

hebrew
academy

The Trial of King Saul

By Saul Brenner

The Bible portrays the Kings of Israel as flawed humans who were murderers, liars, thieves and idol worshippers, as well as brave warriors and leaders. During the last week of school at the Hebrew Academy, the third, fourth and fifth graders dramatized some of the events told in the Bible by offering a one-hour play "The Trial of King Saul."

At the Academy's trial Saul was charged with the murder of a number of people and with the attempted murder of David. His defense was that of insanity. All the children in these three grades took the role of Biblical characters and wrote their own parts. Among the prominent roles were prosecuting attorney (Stuart Gordan), defense attorney (Keefe Bernstein), King Saul (Carrie Lambert), Jonathan (Dennis Geronimus), a witch (Michelle Steiner) and David (David Brenner). Ilan Weinglass, Lila Shapiro, Ruthie Abel, Ashley Widis and Sharit Massachi were also witnesses at the trial. Director Eleanor Weinglass was a surprise witness and played the part of King Saul's psychiatrist. The judge was Academy parent Saul Brenner and six parents were jurors. The jury returned a verdict of "not guilty by reason of insanity." (They did not, however, find King



(left to right) Stuart Gordan, Saul Brenner and Lila Shapiro. Photo/Mitch Greenberg

Saul to be unfit to be King by reason of insanity.) and succeeded in presenting a true courtroom drama."

The trial was not produced overnight. Indeed, the children worked on it for three months under the supervision of Judaic teacher Ziva London. The children learned many things from this experience: Bible, including an in-depth analysis of the characters, psychology, the nature of the criminal trial, how to debate and, perhaps, most important, how much time and effort it takes to do a good job. The parents who saw the trial were impressed by the children's accomplishment. One of the parents, Patti Weisman, who was also a juror, stated, "The children worked very hard to put on this trial. They learned a lot



The students and faculty of the N.C. Hebrew Academy ended their school year with a trip to the York County Museum. There they viewed an exhibit on African culture and animals and saw a planetarium show. A nature walk and picnic lunch rounded out what Mrs. Weinglass, the school's Director, described as a "wonderful learning experience."

Alumni Purchases Gala Ticket

By Sue Brodsky

Daniel Brenner, a rising ninth grader at Charlotte Latin, was among the 107 patrons of the N.C. Hebrew Academy's 1983 Raffle Gala. After his Bar Mitzvah in August of 1982, Daniel, a 1981 graduate of the Hebrew Academy, was planning to make a donation to the school using his Bar Mitzvah money, when his father suggested that he buy a Gala ticket. Thus, he would have a chance to win a trip to Israel.



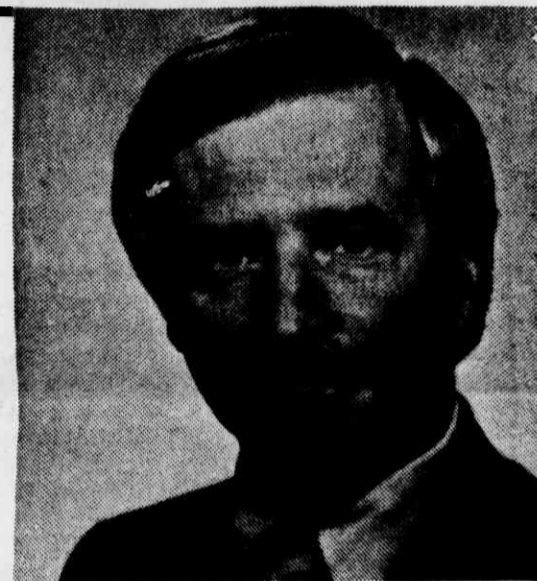
Adele Conn displays a gift that was "handed" to her at the conclusion of the school year at the Hebrew Academy. Her gift consisted of each child's handprints surrounding his or her "handy" pun, such as "how handy you've been," "you win hands down," and "we give you a handful of thanks," as a few examples.

Adele, a native of Scotland and a teacher at a Jewish day school there, volunteered twice a week as a teacher's aide at the Hebrew Academy, which her son Joel attended. Adele, along with Joel, and her husband Michael, who works for IBM, returned to Scotland in early August after a two year stay. Photos/Mitch Greenberg

In response to the question why he wanted to donate money to the school, Daniel replied, "...to sustain Jewish education in Charlotte." He further explained, "I feel it is my obligation to support the N.C. Hebrew Academy because it has given me a lot of knowledge."

Daniel was one of the first children to complete kindergarten through sixth grade at the Hebrew Academy.

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