

Levine JCC (Continued from page 1)

who remained incurred salary cuts and benefit eliminations. Entire departments were eliminated in order to sustain the J, and the losses continue to this day, despite every effort to pivot and provide new programs and services to our community.

We are grateful to those who have continued their memberships, paid monthly program and service fees, sustained or upgraded to Distinctive Membership, or made donations. Many of our members contrib-

uted to the Jewish Charlotte Emergency Response Fund, created by Jewish Federation of Charlotte. This fund raised close to \$500,000, \$100,000 of which was distributed to LJCC to provide critical programs, services, and to support LJCC staff during these past few months.

While the board and staff are working tirelessly to ensure that the LJCC's doors are open when we are on the other side of this pandemic, the truth is that

this will be difficult if the current trend of membership loss continues.

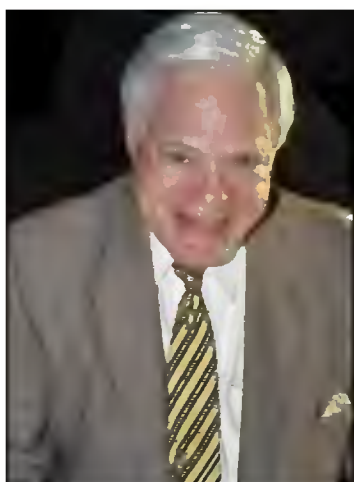
These have been challenging times for us all. Board president Raizel Kahn reminds those who have frozen or canceled their memberships that, "Your community needs you now. Your monthly membership dues are the difference between a thriving JCC and one that doesn't survive COVID-19. The programming happening at the J right now is phenomenal and safe. Come back and check it out. The day's most fulfilling moments for many of us, physically and mentally, are happening every day on campus – whether it be sweating through a workout or helping out Oasis – being part of this community (even if virtually) is powerful and meaningful, especially right now. We miss you and need you."



Note:

Safely re-opening requires some temporary changes. Many programs require reservations, which can be made online, and some have temporarily changed location. A health screening and waiver are required before entering the building. For a more comprehensive list of changes to be aware of, visit our website at <https://www.charlottejcc.org/> We look forward to seeing you!

Something to Crow About



Richard Klein

By Nadine Fox

The truth of the matter is that Richard Klein's charmingly illustrated, newly published children's book, "Something to Crow About," has a lot to say to adults too. In simple rhymes, targeting three to eight-year-olds, are disguised real-life questions:

Was this the life for which I was meant?

From where do I come?

Is physical appearance destiny?

What's truly important?

The author introduces us to Moe the Crow, a tiny, black baby bird who can only look down on the exciting ebb and flow of life from ground level beneath his tree perch. Sensing his distraught demeanor, Mama Crow quickly intervenes with

an intriguing tale of his ancestry and evolution into a creature of promise and pride. Though not his intention at the time he wrote the book, it turned out to be a perfect metaphor for the Black Lives Matter Movement.

The youngsters will be enchanted with illustrator Ariel Coburn's colorful, diverse drawings. They are stylized in a manner that is original. Moe and his ancestors certainly jump off the page. *Something to Crow About* is an inaugural edition of what will be a series of three stories, introducing a frog with Jewish holiday woes and another concerning a locomotive caper.

The author, a husband, father of four and grandfather of eight, has published before. His first book, "Putting the Fun into Fundraising," was inspired by his years of involvement with Jewish and civic causes. He has served as president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, president of Beth Shalom Congregation, a board member at Temple Israel, vice president of Temple Beth El (currently his family attends Congregation Ohr HaTorah), Hadassah associate member, vice president of Fundraising of the Oratorio Singers and has served professionally as the associate network director and Southeast Network Regional Director for the Jewish Federations for 21 years.

One of Klein's proudest accomplishments while with Fed-

eration involved John Belk of Belk Department Stores. Richard, past Master of Excelsior Lodge # 261 A.F. & A.M., member of Scottish Rite Bodies, Oasis Temple of the Shrine and Royal Order of Jesters, knew Belk personally as a fellow active brother of the Masonic organization. One day, while chatting, Richard suggested Mr. Belk travel to Israel with him on a personal tour and mission, and Mr. Belk agreed.

After much planning, the two went on an extensive visit to Israel. Upon visiting the well-known, but very poor, village of Dimona and touring a run-down, decrepit community center, John's heart was touched and he made a personal gift of \$500,000 to finance the total rebuild and refurbishment of the center.

Prior to that, Richard was President of Walter J. Klein Company, Ltd., associated with the family-owned production company for 30 years. He wrote 65 scripts, all produced for television and group audiences. While there, he belonged to the famed Friar's Club of New York, working with major personalities of the era, including Morey Amsterdam, Richard Jansen, Avery Schreiber (all of whom were Jewish), and Joan Fontaine (who was not). Locally, the talent included names like Ty Boyd, Gladys Lavitan, and Clyde McLean.

He tells the story of his teen years in which his father routinely volunteered him to show screenings of their films to friends and groups, including Charlotte's famed Jewish personality, Harry Golden. Klein grew up in the film business and traveled domestically and overseas with his father. One memorable trip was to film "The Safari Rally," where he had to drive all night from Nairobi to Tanzania and back, driving for the first time on the left with Impalas intermittently jumping into the road. All for about five minutes of filming! He filmed that race three times, in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Another of the company's memorable achievements was producing a film for Public Service called "The Big Yellow Bus." It was picked up

nationwide for its clear, effective visual of school bus safety.

Richard's ancestors first arrived in America right after the civil war. His grandfather, Arthur Goodman, Sr., arrived in Charlotte with his wife, in the 1920s, as a department store buyer. He left and after a short career in the Five and Dime business with Ben Jaffe, Sr., he attended Duke Law and began a law practice in Charlotte. Both Arthur Sr. and Richard's uncle, Arthur Goodman, Jr., came to serve in the North Carolina Legislature as Representatives. Richard's mother, Elizabeth, married a WW II soldier, Walter Klein, stationed here in Charlotte. This family has a long and deep history with Charlotte, four generations having been born at the former Presbyterian Hospital. They are embedded in the Jewish history of our community. Richard is currently tracing the military history of his family. He and his father served in the U.S. Army. He is very proud that his son, son-in-law, and grandson have all served in the IDF.

Richard jokingly told me he wrote the book based on how many times he has had to eat "crow," but I think not. He definitely has "Something to Crow About."

The book is now available online at Barnes and Noble and Amazon.

