



# Mazel Tov & Congratualtions



## Women of valor . . . women's history month

March is Women's History Month and The Jewish Community Center of Charlotte is proud to be a participant in the Women of Valor project celebrating outstanding Jewish Women.

If Jewish history is a map which can help Jews navigate towards the future, it is a map with many missing and faded lines. Without these missing and faded lines — the stories of individual Jewish women who made a difference and the collective experiences of women and other overlooked segments of Jewish communities past — we who labor to shape the Jewish future stumble and fall. We falter and lose direction, because the records of previous journeys

have been lost. Women's History Month is about uncovering some of these records and redrawing the map to create a more inclusive history.

Six outstanding Jewish women have been featured in posters that will be displayed in the JCC Lobby. Profiles of Glikl of Hamelin, Rose Schneiderman, Henrietta Szold, Rebecca Gratz, Lillian Wald, and Molly Picon will be posted during the month of March. Please take an opportunity to take some time to read and learn about these extraordinary women.

In addition, a Website has been created to make additional information available. The Website address is <http://www.JWA.org>. ☆

### Honors

Alasdair Gordon Cohen, son of Professor Richard A. Cohen (UNCC), was inducted into the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools. He is currently a senior at Beth Tfiloh Community School, Baltimore, Maryland, and will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill beginning fall 1998.

### Elko to West Point

Brett Edward Elko, a senior at the North Carolina School of Science and Math in Durham, has been appointed to the U.S. Military Academy. Brett was nominated by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., and Rep. Sue Myrick, R-N.C. He is a former IB program student at Myers Park High School and the son of Bill and Meryle Elko.

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Jewish Community Center of Charlotte, 5007 Providence Road, continually sponsors AARP 55 Alive Mature Defensive Driving classes during the course of the year. These classes are open to the general public. Your check, made payable to AARP, is your reservation. If you have further questions or if you wish to register please contact Ivy Saul at the JCC, 366-5007. ☆

## Share a Simcha

Don't hide your light under a barrel — let the CJN help you share good news with entire community. Send a brief description of the event, award, or announcement along with a photo if available to:

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Please mark all photos with name and return address on back — be careful not to mar photo by pressing too hard! Sorry, unmarked photos cannot be returned.

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## 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. The volunteers are selected by the following community-wide groups: Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Jewish Family Services, Jewish Community Center and the Charlotte Jewish Pre-School. This month's volunteer was named by Debbie Block, Executive Director of the Charlotte Jewish Pre-School.

### Linda Hindel

Interviewed just before taking her daughter to religious school, Linda Hindel exemplifies the key to rewarding volunteerism: select meaningful, needed activities and schedule wisely! Linda is the Immediate Past President of the Charlotte Jewish Pre-School (CJP). She became active on that Board about five years ago, when her older daughter, Hannah, first enrolled and has continued being active while younger daughter, Leah, attends. Linda handed the gavel over to current President Anita Biedermann at the end of the last school year, now that Leah is her last child at CJP.

Linda's activities while serving on the CJP Board included working with the nominating committee that hired the current Executive Director, Debbie Block, working with the rest of the Board to put the school back on a fiscally sound track — sound enough for the school to receive a Blumenthal Foundation matching grant, and

the building of a new school playground at Shalom Park. Linda's voice filled with enthusiasm as she described that project. "The playground committee, along with Debbie Block, planned, designed and built — with the help of a strong volunteer corps — the state-of-the-art playground enjoyed by so many children at Shalom Park. "To create the best playground possible, we snooped around playgrounds in both North and South Carolina, interviewed vendors and built it ourselves from the ground-up. We're so proud of that playground. Kids love it; it's strong and stable and withstands kids' rough and tumble play," she added. As is the case with all the volunteers of the month interviewed, Linda praised the staff. "Debbie Block and the CJP administrator, Cheryl Hanson, make it easy to volunteer!"

Linda also serves on the JCC Board of Directors, where she chairs the aquatic program committee. She works with Ivy Saul to coordinate the J's participation in the "Room at the Inn" program, housing twelve homeless people for a number of nights at the various institutions at Shalom Park. (NOTE: More on that endeavor will appear in a future column!)

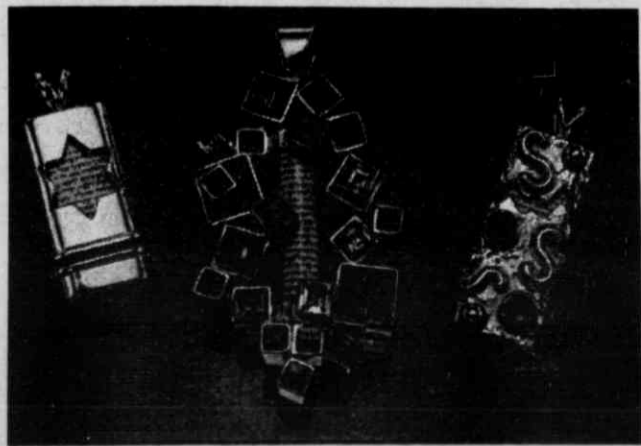
Her interest in education motivated Linda to serve on the Temple Beth El Religious School committee and Federation community Relations Subcommittee that examines religious issues of concern to non-Christian children in community schools. A successful meeting was held recently at the J to discuss these issues with representatives of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system.

Realizing the need for volunteers in the greater Charlotte community, and at the urging of Penny Eisenberg, Linda began working as a volunteer at the Crisis Assistance Ministry several years ago. At first she sorted clothes donated for the needy and then was "promoted" to interviewing clients in need of financial assistance, helping to expedite the review process so that needy clients receive emergency financial aid quickly. "I'm excited that I've just been asked to serve on the Crisis Assistance Ministry Board of Directors to plan and implement projects that help meet the needs of the greater Charlotte community," Linda said.

When asked about her family, Linda explained that her husband Peter, "a radiologist with not much free time but a good heart," supports her volunteer activities and does what he can to help. "He hammered away at building the CJP playground," she laughed. Linda met Peter while both were serving in the Air Force. With a background of occupational therapist and later a hospital administrator, helping others as a volunteer followed naturally. She also added that her mother had volunteered in operation Head Start while Linda was growing up, planting the seed of volunteerism.

"People ask me if I'm interested in going back to work," Linda said. "I feel that at this time in my life I feel there is so much that needs to be done in the community that I am rewarded by doing some good even without a paycheck. It's time well spent for me." Linda concluded.

And for the community as well, Linda! ☆



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