

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

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November 2000

## Charlotte's 2nd Annual Jewish Community Cultural Arts Festival: Dance, Music, Theatre, Film and More in November

The 2nd Annual Jewish Community Cultural Arts Festival opens November 5 with Israeli



Family Fun Day, the Taste of Israel Food Festival, "Postcards from Israel" dance program, and the Judaic Sales and Book Fair. In the evening, Former US Air Force Chaplain Rabbi Yisrael Haber will speak at the Lubavitch Education Center at 6619 Sardis Road.

On Monday evening, November 6, at 7:30 PM Avraham Infeld, president of Melitz, will speak at the Jewish Community Center on finding common ground among Jews worldwide, that despite our pluralistic lives we share common understandings of Judaism and the centrality of Israel.

*Yana's Friend*, a contemporary Israeli film, will screen at the Consolidated Theatres-Arboretum on Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30 PM. Cost to view this film is \$5.00. *Yana's Friend* is a romantic comedy set against the backdrop of the looming Gulf War and the

recent immigration of Russians to Israel.

"Home on the Mornin' Train," a teen theatrical production presented by the Jewish Community Center and the Afro-American Children's Theatre will be presented three times during the Festival. Wednesday, November 8 at 7:30 PM, Saturday, November 11, at 7:30 PM and Sunday, November 12 at 6:00 PM, the play can be seen at the Jewish Community Center. The production highlights the surprising parallels between the Holocaust and pre-Civil War American slavery.

Mark Lewis will speak about his book, "Himmler's Jewish Tailor" on Thursday, November 9 at 7:30 PM at the JCC. This program commemorates Kristallnacht. **Rockin' Rabbi Joe Black To Hold Concert at Temple Beth El**

One of the "hottest Jewish musical acts," according to the Portland Jewish Review, comes to Temple Beth El on Sunday, November 12, when renowned Rabbi and musician Joe Black will offer his unique combination of spirituality and song in a concert for the whole family.

Rabbi Black, senior rabbi at Congregation Albert in Albuquerque, NM, is also one of the leading artists in the United States specializing in Jewish contemporary music and Jewish children's music. He has recorded three albums ("Leave A Little Bit Undone," "Alpha-Bet Boogie" and "Everybody's Got A Little



Rabbi Joe Black

Music") and a video ("Sing Me A Story: Rabbi Joe Black in Concert"), which was awarded the Seal of Approval from *Parent's Choice Magazine*.

Nevertheless, Rabbi Black says



Avi Albrecht, playing at Temple Israel, Sunday, November 19 at 7:30 PM.

he doesn't "want to be known as 'The Singing Rabbi.'" He considers himself a rabbi first and a musician second. On either count, he says, he considers himself a teacher.

Indeed, though the rabbi grew up on rhythm and blues in Chicago and fell in love with folk and rock music, he has dedicated his life to his rabbinical work, passing along Jewish culture and religion to his Albuquerque congregation. As a result, he performs only a dozen or so concerts a year, choosing venues where his creative musical approach can counsel, guide, teach - and above all, entertain. "We are tremendously fortunate that Rabbi Black will appear at our Festival," says Tracy Brown, Temple Beth El Board Member and coordinator of the event.

Although Rabbi Black had early in his career put aside his music to concentrate on his rabbinate, that decision lasted only a year. "One of the ways God speaks to me," says Rabbi Black, "is through my music." And so, after the brief hiatus, the rabbi once again picked up his guitar and began creating music that, according to one review reflects his personality - "energetic and joyful, on a foundation of serious intent."

Rabbi Black's musical range includes swing, salsa, folk, rock, rhythm and blues. To his consternation, perhaps, he has been compared with the children's musician



Stephen Dubner

Raffi. ("Hey," he says good-naturedly, "whatever works with the kids is OK with me.") His songs, generally about Jewish life and culture, are sometimes sung in Hebrew. Performing songs that are both witty and poignant, he is energetic, surprising and dynamic among children, while adults appreciate his superb musicianship and sense of spiritual awareness that bring the head and heart together.

Rabbi Black's concert on November 12, will take place at 1:30 PM at Temple Beth El. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, and copies of Rabbi Black's CDs will be on sale. Pizza lunches (slice of pizza, coke and cookie) will be available for \$5 beginning at 12:00 noon.

**Healthy Women, Healthy Lives**  
Edysse Kessler, a National Vice-President of Hadassah and National Chair of the Hadassah

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## United Jewish Communities' Mission to Israel

Rabbi Michael Melchior Joins in Conference Call to Federation Execs

By Amy Krakovitz

United Jewish Communities and the Jewish Committee for Public Affairs sent a delegation to Israel in October. There the small group of professionals and lay people toured the area and met with community leaders.

In the midst and violence and terror, they took time out one afternoon to make a conference call to all Federation offices and briefed each Jewish community on their experiences.

Martin Raffel, Associate Executive Vice Chairman of the Jewish Committee for Public Affairs, had much to say about the atmosphere in Jerusalem during the week of Sukkot. "There were incredible contrasts," he said. "At



Rabbi Michael Melchior, Minister of Israeli Society and the World Jewish Community.

the Kotel, people were dancing. ... But the hotels are empty. ... Israel feels cut off from the rest of the world." Raffel emphasized the importance of maintaining Israeli

security's control over the Temple Mount.

He continued describing the atmosphere in Jerusalem. "It's like

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## Marvin Goldberg Bids Farewell to Charlotte

Federation Executive Director Says "Shalom"

By Amy Krakovitz

There seems to be a consensus in the Charlotte Jewish community and around Shalom Park. Marvin Goldberg, the executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, is an enormously kind and generous person, who truly cares about his staff and the Jewish community.

But as of November 1, Goldberg will leave his post at the Federation to pursue other interests and return with his wife, Renee, to the rest of his family in New England.

Goldberg came to Charlotte four and half years ago with the goals of increasing the campaign, enhancing the reputation of the Federation, and building up edu-



Marvin Goldberg, former Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

cational services in Charlotte.

"During Marvin's tenure, we have seen much growth and change," says Sara Schreiber, President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. "He certainly accomplished significant things

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**Connecting Families  
Sustaining Tradition**  
SHALOM PARK

**795 FAMILIES &  
INDIVIDUALS HAVE  
MADE THEIR PLEDGE!**

**MAKE YOUR  
PLEDGE TODAY!**

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