

Looking Backward

Children Complete Fall Classes at 'J'

The Fall Semester of children's classes at the JCC closed on December 19th. A variety of activities such as ballet, gymnastics, pottery, karate, and Erev Shabbatniks were enjoyed by 230 children. It was a great semester at the "J" with a constant flow of children's excitement.

The dance program will continue for the entire year. The four year olds in pre-ballet and tap are adorable and are making much progress with Ben Bagby, instructor. We are anxiously awaiting the dance recital by the children in the spring.

Damon Rumsch with the woodshop boys and girls had an exciting semester making such items as rockets which they launched and airplanes. Thanks to Buddy Abrams and his crew who totally renovated the "Little House" which is now occupied by the woodshop, crafts and pottery classes, as well as some adult programs. Damon helped a great deal in getting the crafts part of the house ready for the children by installing counters for the children to work at and setting up the woodshop area.

Many children entered into the "Magic World of Color and Craft" and a combination pottery and crafts class. These classes also moved to the Little House where the children can really spread out and be creative. Various projects now decorate many homes as these children have taken their works of art home. The pottery class also made some beautiful clay objects in the "clay" room in the Little House. Totem poles, trees, cups, pencil holders and Chanukah Menorahs are only a few of the items made by the children. They are indeed very proud of their work.

Pam White has explored the area of "Movement & Music" with a class of three and four year olds. The games, marches and routines are a delight to watch.

Moms and tots lunched together and then created many art projects together. This marvelous hour of uninterrupted time proved exciting for both the moms and the two year olds with the help of instructor Debbie Hirsch.

The karate students under the direction of Robert Briggs, a karate black belt, have moved up in the area of karate. Thursday, December 28th was the final promotion in this class and a very impressive group of boys did very well for all who watched.

Cathy Kirby and her staff at Ice Capades Chalet had a very successful season on the ice with two classes one of four and five year olds, and another of six to twelve year olds from the "J". At the last class all the children were tested and presented with buttons and ribbons for their achievements.

Tennis clinics were very popular under the direction of Penny Brawley. The beginner and intermediate classes made great progress and were enjoyed by all. The advanced class in addition to instruction played in matches arranged by Penny with advanced players from other clubs. The children look forward to longer daylight hours when they can begin the clinics again.

Yet another success was the gymnastics program. Marion Davidson worked with students three to ten years old on various skills in gymnastics. The mats and balance beams got a good workout from the many little

New Americans

(Continued from Page 1)

or will settle in Israel. Many would like to come to the United States. Unemployment is high in the larger cities and HIAS is requesting that more of them be settled in the South and Midwest.

It is hoped that two more families can be accepted into our community in 1979; (HIAS has requested five). The Federation is willing to invest the money to help get them established, but a great deal more than money is involved in this venture. Primarily what is needed are people. People who can give their time, their patience and their love to individuals who require much understanding and guidance. Specific areas where help will be needed are: (1) Seeking employment; (2) Obtaining furnishings for apartments; (3) Supplying suitable clothing; (4) tutoring in English; (5) Obtaining free medical and dental services; (6) Locating inexpensive cars after they have learned to drive; help with extra driving time; (7) Transportation. Most of all we need YOU to be a FRIEND. Why not start today by getting acquainted with our current families in town; visit with them, invite them to join you at temple or organizational functions and to your home; it is always nice to be remembered.



**Best Wishes
For Your
New Paper
Compliments
of
A Friend**



gymnasts at the "J".

The students from the cooking class prepared a dinner of hot dogs, slaw and cookies for their families under the supervision of Debbie Hirsch.

The Erev Shabbatniks ended their class with a family covered dish dinner and service presented by the students. This event was very impressive and an appropriate way to end the session. Under the direction of Lani Levine the children have learned the blessings, Israeli dances and songs, which they did for their families at the dinner. They also did many craft projects related to Shabbas and the Jewish holidays which took place during the semester. Challahs, wine and candles went home with the children after their first class, and challahs each Friday during the semester.

The next semester of classes will begin the week of February 5th. The schedule of classes is in this issue. Get your registration in early so you won't be left out.

Yiddish Theatre Ensemble Keeps Yiddish Alive

Yiddish Theater will come to Charlotte Thursday evening, February 1, 1979! Broadway prodgers can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on elaborate sets, fancy costumes and huge orchestras hoping to make an audience laugh, tap their feet and clap their hands in time to the music, and leave the theatre with a smile on their faces and joy in their hearts. This same sought after reaction with a change of wigs, a shawl, two or three beards, a couple of chairs and a few tables is achieved by the Yiddish Musical Comedy Theatre.

The music and the feelings of our brothers and sisters in Eastern Europe lives. The performances by the members of the cast have received rave reviews from all over the country. Members of the cast are: Chayele Ash, Ari Fuhrman, Abraham Fuhrman and Barbara Moskow.

