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The Staff and Board of  
The Charlotte Jewish News

## Letter to the Editor

**The Rise of Anti-Semitism**

What happened in France should be of great concern to the Charlotte Jewish community. Dangerous for not just the Charlotte community that needs to be alert, but something every Jewish organization throughout the United States needs to be concerned about. Let's go back a few years and see what has been simmering under the surface.

1) President Putin made a claim during one of his end of year press conferences that the failures in the Russian economy happened because of "the Jewish business people and the banks that they own." The only problem with his statement is the banks are owned by the government. How then could

it be the fault of the Jews living in Russia? Jews have been beaten up in several Russian cities and most of the beatings go unreported by the Russian and US press.

2) The rise of anti-Semitism in France, Germany, and Russia is dangerous and the sad part is it is getting worse. The number of skinheads in this country has been increasing so fast it is hard for the government agencies to follow all of them and maintain surveillance on them. The same is true with terrorists and terrorist groups.

History has the ability to repeat itself and we should be diligent to stay on top of these issues and groups. If you compare what Putin did to take over Crimea and his attack on Ukraine to what

Hitler did in Europe before the start of World War II, there is little difference. There is a rise of attacks on Jews in Europe and we should not put our heads in the sand but speak out, watch, help, and assist our Jewish brethren before it is too late.

During the 1930s, the world kept silent no one believed that anything was going to happen years later the world learned they were wrong and what happened to six million Jews was unthinkable. There are those who want to fight immigration in this country and do not want people entering the country. As in the 1930s, when America did not allow the MS St. Louis to dock, it then sent the nearly 1,000 Jews on the boat back to Europe for possible death.

All of this may sound far-

fetched, but with the hate that is in this world it may not be as far away as we think. I can list attacks on Rabbis, children shot at the Los Angeles Jewish Community Center, and the attack on Jewish merchants in Germany and France.

Look at where two terrorist went to take hostages. Out of all Paris and France, they chose a Kosher Market. French President Hollande declared that the attack on the Kosher Market was an act of anti-Semitism. It is why the Charlotte Jewish community needs to heed the warning signs of hate and keep a close ear and eyes open about what is happening in Europe and in our own backyard.

One commentator on CNN made an interesting statement about the Muslim community in France: "The Muslims came to

France to live but they did not want to become French. They wanted to be Muslims living in France."

Do I see another Holocaust in the future? No, but I do see that the world looks for a scapegoat as it did in the 1930s and it was the Jews.

It is important that we teach our children about the Holocaust and see the possible parallels in the world today.

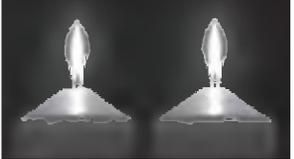
--Lloyd Scher

*Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or editorial board of The Charlotte Jewish News.*

*For more on anti-Semitism in France, see the op-ed on page 30.*

**SHABBAT CANDLE  
LIGHTING FOR FEBRUARY 2015**

Friday, February 6, 5:38 PM  
Friday, February 13, 5:45 PM  
Friday, February 20, 5:52 PM  
Friday, February 27, 5:58 PM



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## Rabbi Judy Schindler Announces a New Chapter in Her Life

On Tuesday, January 20, Rabbi Judy Schindler of Temple Beth El sent an email to her congregation announcing her plans to step down from her position as senior rabbi, effective in the summer of 2016.

She said that she would like to "focus the next stage of my rabbinic career on scholarly and social action pursuits."

The 18-month advance notice is to ensure a smooth transition and to give the congregation time

to decide on its specific needs for a new senior rabbi. Current synagogue president Jack Levinson will announce plans for the search process soon.

For a more detailed account of her decision and for the complete text of her email, go to <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2015/01/20/5459550/temple-beth-el-schindler-leaving.html#.VMFlmaMo6Uk> at *The Charlotte Observer*. ✪



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