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Blumenthal Jewish Home for the Aged to Relocate to Greensboro

(CLEMMONS, NC) - The Board of Trustees of the Blumenthal Jewish Home for the Aged, Inc. (BJH), has agreed to engage Universal HealthCare of Hickory, NC to build a new nursing facility and assisted living suites in the Greensboro area to replace the existing Blumenthal facility in Clemmons. The engagement, approved by a majority of members at a special meeting held on June 27, according to Seth Levy, executive vice president of the home, will include closing and selling the Clemmons property after the Greensboro facility becomes operational.

In making the announcement, Al Herman, President of the BJH Board, said, "We assure all residents, prospective residents, and their families that the high quality of care for which the BJH is

known will continue at the Clemmons facility until the new facility is opened. We will continue to admit residents at Clemmons to both skilled nursing and assisted living during the transition period. Those residents who desire will be transferred when the Greensboro facility opens." If the requisite approvals are obtained, Herman anticipates that the Greensboro facility will open in 2001.

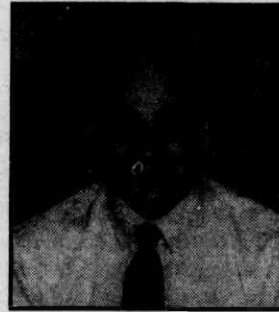
"We are very pleased to partner with Universal HealthCare whose owner has extensive experience in operating assisted living centers and nursing facilities," Herman added. "For some time, we have been seeking better ways to serve the Jewish families of the Carolinas and to ensure the financial stability of the Blumenthal Jewish Home. We are confident

that this action will enhance our ability to meet our mission."

Philosophy for Maintaining Jewish Customs and Traditions

In a letter to the membership of the home, Herman wrote, "Here are some of the important facts about this change. Our basic philosophy about caring for the Jewish elderly and meeting their religious concerns will continue. Regardless of their ability to pay, we are planning to accommodate all elderly Jewish residents who desire our services and who reside in North or South Carolina. Social services and celebrations (including meals and recreational programs) will be held for Shabbat and other Jewish holidays. Mezuzahs will be on doors throughout the nursing facility. Jewish symbols and Jewish artwork will be tastefully displayed prominently throughout the facilities, and rabbis and other religiously-affiliated persons from

temples and synagogues will regularly visit and provide programs at the facilities.



Seth Levy, Executive Vice President of BJH

"The new Blumenthal facilities will provide kosher food to the Jewish residents desiring to be so served, and there will be synagogue facilities on the premises. The name will always include Blumenthal."

Under the plan, BJH would own the facility and lease it to Universal who would operate it

under policies approved by the Blumenthal Jewish Home Board of Trustees and be financially responsible for the operation of the home. "This arrangement will permit us to continue our tradition of meeting the needs of the Jewish families in the Carolinas, and to do it in a more effective manner," Herman said.

Financial Arrangements

BJH will borrow the funds needed to build the new facility and will transfer the current nursing beds from Clemmons to the Greensboro facility. Universal will lease the facility and beds and will be responsible for management and operational costs.

During the second year of operation after the Greensboro facility opens, Universal HealthCare will have an option to purchase Blumenthal's ownership interest in that facility. If Universal does not purchase the home and beds,

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Eli Evans to Appear at Temple Israel

The Entire Community is Invited to Hear about "Growing Up Jewish in the South"

By Amy Krakovitz

Eli Evans, North Carolina native and author of *The Provincials: A Personal History of Jews in the South*, will be welcomed to Temple Israel on Thursday evening, September 23,



Eli N. Evans

1999 at 8:00 PM.

Evans was born and raised in Durham and graduated from the University of North Carolina. After a stint in the Navy and graduating from Yale Law School, he served as a speech writer for President Lyndon Johnson. He then returned to North Carolina and served as staff director for a Duke University research program headed by the late Terry Sanford. He spent ten years traveling in the South as a senior program officer for the Carnegie Corporation, and has served as president of the Charles H. Revson Foundation

since 1977.