CHAYELE ASH began her career in the Yiddish Theatre at the age of six. During her teens she traveled with her theatrical parents appearing in Rumania, Czechoslovakia and Austria. She appeared in Moscow, Poland and in the D.P. camps in Austria. In 1948 she organized the Yiddish theatre in Israel. In 1958 she appeared at the London Grand Palace Theatre and in 1961 she toured South Africa. She came to the U.S. in 1962, and has since been appearing on television and Yiddish programs throughout the country.

Both ABRAHAM and ARI FUHRMAN, who are brothers, studied at the Czernowitz Conservatory. Abraham was a chorister and also a member of the Jewish Dramatic Groups. During World War II he was the soloist in the Red Army Ensemble. After the war, he was active in the Jewish Theatre in the D.P. camps. In 1951, he came to America and took the position of Choral Director and Soloist in Temple Tikvah - Israel in Philadelphia. During this period, he was also a member of the Philadelphia Yiddish Theatre Group.

ARI FUHRMAN's musical studies were interrupted by World War II. After being released from a concentration camp he settled in Bucharest where he became a member of the Jewish State Theatre. He emigrated to Israel in 1959 and played in the newly organized Theatre, Teatron Haolism. Since 1961, he has been living in Philadelphia and continues to appear in the Yiddish Theatre as well as writing and arranging music for other performances in which he and his wife Chayele Ash perform.

BARBARA MOSKOW is a lyric soprano, has been a soloist with the WOR Symphony Orchestra, sang with the St. Paul Civic Opera Company, and was chosen personally by Gian Carlo Menotti to sing the female lead in his opera "The Telephone" when it was first televised nationwide. Ms. Moskow also appeared in plays produced for the Philadelphia Board of Education and in the TV musical, "Exploring the Arts". Ms. Moskow is noted for her rendition of operatic arias, musical theatre songs, pop and folk music.

The performance will be held at the J.C.C. at 8 p.m. and all seats are \$3.00. Tickets may be obtained at the J.C.C., P.O. Box 220188, Charlotte, N.C. 28222, or from members of the committee: Mr. & Mrs. Abe Luski, Mr. & Mrs. Leo Hoffman, Mr. & Mrs. John Pransky and Mr. & Mrs. George Ackerman.

I.D.'s Legacy Growing Day School

A special man brought presents to children at the Hebrew Academy, Charlotte's Jewish Day School, a few years ago. The gifts were "Golden Rule" marbles labeled with the basic ethical concept by which the eighty-year-old visitor himself lived.

As he passed out boxes to the children, the man impressed upon them the importance of taking good care of this gift. The boys and girls carried them home if they were magical.

The man was Isadore "Dick" Blumenthal, the outstanding Jewish Philanthropist who died in Charlotte December 6, 1978. As a devout Jew, Mr. Blumenthal, founder of Radiator Specialty Company, was concerned with strengthening Jewish life in North Carolina, as well as improving inter-faith relations.

He was instrumental in organizing a day school in Greensboro in 1969 and in

the school's board in 1977, Mr. Blumenthal favored a day school independent of ties with other Jewish organizations in the community. He also was concerned with strong Judaic leadership for the Academy, urging achievement of the highest quality Jewish studies program possible.

When Rabbi Sanford Tucker became the director of the Academy in 1976, Mr. Blumenthal was satisfied with the progress the school had made but was unhappy with enrollment, then at its lowest point. Always the optimistic motivator, he pledged to make a substantial donation to the school for each new child registered.

"I can't imagine a family now wanting to send their child here," he said to board members. Within two years, Academy enrollment rose to thirty.

It was not only the Blumenthal dollars that con-



tributed to the Jewish education of Academy children. I.D. Blumenthal was a model of an educated, practicing Jew. Students regularly saw him on the bimah at Temple Israel at the Shabbat Torah reading, following the portion and reciting the blessings. Only poor health kept him from attending. Students remember, too, his joyous second Bar Mitzvah in the spring of 1978. He also gave support to the Academy through his publication, the "American Jewish Times-Outlook."

Mr. Blumenthal leaves a legacy of two growing day schools in the state and a fundraising organization, the North Carolina Hebrew Academy Foundation, created in 1977 by his direction. As he had done with all his philanthropic projects, he wisely provided a mechanism for their continued support, and more important, he passed along his enthusiasm and commitment to those who would lead in the future.

As an advocate of day school education, it was Mr. Blumenthal's dream to establish four day schools in the state and a residential Hebrew high school in Clemmons. He put money behind that support, serving as the Hebrew Academy's first finance co-chairman, as a member of the founding board of directors, and making the mortgage payments for the Academy's building on Sardis Lane.

Elected a lifetime member of

"THERE ARE FEW WHO CHALLENGE THE INVESTMENT OF LARGE SUMS OF MONEY IN JEWISH EDUCATION; THEY NOW REALIZE THAT YIELD IS ONLY IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO INVESTED RESOURCES."

Morton Siegel
United Synagogue Review

Join The JCC.