

The Charlotte JEWISH news

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Heart of L'Chaim Charlotte! Beats From Stage Music, Dancing Highlight Festival's Rich Cultural Offerings



The Yiddishe Bande at L'Chaim Charlotte! 1998.

Klezmer is one cultural tie that binds Jews everywhere. But there are distinct styles of the music that are as diverse as the Jewish communities where they are played the world over.

"A Klezmer band playing a wedding in New York sounds very different than one in Israel," said Yossi Shem-Avi, festival entertainment chairman. "Live Klezmer music is an important part of L'Chaim Charlotte!; it creates the atmosphere and people love to listen and dance to it. We brought in more bands this year to turn the music into a learning experience

as well — in the spirit of the festival's educational mission."

Three Klezmer bands are scheduled to appear during L'Chaim Charlotte on May 21:

The Charlotte Klezmers (formerly Shira Tova) will lead off the afternoon. Their raucous "Hora-type" style draws from music typically heard on Israeli kibbutzim. Listen for the prominent accordion, Shem-Avi says.

Another local band, **Viva Klezmer!**, plays a more classical Klezmer variety that is popular in New York and features intricate instrumentals, especially the clarinet. Gene Kavado, principal clarinetist for the Charlotte Symphony, rocks with this group.

Viva Klezmer! has performed a series of educational concerts in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg

schools this school year to teach students about Jewish culture through Klezmer music, and to instill an appreciation for cultural diversity. The band has also been

instructor based in Atlanta, will lead a workshop and initiate "spontaneous" dancing throughout the afternoon.

Returning to the stage will be the always-popular mock Jewish wedding, officiated by Rabbi Robert Kasman of Temple Israel. (No word yet on who the lucky couple will be.)

L'Chaim Charlotte! will also have exhibits of Judaic art, a fea-

ture initiated in 1998. Wendy Petrocoff, member of the festival steering committee, has recruited new artisans representing a wide range of artwork and crafts from across the region, including:

Beyond Surface Design — Fiber artists who hand dye all of their work which is mostly silk and linen. All designs are either

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We are pleased to announce another L'Chaim Charlotte! sponsor.

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L'CHAIM NOTES:

L'Chaim Bucks are on sale at the Federation office and all three locations of Phil's Deli. The tickets, which come in \$1 increments, are the official event currency — to be used to pay for food, drinks, raffle tickets, children's activities, baked goods and other festival merchandise. They are being sold in bundles of \$10 and packaged in a special envelope that is printed with a festival menu and prices.

Come early and stay late: the schedule has been expanded to six hours, from noon to 6:00 PM.

Look for the festival advertising insert in The Charlotte Observer on Thursday, May 18.

Make a fashion statement with a L'Chaim Charlotte 2000 hat! Comes in denim blue with khaki bill or khaki with black bill. Only \$12.

Thanks again to festival sponsors **The Tavin Centre for Plastic Surgery, Montag Family Foundation and the Silverman Family Foundation.**

Annual Community Campaign Edges Towards \$2 Million

The 2000 Annual Community Campaign sponsored by the Jewish Federation is well within reach of the \$2 million mark. The goal for the 2000 Campaign is \$2,250,000. The current campaign total is \$1,918,028, \$331,972 away from reaching the goal.

"We are pleased with the results thus far," said Eric Sklut, 2000 Annual Campaign Chair. The overall campaign total represents a 14% increase over last year's campaign. Our goal is to finish the campaign in the next several weeks with 100% participation from the community."

"Step into the Limelight," the Federation's second annual community fundraiser, provided initial momentum for the campaign by raising over \$260,000. The Federation's Major Donors (those men giving \$10,000 or more and those women giving \$5,000 or

more) also moved the campaign forward by increasing their giving more than 12%. The Women's campaign is also up 14.7% from last year, raising a record total of \$450,000.

Dollars raised for the Annual Campaign are used to support local Jewish institutions (such as the Jewish Community Center and Jewish Family Service) and provide funding for social services, Jewish education and hunger relief in Israel and 49 countries throughout the world.

If you have not already been contacted and would like to make a contribution to the campaign, please contact Cary Bernstein (944-6762). *

**JEWISH
FEDERATION
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE**

"Frum Dos Macht a Leiben?"

Exhibit of Line Drawings by Arnold Mesches at Jewish
Community Center of Charlotte During May

Like so many other villages in Lithuania, the village of Grodno was unable to escape the pogroms, pillaging and rapes of the Cossacks in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. And like so many Jews before and since, the Mesches family pulled up their roots and left Grodno for the United States. Their patriarch, a hospital superintendent in Lithuania, was unable to find work in the U.S. His son, Benjamin, fared little better, buying and selling old gold in Buffalo.

But the grandson, Arnold, decided to become an artist. The subject matter he chose — attacking war and the makers of war — stemmed from hearing of the experiences of his

grandfather in Europe; of growing up during World War II and hearing of death camps, death march-



Arnold Mesches' stark line drawings of scenes from concentration camps are on display at the Jewish Community Center of Charlotte during May 2000.

es, and atomic bombs. "I wanted my paintings to have...structural mystery and complex emotions," Arnold Mesches says in an essay

about his father. "I wanted my art to move people like good art should. ... I wanted to find a way to make my art serve humankind..."

He was disappointed in his father's reaction to his decision to become an artist. He had expected his father to applaud his route to teaching about justice and evil, about conscience and Jewishness, about right and wrong. Unfortunately, he was mistaken. "My being an artist was indiscernible to him," says Arnold. When Arnold invited his father to his studio to see his first body of work — paintings of meat packing workers hacking up sides of beef — all

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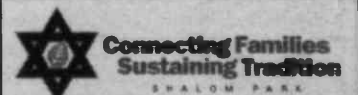
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Expansion Campaign
Gifts Exceeds 750!

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