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JCC Class Registration Closing

If you haven't sent your registration for the Spring classes at the "J" you better do so immediately. Class registration is in the final stages as the Center prepares to begin classes the week of February 5th. Most of the classes are pretty well filled, but there are still some openings. Don't delay sending in or phoning in your registration! You will be disappointed if you do not avail yourselves of the opportunity of participation in these excellent courses.

The children's department is offering more than 30 classes for children ages 3 years through 18 years. There are arts and crafts courses including woodshop and auto mechanics. For the athletically inclined

youngsters we offer gymnastics, tennis, karate and ice skating. Those interested in theater and dance may enroll in creative dramatics, disco dancing, or modern jazz. Even a course in puppetry is offered. For domestically inclined children a special cooking course and creative stitchery can be had. The children's classes last for 12 weeks.

For adults there are over 20 courses offered including tennis, ballet, exercise, Yoga, cake decorating, painting, life drawing, and adult education courses. A special family life education course is being offered for fathers only. The classes promise to be very exciting and worthwhile. Adult classes

last for 8 weeks unless otherwise noted in the schedule.

The entire schedule appeared in last month's issue of *The Charlotte Jewish News*. If for some reason you did not receive a copy or misplaced yours, there are extra copies available at the JCC. No registration will be accepted without full payment of fee. If you have not made full or part payment on your 1979 dues, or made payment arrangements by February 1st, you will be required to pay non-member rates.

REMEMBER - CLASSES START THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5th.

Second Annual Chanukah Happening

by Sara Schreiber

Rain on Sunday, December 24th, forced the last minute change of plans for the Community's Annual Chanukah Marathon Run and Family Day.

the route with the rabbi. During some parts of the run parents joined their children and ran. The spirit of the "Run For Peace" was evident in the runners' expressions.



Monday, December 25th, Rabbi Rocklin, accompanied by Bob Schrader, Mike Schwartz and Joe Steiner, led the children from Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, Temple Beth Shalom, the Hebrew Academy and the

While the Marathon Run was in progress, over 40 children and their parents had an exciting afternoon participating in the Family part of the Chanukah Chappening held at the "J." Some were up to their elbows in



Jewish Community Center on the 12½ mile route which started at Temple Israel and finished at the JCC. A strong feeling of "freedom" was felt by all who participated, as a beautiful day lent itself to the run.

A car caravan followed the runners to carry them after they had run their portion. In their enthusiasm many of the children continued running more than their portion of the route. Several went most or all of

flour in the "Cookie Factory," others sawing, sanding, and stenciling their own dreidles (that really worked!) while still others were down on their knees pasting, cutting and coloring beautiful Chanukah decorations for their homes. The enthusiasm shown by both children and parents made the afternoon one of the highlights of the year for the JCC. Everyone enjoyed the festivities. (Continued on Page 4)

Arab 'Lobby' Arab Thrust

Who are the principal influence peddlers, contact men, lobbyists, lawyers, publicists and consultants working as Arab emissaries in this country? The "Middle East Connection" - is it a euphemism for conducting big business, or influencing American foreign policy, or a bit of both? And why do the Arab states recruit-offering, evaporing - retainers from an elite roster of former U.S. Government and military officials?

The answers to these questions are to be found in the activities of Americans who make up the Arab lobby in Washington, New York, Atlanta, Houston and other key political and economic centers in America.

Now that Israel and Egypt at last are on the road to peace, with wide-spread approval on the American scene, carping would seem ill-timed. Yet, perhaps, with tempers cooled, it is a good time to gain perspective by analyzing the criticism that Americans leveled at each other with respect to the Middle East.

In the months before the Camp David summit, Prime Minister Menachem Begin was charged on many sides with intransigence, a view that was increasingly adopted by many Americans. Any and every move by American supporters of Israel was severely criticized. The Arabs could do no wrong.

Let us look back now and see what the pro-Arabs did that was ignored by those so busy criticizing Israel.

In the last few years, there have been increasing attacks on the efforts of Israel and its American friends to insure continuation of the traditional friendship of the United States for its only democratic ally in the Middle East. These Americans and sympathetic organizations were arbitrarily labeled "pro-Israel lobbyists" with the implied - if not stated - charge that there is something nefarious in efforts to affirm the vital national security interests of our country in a strong Israeli ally.

There is nothing pejorative about the term "lobbyist", and nothing wrong about efforts by



Check in photo is being presented to Sol Kline and Ronald Goldstein, Pony Express Co-Chairmen of the Southeast Region by Bob Abel and Harry Lerner. (See story on Page 5 - Pony Express.)

representatives of foreign countries or by Americans friendly to such countries to influence American public opinion and American government policy.

However, it is a peculiar phenomenon that, in recent years, Israel and its American friends have been singled out for repeated and often critical attention. Yet the sizable and growing efforts of the Arabs and their powerful American supporters to turn U.S. opinion and U.S. Mideast policy against our country's interests in a strong Israel have, until recently, received far less scrutiny, although deserving substantially more attention.

The intense lobbying and "public relations" activities by Saudi Arabia and its American representatives in the Spring of 1978 raised fundamental questions about the goals, depth and methods of Arab influence in the U.S. This was particularly noticeable during the weeks of debate on the proposed U.S. sale of highly sophisticated F-15 warplanes to Saudi Arabia as well as to Israel which had a prior U.S. commitment for the planes.

The pressures brought to bear on the plane sales issue by Arab oil and petrodollar power have raised important questions

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Tu B'Shvat Seder

On Sunday, February 11th, the Academy P.T.A., Horim v' Morim, will sponsor a celebration commemorating the holiday of Tu B'Shvat in the form of a seder.

This is a Kabbalistic ritual which has been modernized and updated. It celebrates the cycle of growth and regeneration of trees in Israel and is modeled on the seder for Passover.

Rabbi Sanford Tucker, Director of the Academy, will be the narrator and foods which are grown on trees will be tasted at the seder. Coffee and cake will be served after the seder is completed.

This event will take place at the JCC from 2-4 p.m. It is free and open to the public, but by reservation only. To assure a place at the seder table call either Judy Marko at 364-1494 or Pat Freeman at 523-7300 no later than February 8th.

(See editorial, Page 2)

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