

# ThisWeek

Also serving  
Berwick and Eastmoor

in Bexley

50c January 16, 2002

January 16, 2002

ThisWeek in Bexley

Page 33

## Super Sunday

# Herb Weyl marks 50-plus years as volunteer

By JOSHUA PLATT  
*ThisWeek Contributor*

On Sunday, Bexley resident Herb Weyl, 76, will participate in his 54th Columbus Jewish Federation Super Sunday phone-a-thon, an annual fund-raising event sponsored by the Federation.

"I got drawn in to it," Weyl said. "It just seemed like the right thing to do."

On Jan. 20, he plans to again volunteer as a solicitor for the Super Sunday phone-a-thon.

"I started volunteering in 1947 or 1948," he said. Weyl said he missed one year, "when I was sick with the flu." To the best of Weyl's knowledge, however, he has participated every year since.

"What can I say?" Weyl recalls. "They kept asking, and I kept saying yes. After World War II, and during the beginnings of Israel, there certainly was a great need for Jewish charity."

This year's Super Sunday phone-a-thon, co-chaired by Deborah P. Ecker, Jeff Katz and Arthur Isaac,

is being held at the Huntington Bank building, 7 Easton Oval in Columbus, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

According to Weyl, the location confirms the maxim "all that was once old is new again."

"They used to hold it (Super Sunday) at Huntington downtown," Weyl says. "They had phone systems set up in the lobby of bank. I don't know that it was really much different than it is today."

As an accountant with an office downtown, Weyl says the bank's location was convenient for making Super Sunday calls during tax season.

"The reason I could be active was that it was held on Sundays," Weyl said, smiling. "I'd take a break from work, make my calls and then go back to doing taxes. My office was at 145 North High Street, and the bank was at the corner of High and Long."

Although causes benefiting from Federation largess have changed over time, Weyl says the basic structure of Super Sunday has stayed the same.

"I don't know that there has been

that much change," Weyl recalls. "We had to dial nine to get an outside line. We used pledge cards and call sheets. Just like today."

Weyl jokes about the most dramatic differences between Super Sunday in 1948 and 2002.

"I don't think, in the early years, that anybody was ever thinking of feeding the callers," he joked. "In the last few years, it seems like there's a lot more food."

Last year, more than one hundred volunteers joined Weyl to participate in Super Sunday. Callers closed 631 pledges, including 135 new commitments. The event raised more than \$61,000. Combined with other fundraising activities, the Federation raised more than \$7-million last year.

Central Ohio-based synagogues, Jewish schools and agencies received approximately \$5-million. Nearly \$2-million went to programs aiding Jews in Israel, the former Soviet Union and 60 other countries around the world.

"The Federation is truly a community-wide Jewish charity," says

Weyl. "That makes it possible to help everyone — the synagogues, the Jewish schools, the new immigrants. ... It's a good organization."

Weyl was himself a beneficiary of Jewish charities.

Shortly after his bar mitzvah in 1938, Herb Weyl and his parents fled Germany. It was just before Kristalnacht, the "night of broken glass," and the start of increasing Nazi violence against Jews. With the help of Jewish charities, Weyl's family immigrated to New York City. Weyl says he will always remember those who helped when his family needed it most.

"We came to New York with nothing," Weyl recalls. "It was the Jewish organizations that provided aid, loaned money. That led me to develop a strong belief in the need to help other Jews. I still feel very, very strongly about that."

Weyl's mother worked in retail after moving to New York. His father, who owned a men's clothing store in Germany, was unemployed. Through the auspices of several Jewish agencies, Weyl's father finally

found work — at a garment factory in Michigan City, Indiana.

"We were the first German refugees," Weyl says. "It was a small Jewish community, maybe 70 families."

In 1944, Weyl enrolled in The Ohio State University and came to Columbus.

"In Indiana, I worked at the Shoe Corporation of America, owned by Herbert Schiff," Weyl says. "I needed money to put myself through school. They told me that if I went to Ohio State, I could continue to work in the company's home office, in Columbus."

Weyl studied accounting at OSU, and stayed in town after graduating. He opened an accounting firm and became active in the B'nai B'rith men's organization. He also met Roselee Lerer, a Columbus native. Married in 1951, the couple has four children, Steven, Cheryl, Denise and Julie, and three grandchildren.

To volunteer for Super Sunday, contact Terry Bailey at 614-237-7686 x250, or email supersunday@tcj.org.