The featured entertainment at the Gala will be the national touring company of "The Second City." Hailing from Chicago (their name is taken from a derisive profile of Chicago in *The New Yorker* magazine), this

nationally known improvisational group has launched the comedic careers of household names such as Gilda Radner, Dan Aykroyd, Jim Belushi, Mike Myers and Julia-Louis-Dreyfus.

Along with providing a first-rate training ground for some of this country's brightest talents, "The Second City" has been giving audiences around the world a unique theatrical experience for more than 40 years. Using few props and costumes, six actors enliven an empty stage with topical comedy sketches to rave reviews. Our

lives, our politics, popular culture, etc—everything is fair



game for lampooning with "The Second City."

"A temple of satire," raves *Time* Magazine and Clive Barnes, in *The New York Times* wrote, "the entire recent tradition of American theatrical satire can be summed up in three words: 'The Second City.'"

"Everyone attending the Gala is in for a great treat," says co-chair Lori Sklut, "it's sure to be an event people talk about all year long." For more information on ticket/sponsorship availability please call Roni Fishkin at the Jewish Community Center at 366-5007. ☆

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