Evans is probably best known for his three books: *The Provincials: A Personal History of Jews in the South*; *Judah P. Benjamin: The Jewish Confederate*; and *The Lonely Days Were Sundays: Reflections of a Jewish Southerner*, his most recent book. *The Provincials* has been recently reprinted with a new chapter regarding the burgeoning growth in the South, using Atlanta as a model, "the leading center for Jewish life in American in the 21st century." He foresees Atlanta and other growing Southern cities, such as Charlotte, as "a prism for the prospects of a Jewish South," Evans said in a recent telephone interview.

When asked about his upcoming visit to Charlotte, Evans was enthusiastic. "I love Charlotte!" he raved. He seems genuinely impressed with Shalom Park and dynamics it facilitates among the different branches of Judaism here.

His appearance in September at Temple Israel will feature a discussion of what it was like for him to grow up Jewish in the South. But he can see that things are different now that the Jewish population in the South has grown so much.

The Charles H. Revson Foundation, where Evans' current-

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Yugoslav Jews Decide Whether It's Safe to Go Home, Fear Backlash

By Michael J. Jordan

BUDAPEST(JTA) - With peace coming to Yugoslavia, now comes the tough part for many of the roughly 500 Yugoslav Jews who fled the country during the three-month conflict over Kosovo: Return home or settle abroad?

For some of the 130 refugees in Budapest, the decision was a no-brainer.

Once it became apparent that peace would indeed stick, 40 headed back to Yugoslavia — most aboard a rented bus; others on their own.

They were desperate to check in on their families, their property — and to return to their normal routines.

Their decision came despite concerns about the country's tense political climate and dire economic situation — or how they would be received after leaving their homeland in its darkest hour.

"We wanted to see if peace has really been established, or whether it was for one day and would change overnight," said one woman from Belgrade, the Yugoslav capital.

"After all we've been through, we wanted to feel some sparkle of certainty. No one's talking about politics. We're just emotionally tied with going back to our homes."

As for the remaining Yugoslav Jews in Budapest, both the

Federation of Jewish Communities in Yugoslavia and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee were urging them to go home by the end of June.

The JDC has covered most of their costs in Budapest, including accommodations at the \$37-per-night Park Hotel.

"The Joint's basic position is that the bombing has stopped, and unless there is a very good reason

Aviv, where they will begin new lives.

Meanwhile, 35 to 40 Yugoslav Jews in Israel have decided against aliyah. They will fly back to Budapest before June ends, then go on to Belgrade. Israel had taken up 250 refugees during the crisis.

Only a handful of those now in Budapest asked the JDC to stay on longer, mostly to arrange for visas.

The JDC's priority now, said Bar-Chaim, is relief for the 3000-plus Jews in Yugoslavia.

The JDC plans to provide cash grants for the elderly, maintain the community pharmacy, operate soup kitchens and possibly create a small business development project.

The JDC will also pay for 100 Yugoslav Jewish children to attend the Szarvas summer camp in Hungary, giving preference to those who endured the 78 days of NATO air strikes.

Then there's the coming winter, and the likelihood — for Serbs, Albanians and Jews alike — of confronting harsh conditions with insufficient heating, electricity and water.

However, among all the uncertainties facing Yugoslavs, one is specific to the Jewish community: whether there will be a backlash of domestic anti-Semitism for the role in the US-led air strikes played by American policy makers

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To date the local Charlotte Jewish community has raised in excess of \$12,000 for the Kosovo Relief Fund. Please continue to make contributions through the office of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

for staying, they shouldn't," said Yachiel Bar-Chaim, the Paris-based JDC representative for Yugoslavia.

Of the remaining 90 here, another busload was slated to leave for Belgrade at the end of June. Thirty-five more are scheduled to fly that same week to Tel

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Campaign Reaches \$20 Million Mark!

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