

My Voice . . .

By Susan Kramer

Last summer, my mother-in-law, Vivian, sold the family home. It was the home where my husband and his sisters grew up, where Morty and Vivian welcomed new daughters and sons as their children married, and where seven grandchildren learned about love and family and connectedness. There were a lot of memories at 16 Hayes Road, and my mother-in-law generously shared those memories with us, sending home with each of her children special family heirlooms that will be loved and cherished and passed on in their own good time. I am especially attached to the matching bisque candleholders, a delicate shepherdess and shepherd that now adorn my piano top. I love the Capitomonde roses that rest beside them, the toile trays that I've hung on the walls, the embroidered tablecloth that I use for Shabbat.

There is one memento, however, that frankly, Vivian could have kept. It's a clock, a small travel alarm clock, a clock that ticks louder and louder and louder the longer you listen to it. I've moved it from the bedroom to the bath and finally banished it

to the computer room at the end of the hall, and still that tick follows me. I would get rid of the thing altogether, but my daughter has become inexplicably attached, and there's no gainsaying Amy when she's made up her mind.

So the clock ticks on, and until recently, I simply grinned and bore it.

Funny how your perspective can change in an eyeblink. That ticking that simply annoyed me a few weeks ago has now become a welcome reminder of time. Time ahead of me, time to plan, time to touch, taste and feel the joys of life, time to plant more flowers, read more books, time to enjoy my husband and daughters, time to tell my family and friends that I love them.

As many of you know, I have recently had surgery to combat the reoccurrence of cancer. I am doing very well, thank you, and hope for a complete recovery. I share this with you not to gain your sympathy, (though a little of that wouldn't hurt) but to explain my recent absences from the JCC, the fact that your phone calls may not have been returned very

promptly, and of course, the delay of this month's *CJN*. I hope to be back at full speed very soon, but beg your indulgence if I miss a beat or two.

I want to thank the entire community for their outpouring of love and support. We may never have to cook at our house again, what with all the food that has come our way recently. Your flowers, cards and phone calls have meant the world to Arthur and me — thank you for proving once again that the Charlotte Jewish Community has a big and beautiful heart.

I also want to share with you some the lessons I am learning from all of this: that every day is a gift not to be squandered; that it is our choice whether we will make the days left to us a blessing. Time is not rushing past us but stretching ahead, waiting to be explored. Time is the ally, not the enemy.

If you think you may need some help remembering this, well, I have a clock you can borrow. . .

Susan Kramer

Changing attitudes toward Israel among lay and professional leaders of American Jewish organizations

NEW YORK, NY - October 14, 1997 - Attitudes toward Israel and its funding needs, among both leaders and professional staffs of American Jewish organizations, are undergoing major shifts, according to the results of a survey released at a meeting of United Israel Appeal, Inc.

United Israel Appeal is the principal link between the American Jewish community and the people of Israel. UIA provides, administers and supervises funds raised by UJA/federation campaigns in the United States for programs of UIA's operating agent, the Jewish agency for Israel (JAFI).

The survey, conducted by Professors Gerald Bubis, Steven M. Cohen and Daniel Elazar under auspices of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs and the Center for Jewish Community Studies, in Philadelphia, is based upon 840 responses to a questionnaire circulated to volunteer and professional leaders of United Israel Appeal, United Jewish Appeal, Jewish Council for Public Policy, the Association of Jewish Family Services Agencies, and the Jewish Community Center Association.

Among the study's key findings are:

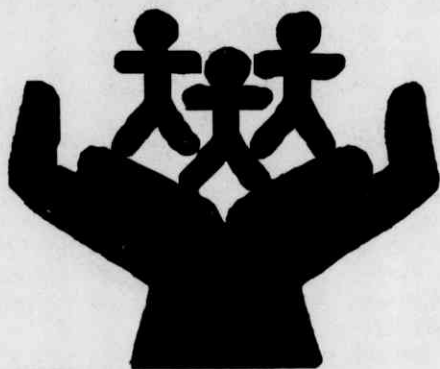
- Older lay leaders remain more in favor than younger leaders of maintaining support for Israel;
- Israel is seen as not "needing" American Jewish

financial support as in times past;

- Federation leadership remains more desirous of holding support for Israel at present levels than do leaders of synagogues, Jewish centers, Jewish family service agencies, Jewish community relations councils, and Jewish education circles;
- Jewish education and human services in America are seen as more at risk and in need of increased support, even at the expense of Israel;
- Leaders feel that it would be far more difficult to replace lost funding for human services and Jewish education than for Israel.

The study was supported by the United Israel Appeal, and funding was provided by the Harry Weinberg Foundation of Baltimore, Maryland; the Newman-Frank Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma; American Technion Society; the Hebrew Union College Faculty Fund; and Ann Baer, Edwin Brennglass, Irwin Field, David and Rae Finegood, Herbert Gelfand, Betty Melaver, Esther Leah Ritz, Harold and Myra Shapiro, and Edna Weiss.

Complete results of the survey will be published in November by the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs / Center for Jewish Community Studies, 1616 Walnut Street, Suite 507, Philadelphia, PA 19103. *



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Youth Visions now a monthly feature in *CJN*

The Charlotte Jewish News is pleased to bring back a feature page devoted to the Youth of our Charlotte Jewish community. Each month, "Youth Visions" will bring you details of the activities of the various Youth Groups, Religious School news, opinion pieces, interviews, and features, all from the kid's perspective. Please help us welcome Erin

Naman, who has volunteered to serve as the Youth Editor. Erin is active in the Temple Beth El youth group, LIBERTY, as well as in BBYO. She is a Senior at Providence High School, where she serves as Co-editor on the school newspaper.

If you are interested in contributing to Youth Visions, please contact Erin at 841-1678.

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