What’s so funny about next Hadassah program?

Need a good laugh? How about a nice meal? The next Hadassah program will offer both on Sunday, Jan. 20, 5 p.m., in the community building. Stand-up comedienne Martha Marks, who happens to be the sister of our very own Karen Aarons, will present a program on “Jewish Humor and More.” Hadassah will provide the entrée for a pot luck supper. Let Jean Rosenbaum know what you plan to bring: vegetable, salad, relishes, dessert or drinks. Also, volunteers are needed for the clean-up committee.

Demise of United Jewish Charities of Baytown

During Congregation K’nesseth Israel’s annual meeting, Merv Rosenbaum mentioned that with his departure the 70-year-old Baytown operation of the United Jewish Charities would cease and that the remaining base funds would be turned over to the UJA in New York. The UJA has received more than 95 percent of the money raised in the past.

There was general agreement to this plan of action. No one appeared interested in continuing it since two of its major contributors either are already or will soon be contributing elsewhere.

Recent contributors were given the option of being solicited annually by the UJA out of New York or by the Houston Jewish Federation. Contributors who were not at the meeting will be asked for their preference.

If anyone wishes to take over the task of raising funds locally, please contact Merv.

Article pays tribute to heroic liberator

A recent Jewish Herald-Voice article told the story of a Houston man who got to meet and thank soldiers who helped rescue him from a Nazi labor camp in 1945. That man, Al Marks, is the father of Karen Marks Aarons.

The article described Al’s experiences as a child in Europe under the Nazis and his liberation from a camp by American forces. Several years ago Al finally got to meet his liberators, including one who drove the first tank into the camp. More recently Al, Karen and husband Scott traveled to Illinois to meet this veteran and presented him with a gift.

You can read the full article online. Go to the Herald-Voice site at www.jhvonline.com and select “Houston & Environs” from the “News” menu. The article is titled “Local survivor and family pay tribute to heroic liberator.”

Lots of latkes

Denise Havenar and Jerry Fram serve up hot latkes during the annual Chanukah party Dec. 9. Helping make the event a success were Lana Berkowitz, Shana and Miriam Bauman, Stephanie Schwartz and Janet Bright. Prior to the party, Karen Aarons and Manuel Razo led a service.