

The Charlotte JEWISH news

Vol. 21 No. 10

Cheshvan-Kislev 5760

November 1999

Jewish Community Cultural Arts Festival Features Something for Everybody (Even You!)

Who would have dreamt that a community the size of Charlotte, NC would have the *chutzpah* to pull off a huge one-month-plus total Jewish community cultural arts festival? Well, we did! And it's here! With over 50 events (most are free, some require tickets) ranging from nationally-acclaimed authors, award-winning films, lectures by respected professors and clergy, a former member of the anti-Semitic and racist group "The Order" to speak on "Hate Has No Place," five sought-after gallery exhibits, the first Charlotte Jewish Food Festival, interactive workshops, a Family

Fun Day and so much more.

"It is an opportunity to learn, to taste, to discover, to identify and to explore Jewish culture and heritage," according to Jodi Valenstein, JCCAF Chairperson. Alan Feldman, JCC Executive Director added, "Our goal is to make Jewish learning readily accessible and exceedingly exciting during the month of the Festival. The programs span the broad landscape of Jewish thought, culture and history and offer diverse points of entry to exploring the 'Jewish' experience." All events are open to the public and we hope people from throughout the Charlotte community will join us. Everyone is welcome!"

Participating sponsors of the Festival are: B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO), Charlotte Jewish Day School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Consolidated High School, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Preschool on Sardis, Lubavitch of North Carolina, Temple Beth El,



Doug Cotler will be appearing in concert at Temple Israel on Saturday night December 4 at 6:15 PM.

Temple Israel, Women's American ORT and the Yiddish Institute.

"The response from our community organizations exemplifies the commitment we all feel towards building a strong and vibrant community for our children," says Rabbi Murray Ezring of Temple Israel. "Being Jewish means having arts, literature and culture flowing through your body," says Rabbi James Bennett of Temple Beth El. "The idea that

we as a community can and will invite each other and our non-Jewish friends and neighbors is a wonderful step forward for all of us here in Charlotte. ... We look forward to this marvelous series of programs growing each year... this is just the beginning."

Book and Author Events

A sampling of the Festival's book and author highlights during the month include:

- Edward Cohen, (7:30 PM, 11/21, JCC) whose recently released novel *The Peddler's Grandson - Growing Up Jewish in Mississippi* was acclaimed by USA Today as "a memoir of remarkable universality."
- Marcus Rosenbaum, (7:30 PM, 11/17, JCC), author of *The Heart of a Wife - Diary of a Southern Jewish Woman*, who discovered his grandmother's diary covering almost 40 years of her life (1909-1946) while cleaning out the attic of his parents' home.
- Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis, (7:00 PM, 11/15, JCC), author of *The Committed Life - Principles*



"I Never Saw Another Butterfly..." an art exhibit featuring the works of the children of the Terezin concentration camp, will be at the JCC from November 1-14.

for *Good Living from Our Timeless Past* and an international lecturer who draws huge crowds from diverse Jewish and non-Jewish backgrounds, speaks about reconnecting with the teachings of the past in order to live a better life today.

• Dr. David Ariel, (8:00 PM, 11/19, Temple Beth El) author of *Spiritual Judaism*, who writes and speaks about restoring the heart

Continued on page 17



Israel is IN Epcot

By Lloyd Scher

Israel is definitely in Epcot at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Israeli art, pictures, food, clothes, flags, sodas and people make up the New Millennium Village Showcase. The new Millennium Village is truly a showcase in itself located between Canada and the United Kingdom.

Israeli Ambassador H. E. Zalman Shoval cut the ribbon to the 705 square meter facility on Wednesday, September 28, 1999.

Executives from Disney and Jewish leaders from all across the world were on hand to visit New Millennium Village.

Ambassador Shoval praised the Disney officials for not caving in to threats by Arab leaders who filed complaints about the naming of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Shoval went on to say, "It is important that Jerusalem be open for all religions because it is the cradle of civilization." In his speech held before a crowd at the American Pavilion in the Epcot World Showcase he spoke of peace and the hope that Disney would build a facility in Israel.

A crowd of 1,000 people was on hand for the opening festivities and was treated to an evening of Israeli food, singing and dancing.

We began the evening with Epcot closing early to set up for the dignitaries. We were all given special Israeli and American Flag pins and boarded onto buses which carried us to the American Pavilion. At the Pavilion we were treated to food and drinks from Israel and waited for the arrival of the Ambassador. Many of the

Continued on page 35



A world of smiling faces. Cultural representatives from around the world gather at Millennium Village in the heart of Epcot.

The New Millennium Village

Since we were unable to see the entire village the night before, I was able — thanks to the people of Disney — to have the opportunity to be present at the opening event for the media.

The theme of the village is "A world without borders." Fifty nations never seen at the Epcot World Showcase are located in the New Millennium Village. When I walked through the village it made me realize how important the Israeli exhibit really is in the Epcot World Showcase.

I entered the Millennium Village into a presentation from residents of various countries telling what gifts they bring to the world's village — hope, history, culture, the love of art, and peace are the messages from most.

Once through the gates, I entered a "World of No Borders." The 65,000 square foot pavilion has the sights and sounds of an experience of global destinations. George Kalogridis, vice-president of Epcot says, "The Millennium

Village is designed as a way to experience an amazing array of world cultures and entertainment without being hindered by borders or limits." He went on to say that, "each exhibit tells a story, maybe even unlocks a mystery or two."



In Scotland, you can putt your way around the world of golf; Brazil offers a glimpse of the Rain Forest; the Easter Islands are called the Moai of Peace. One can go from Chile to Saudi Arabia, which offers a magical carpet ride through the kingdom of its tradition and history. Lebanon, Peru, Thailand, Greece, Egypt, Korea and Venezuela cre-

ate crafts and hand made items right before your eyes.

There is a food court that will allow one to taste the food of many continents. North America, South America, Middle East, Asia and the Far East are all there for the wanting.

In my walk through the village I met an Israeli army officer who had just completed her tour of duty before coming to work for the next nine months in the village. I talked with an Saudi Arabian student who made one of the most memorable comments, "Here it is a time to learn and work together. We have no borders. It is our goal and that of Disney that we learn from each other."

After seeing the village as a whole, I now realize how important it was that Israel is a part of the Disney New Millennium Village.

That leaves one last question — where is the soda of Israel? That my friend is located in the new Coca Cola Cool Zone which comes complete with snow making in Florida. One can sample soda from Brazil, Israel, Germany and other countries. By the way you can even purchase a hat, a sweatshirt, or a tee shirt with Coca Cola in Hebrew. ☼

Inside this issue . . .

Israel is IN Epcot	p. 1
By County Commissioner Lloyd Scher	
Jewish Cultural Arts Festival	
Read All About the Exciting Month-Long Event	p. 1
Special Pull Out Calendar	pp. 19-22
Special Chanukah Holiday Section	pp. 26-33

Also inside . . .

Federation Pages	pages	4-5
Temple Israel	page	6
Jewish Family Services	page	8
CAJE	page	10
Speizman Jewish Library	page	11
Lubavitch of North Carolina	page	13
Temple Beth El	page	14
Mazel Tov	page	16
The Jewish Traveler	page	18
Women's Events	page	23
Jewish Community Center	pages	24-25
Youth Visions	page	34
Dining Out page	pages	37-39



Campaign Surpasses
\$23 Million Mark!

See Page 15

MAKE YOUR
PLEDGE TODAY!