

Who will replace Terry Sanford?

This North Carolina statesman was a staunch advocate of Jewish rights. As Jews, we can best honor Sanford's memory by keeping his spirit alive.

By Walter Klein
Special to the Charlotte Jewish News

What did you and Terry Sanford have in common? Your life here in North Carolina was better because of him. It is wise if you know that, and strive to find another advocate of Jewish rights, safety and well-being to take his place, if that is ever possible. The loss of Terry Sanford was a special tragedy for the Jewish people of North Carolina and the nation. That is no hyperbole. That is hard, lean fact.

Terry Sanford was a walking giant and that was no accident. Jewish students at Chapel Hill spotted him as a future power. He spotted them as his steadfast supporters.

The bond between Jews and Terry Sanford continued throughout his career as attorney, governor, senator, university president and visionary. He was the first Southern governor to call for employment without regard to race, color, creed or religion.

Sanford always surrounded himself with Jewish friends. They rarely let him down. In the early 1960's, Sanford, a formidable attorney himself, chose Joel Fleishman as his

legal assistant. Fleishman remained his political adviser throughout his campaigns and until he died. Later, in creating the North Carolina School of the Arts, Sanford placed on his advisory board such Jewish friends as composer Richard Adler and tenor Jan Peerce.

As a student at Chapel Hill, Sanford counted as friends such Jewish campus leaders as Sylvan Meyer, who became editor of the *Miami News*; Richard Adler who went on to write the music of *Damn Yankees* and *Pajama Game*; Louis Harris, who became America's leading pollster; Paul Komarisuk, who was Paul Colton when he became president of the American Stock Exchange; and Vic Seixas, tennis megastar.

Sanford was no accident in another way. North Carolina has a long tradition of appreciating its Jewish citizens. Jesse Helms has stood up for Israel's tortured positions again and again. Sam Ervin was a fearless advocate of constitutional rights that protect the Jewish people. Governors like Jim Martin, Luther

Hodges, Kerr Scott and Zeb Vance were outstanding friends.

These friends found out early that Jews ask a huge price for their support. The price: treat all minorities with dignity and equality and understanding.

During his tenure at Duke, Sanford not only erased the Jewish quota and increased Jewish students from near zero to one-third of the entire student body; he cooled off racial violence and strife and restored good sense. In his book *But What About the People?*, Sanford credits Benjamin Disraeli for his goals in education: "A university should be a place of light, of liberty and of learning."

It was in North Carolina that a black was lynched as recently as 1951 and a Ku Klux Klan billboard welcomed motorists to Smithfield. Shame has a way of not going away. But honor doesn't go away either. The very word "politics" may send people to the nearest exit. But Jews dare not dodge. We owe it to our future to honor Terry Sanford by keeping his spirit alive. ☆

L'hitraot, Charlotte

My Jewish journey is taking me to Baltimore

By Suzanne Cannon

Life can undoubtedly take us on journeys we never planned, and that is certainly the case for me. When I converted to Judaism nearly three years ago, I knew I was taking a step forward on a path that would lead me *somewhere*, although I had no idea where that might be. As my Jewish journey continues, I've discovered that this path is leading me to Baltimore, where I will enter graduate school this fall. This means that I'll be leaving my position as Interim Editor of the *Charlotte Jewish News* with the completion of this issue of the paper. And now, I once again find myself facing two things that are filled with excitement and wonder as well as some sadness and fear: a beginning and an ending.

The Talmud says that "all beginnings are hard," and experience has shown me the truth of that statement. But all beginnings are also filled with possibility and potential, and there is a great blessing in simply having the opportunity to make a new beginning, and to work on building a new life. I am thankful that I have this chance to explore and expand my Jewishness in a new city. I am also grateful that I have earned the chance to broaden and deepen my Jewish education.

For those of you who are wondering what I'll be doing, I will be a student at two schools: The University of Maryland School of Social Work, where I will be pursuing an M.S.W.; and Baltimore Hebrew University, where I will be working toward an M.A. in Jewish Studies with concentrations in Modern Jewish History and Biblical and Rabbinic Literature. This unique combination of programs was developed by a group of dedicated Jewish communal service professionals, who organized the double master's program as "The Baltimore Institute for Jewish Communal Service." The Institute was founded specifically to prepare students for careers in all facets of Jewish communal service, and has produced more than 150 alumni who have entered a wide array of Jewish professions — from federation executive directors to synagogue administrators to educators to social workers.

During my three years as an Institute student, I will complete two field internships and participate in the Morris Lieberman Overseas

Seminar, in which students visit the social service agencies and leaders of Jewish communities abroad, usually in Eastern Europe and always in Israel. This four week seminar, coordinated with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Israel Office of the Council of Jewish Federations, will give me the opportunity to learn about how Jewish agencies outside the United States create programs and services for their own communities.

While I am thrilled at the prospect of learning so much and moving to a large Jewish community with seemingly endless resources, I am also sad to be leaving the Charlotte Jewish community, which has given me so much over the past four years. So many of you welcomed me with open arms, and patiently gave of your time to help me learn more about the beautiful faith tradition I've adopted. Some of you have tutored me in Hebrew; others have graciously opened your homes to me on Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah, and Pesach; still others offered me tremendous guidance and support through my first year of teaching Sunday School (I'll be teaching again this coming year at Temple Oheb Shalom in Baltimore, so your support had a positive impact!) Some of you even took it upon yourselves to teach me Yiddish slang! I want all of you to know that I will forever hold you close in my heart. You were my midwives and guardians as I struggled to birth my Jewish soul, and I will always treasure your compassion, your generosity, your *gemilut chasadim*.

Moshe Chaim Luzzatto, an 18th century Italian Jew, once wrote: "The best we can do to achieve holiness is to make a beginning and persevere in our efforts." My goal from here is to do just that — persevere — and like Abraham, have faith that God will take me to a place that, even if unknown to me, holds the promise of continued blessings of love, friendship and community. *L'hitraot*, Charlotte, and thank you for all the ways you have enriched my Jewish life.

P.S. And don't think I've given up on my dream of becoming a rabbi — it may yet come to pass. After all, nothing is impossible! ☆

A new CJN Editor is waiting in the wings

By Suzanne Cannon

The Charlotte Jewish community has gotten lucky again! After having an extraordinarily wonderful editor in Susan Kramer, Marvin Goldberg and the *CJN* Editorial Board have landed yet another good catch. Her name is Amy Montoni, and she will begin her tenure as Editor of the *CJN* at the beginning of June.

Amy, her husband Jeff and their two sons, Daniel and Nicholas, have lived in Charlotte for the past

four years. Amy has been involved in the Jewish community in a number of capacities, and has a good feel for what appeals to the *CJN* readership. Amy's past professional experience will serve her well in her new position. In addition to a degree in Communications from Syracuse, she has an impressive background in the publishing industry. Amy is a dynamic communicator who is well-prepared to take the helm, and she is anxious to

get started.

Our community newspaper is in very capable hands. I know many of you are looking forward to working with Amy, as she is looking forward to working with you. I hope all of you will join Marvin, the *CJN* Editorial Board and myself in welcoming Amy to the *CJN*, and wishing her a hearty *mazel tov*. ☆

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