

# Academy Provides Excellent Education

## From The Parents' Perspective

By Rose Massachi

When it comes time for our children to begin school at ages 5 or 6, we proceed with all sorts of investigations into schools, and in the end make a choice which in our belief meets our highest standards.

As Jewish parents we must also look at the Judaic education of our children. The N.C. Hebrew Academy has been combining the best of both secular and Judaic education since 1969. Its graduates have gone on to both private and public schools, proving to be top students there, as well as leaders in their grades.

Two of the prospective Hebrew Academy parents of kindergartners for the 1984-85 school year did their own searching and when asked recently why they have chosen the Hebrew Academy, they made the following remarks.

Sarah and Mike Schreiberman said that what is really impor-

tant to their son Philip, as well as to them, is that he will be able to have a great deal of individualized attention at the Academy. Furthermore, based on the quality of the academics and Judaica education he will be able to receive there, the school definitely meets their needs.

Mira and Paul Goldstein have decided to send their daughter Marcie to the Academy, because when they visited the school the children looked like they were enjoying what they were learning. "There was a lot of one-to-one contact providing personalized attention and a very warm feeling," Mira said. "There was definitely a feeling that the teachers genuinely cared about the children." Mira feels that when people love to learn when they are young, they will love to learn for the rest of their lives, simply because a good foundation will have been established.

## Competing With Private Schools

By Saul Brenner

Jewish parents, like many other parents, seek the best possible education for their children. For many, this means sending their children to the public schools. Others choose private schools such as Country Day, Latin and Providence Day. Some parents send their children to the Hebrew Academy. The Hebrew Academy is a small school located in two houses. Can the Academy compete with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg system or the private schools?

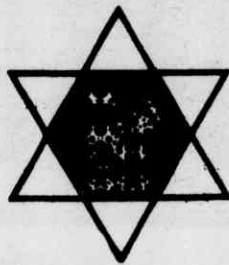
Clearly in terms of its physical facilities today, the Academy can't compete with any other school. But within two years, the Academy will move to the new education building at the Jewish community complex. There, it will not only have the benefit of new classrooms and equipment but its children will be able to share excellent recreational facilities as well.

Are buildings and physical facilities the crucial ingredient for a good school anyway? Parents who send their children to the Academy don't think so. They feel that the physical setting is not nearly as important as the emotional and educational environment created by a caring staff and a unique program.

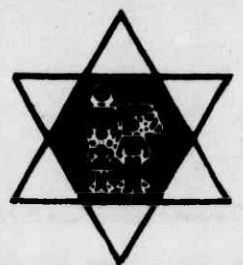
Can a school, which devotes a substantial part of its day to Hebrew language or Judaic studies, compete in its secular program with these other schools? Surprising to some, the answer to this question is "yes." Increasingly, educators and psychologists are contending that learning a second language facilitates the learning of English and learning about a second culture facilitates an understanding of our culture. I once visited a class in Country Day in which the instructor was teaching the American Revolution through the eyes of a British patriot. The students of the

Hebrew Academy have similar advantages. They learn about the crusades and the Roman empire through Jewish eyes. This is an important perspective to have when one learns the same subjects in the usual secular setting. What our children need is to critically evaluate the claims of knowledge and the value judgments made by other people. We want them to learn how to think, not merely to passively accept what others tell them. This is not to suggest that the Hebrew Academy students don't do well in the 3Rs. Their CAT scores are exceedingly high. It is merely to suggest that while the 3Rs are crucial, they are not the only goals of a good school.

There are at least three other advantages to sending one's children to the Hebrew Academy. First, and most important, there is a warm feeling in the school. It is a place where the children feel comfortable and where they make friends easily. It is an extension of a good home and our children want to go there. Second, our children can benefit from different kinds of educational experiences between kindergarten and college. Many children who begin Country Day, Latin or Providence Day in kindergarten ask to go to a different school after a number of years. They seek a different environment. We ought to give them a number of different educational environments during their growing years. Third, the Hebrew Academy's tuition is subsidized, making it affordable for more Jewish parents. We have a scholarship program for those who cannot afford our tuition. We are the beneficiaries of generous support from the Federation, the Blumenthal Foundation, the patrons at our annual gala and many other people who make contributions. It is worth noting that kindergarten at Country Day costs \$2540 per



hebrew  
academy



The Hebrew Academy has always benefited from the visits of all the rabbis in the Charlotte community. They have contributed their time, knowledge, sensitivity and love to the children.

According to the Academy Director, Eleanor Weinglass, Rabbi Robert Seigel and Rabbi Richard K. Rocklin will work with the children in various and specific capacities during the 1984-85 school year. The rabbis' contributions will include leading services, meeting with the students on a monthly scheduled basis, and teaching special mini-classes.

Rabbi Seigel, who has a special expertise with computers, will share his talent as he teaches how to use computers in the classroom.

Rabbi Yossi Groner, who has frequently met with the students in the past to teach about holidays, songs, and tell stories, will also continue to be actively involved in the school in the coming year.

### New Teacher Hired

Eleanor Weinglass, Director of the Hebrew Academy, announced at the June Meeting of the Board of Directors that Lynn Tarleton, who has been teaching at the Academy since last March, will be the primary kindergarten and 1st Grade Teacher during the 1984-85 school year.

Mrs. Tarleton has a B.A. in Elementary Education from Purdue University and a master's degree in Reading Education from UNCC. She has had thirteen years experience as an elementary school teacher.

Mrs. Tarleton will emphasize English writing and understanding of mathematics.

Lynn Tarleton is married to

Neal Tarleton and is the mother of two girls, Kelly, age 11, and Meagan, age 7. Both girls attend public schools. The Tarletons are members of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

For further information about enrolling your child at the Academy, please contact our Director, Eleanor Weinglass. Her home number is (704) 536-4474. One can also telephone Carol Waldman at (704) 542-8018 or Peggy Gartner at (704) 366-2100.

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Lynn Tarleton



Peggy Gartner

At the June Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Hebrew Academy, Peggy Gartner was elected the new president of the Hebrew Academy. She succeeds Michael Shapiro who has left Charlotte for Washington, D.C.

**Peggy Gartner  
Elected President**

Peggy, born in Asheville in 1948, moved to Charlotte in 1978 when she married Elliot Gartner. They have two children: Geoffrey, a nine-year-old and a rising 4th grader at the Academy, and Mitchell, a one-year-old.

Peggy has been active in B'nai B'rith Women (she was President of Ha Lailah Chapter in 1978-79 and President of the Avodah Council in 1980-82), Jewish Community Center, and the Hebrew Academy (she was Vice President in 1983-84 and Gala Cochairman in 1982, 1983 and 1984).

Also elected at the June meeting were Dr. Joseph Steiner, Vice President; Patty Weisman, Vice President Fund Raising; Ann Abel, Vice President Education; Carol Waldman, Secretary; Larry Widis, Treasurer.

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