

In My Opinion...

By Amy Krakovitz Montoni

On this month's CAJE page, Lenora Stein lists several wonderful websites you can go to for Jewish education. I'd like to add one more, though this site will educate you in current events. It's an Op-Ed site for Jewish views called www.jewishworldreview.com. Among the well-known writers featured are Arianna Huffington, Dr. Laura Scheslinger, Michael Medved, Michael Barone, Nat Hentoff, Bob Greene, Mort Zuckerman, Jonathan Tobin, Jeff Jacoby, and one of my favorites, Erica Raubin.

This is a site that will get you thinking. The articles featured are both political and social; they are thought-provoking and emotion-evoking. Check it out.

While you're on the web, surf over to www.jewishfamily.com, a terrific source of stories by many American Jewish writers. Anita Diamant has a monthly column there and you can archive back to her contributions from the past.

I like the idea of getting familiar with more Jewish writers. We will all have just that opportunity at the Jewish Cultural Arts festival, sponsored by many organizations in our community. It runs from the beginning of November through the beginning of December (Chanukah). Want to know what's going on? There is a pull-out calendar in the center section of this newspaper. Pull it out now. Read it! Isn't it amazing the things that are going on right here during this festival? I challenge you — yes, you! — to attend at least one (if not more) event scheduled for this unbelievably ambitious happening. See you there! ☆



Moving in a New Direction

By Florie Straz and Adam Leibowitz

Editor's Note: The authors have recently returned from a trip to Israel. They were selected to attend the first Young Leadership Diplomatic Seminar, sponsored by the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Florie Straz is the daughter of Berta Straz and the granddaughter of Rose and Abe Luski of Charlotte.

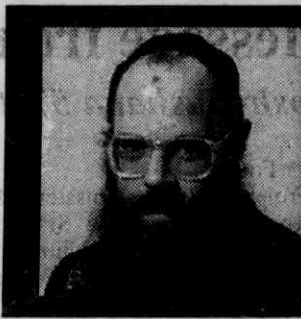
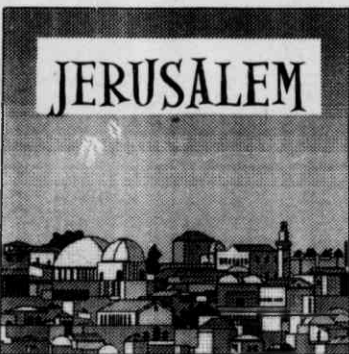
Diaspora Jews have long supported and helped strengthen the State of Israel both economically and politically. There have been *Aliyah* movements, philanthropic donations, political support, military volunteers and more. Now that we are approaching a new millennium, will this relationship change?

Israel has become a strong thriving state over the past fifty-one years. The booming high-tech industry has made it a world leader in research and development. The road towards a comprehensive peace has led to peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan and a peace initiative with the Palestinians. Trade ties have been established between Israel and many of its Arab neighbors. More than 800,000 immigrants have successfully been absorbed over the past decade.

Now that Israel has proven itself a strong nation, it can concentrate on working hand in hand with the

Diaspora on issues concerning the Jewish people; such issues as strengthening Jewish identity, anti-Semitism, assimilation, and the role of a Jewish state.

This past summer the Israeli Foreign Ministry sponsored the first of many programs aimed at addressing the Israel-Diaspora relationship. The Young Jewish Leadership Diplomatic Seminar was the first in a series of such programs. It brought together 35 young professionals ages 20 to 30 representing 17 countries. The seminar focused on issues concerning the future of the Jewish people and Israel. This seminar is an example of the new partnership between Israel and the Diaspora. By working together, Israel and the Diaspora are providing a framework to enhance the importance of Jewish identity in relation with the State of Israel. ☆



Point of View

Each issue of the CJN features an article written by one of the rabbis active in the Charlotte Community.

This Month:

Rabbi Yossi Groner of Lubavitch of North Carolina

"DO IT RIGHT!"

As we have recently celebrated the solemn days of awe followed by the joyous days of Succot and Simchat Torah we feel a sense of accomplishment in our Judaism. Indeed the Talmud refers to this past Hebrew month of Tishrei as the satiated month, as it is filled with days of significance and meaning.

Now after the holidays, as our life returns to our normal hectic schedule, we must unpack all of the mitzvot we spirituality collected during the previous month and make good use of them. Simply put, we ought to awaken that spark of Godliness that we felt and experienced during the holidays and allow it to guide us in our daily lives.

You see it is easy to feel Jewish during the high holidays. It is effortless to feel the joy of Succot and to get swept away in the ecstasy of Simchat Torah. Now however, when we return to our regular mundane life we tend to relax and the passion for Judaism that is so easily felt during the holidays may begin to fade.

One of the ways to recapture the passion for Judaism is to celebrate the Shabbat in a meaningful and traditional manner. Shabbat has the power to encompass our entire being if it is observed in the proper way as outlined in the Torah.

Each week we have the opportunity of creating a spiritual island in time set apart from the rest of the week. This time can and should be shared with our family.

The concept of turning Friday night into Shabbat has been around for thousands of years and has actually helped sustain the Jewish people throughout the centuries.

One can begin with simple Shabbat traditions. Setting the table for the Friday night dinner with the two Challah loaves on a bright tablecloth. Lighting the Shabbat candles (18 minutes before sunset). Reciting the Kiddush blessings over wine to begin the Shabbat meal.

It is important that the family gathers and enjoys the Shabbat meal together as one unit. It is essential that this time be allocat-

ed exclusively for the Shabbat experience. You can add to it by sharing some insight on the Torah reading of the particular week. Perhaps family members can take turns in preparing a *D'var Torah* - some words of Torah.

When families gather in such a spiritual setting without distraction of TV or interference of the telephone week after week it has an accumulative Jewish impact on the children and adults as well. It will also help increase the Jewish awareness within the children. The time could also be spent as a question and answer period on Jewish issues. Eventually the spirit of the Shabbat will extend to the day of Shabbat and become the guiding light of the week.

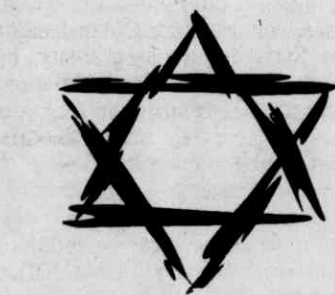
As parents we have been entrusted with the responsibility of raising our children and providing them with a proper education. We owe it to them as Jewish parents to give them the opportunity to learn and experience Judaism. What better way than doing it as a family unit. ☆

Charlotte Jewish Day School Admissions Policy

By Nancy Kipnis, President of the Board of Directors, Charlotte Jewish Day School

Editor's Note: This is a clarification of Charlotte Day School admissions policies and a continuation of the article from the September 1999 issue of the Charlotte Jewish News.

Charlotte Jewish Day School is a community school open to all Jewish children from affiliated and non-affiliated families. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or national origin. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, space permitting. The school does



not guarantee accommodations for children with special behavior or educational needs. Such situations are addressed individually on a case by case basis by the Director and the new admissions commit-

tee. The process of admissions is as follows:

1. Completion of an application form with a non-refundable \$100.00 registration fee and a \$500.00 tuition deposit, refundable only if the child is not accepted (November - January).
2. Psychological testing for new incoming students by Dr. Charles Kaplan (December - February).
3. Acceptance letters sent (March - April).
4. Signed contracts committing to the remainder of tuition, once acceptance has been determined (June).

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A Publication of the

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

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Published monthly except July

Copy deadline is the 1st of the month preceding month of issue

Layout Design by Erin H. Bronkar