

New Hebrew Program For The Academy

By Rose Massachi

When Zeva London, a Hebrew teacher at the N.C. Hebrew Academy, talks about her Hebrew program, her face lights up from the excitement within her. She and Hebrew Academy Director, Eleanor Weinglass, are both extremely pleased with a new Hebrew curriculum which was instituted this year.

Last summer they were traveling to Israel together, and during their stopover in New York City they spent some time shopping for educational materials. Eleanor explained, "Our main criteria for choosing any new Hebrew materials has always been that they must in some way facilitate bringing the children closer to fluency or at ease with the language, as well as to allow them familiarity with the language of prayer."

Zeva added, "The literature we have been using in previous years, Hebrew and Heritage, is an excellent siddur program published by Behrman House, Inc., and we are continuing to use this. But up until recently, there wasn't a program available which included reading, conversation and writing, all inclusive, that was really conducive to fluency in the language."

The new publication these two educators were speaking of is the Hebrew Language Arts

Curriculum compiled by the Jewish Education Council of Allied Jewish Community Services and published by Tal Sela in 1984.

"It's terrific!" Zeva enthusiastically added. "It has so many features...each child has a workbook; there are tapes, including songs to help teach the lessons; games, flash cards, and a wonderful series of reading books which include poems and stories written by modern Jewish artists. It's very close to a program you would find in an Israeli school. I'm no longer stuck with 'what to do next'. I used to have to look high and low for materials. Now, everything is in this series, which saves me time and allows me to teach with a great deal of depth, and to achieve my teaching goals."

Eleanor explained that this new program has been established in the third and fourth grades this year, but it is written for students through the sixth grade, which will be used in the future at the school.

Both women feel that this year the Academy's Hebrew curriculum has been filled with a new surge of energy as it continues with its excellent study of the language of prayer, and utilizes a more suitable way to teach the children to be comfortable with Hebrew as a truly "living" language.

Interfaith Support Group

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discussing their interfaith issues in the group and with each other at home, caused each member to examine their upbringing and the part it played in the previous weekend. One couple had an argument as a result. One person who had not attended mass for a number of years did watch a service on TV. All agreed that the group had caused each member to address how they'd been raised religiously and the present family customs around these holidays. Guilt, compromises and agreements were examined. Each partner felt they explored the issue inherent to interfaith couples as a result of the back-to-back holidays and the group discussions.

The rites of passages of each of the religions represented were examined. For example, how did the members feel knowing that they could not be buried together in a Jewish cemetery? Death and dying ceremonies were discussed as were the difficulties in securing a rabbi to marry them in the first place.

At the fifth session each member was asked to make a statement they wanted the Jewish community to hear. The responses were as follows: "Don't be so parochial."

"There should be more interfaith ceremonies."

"There should be more outreach to interfaith couples."

"The feeling is I would like to be out of the closet; to feel more comfortable in the synagogue; to feel more welcomed by the community."

"I would like the synagogue to be more aware of the non-Jewish partner's discomfort and awkwardness."

"I want to get together more with other interfaith couples."

"I don't want to be someone I'm not."

"We exist and we exist successfully; it's alright."

"I don't want my daughter discriminated against at religious school because I'm not Jewish."

"I want more outreach and feel the community is losing out by not doing so."

"I'm glad this was set-up."

The group members were pleased to learn there were plans to begin other groups. They felt they wanted to come together in a formal way with those members attending the second group after its six ses-

Social Services Hires New Social Worker

Dr. Marvin Glenn Weber, Ed. D., of Shelby, NC, has been hired as a twenty hour-a-week social worker for the Federation's Department of Social Services. He began his duties April 15.

For the past several years, Dr. Weber has been a management consultant dealing with career counseling, group dynamics, stress management and human development. At night, Dr. Weber has also taught classes for the Human Resource Development Division of the Management Sciences Program of Limestone College.

In the past, Dr. Weber has worked as a Psychiatric Social Worker for the Illinois State Department of Mental Health. Dr. Weber has also been certified as a social worker by the State of Illinois.

Before moving to North Carolina, Dr. Weber was a college professor. He worked as an Associate Professor of Sociology and Social Work at various colleges. He also taught courses in sociology, social casework, group work, social problems and community organization.

Dr. Weber was born in Chicago, Illinois, and received his B.S. from Bradley University. He obtained his social work education from Michigan State University, and his Master's in sociology and social work from Eastern Michigan University in 1967. He earned his Doctorate from North Texas State University in 1976.

Dr. Weber has three

daughters, Winter Ann, 17-years-old, Lisa, 10-years-old, and Amy, 7-years-old. His wife, Mary Ann, is an R.N. who works part-time as an emergency room nurse at Cleveland Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Weber will be bringing his past experiences in vocational counseling to Jewish Social Services' clients. He has begun actively contacting prospective employers about job openings to share with clients. In the future, Dr.

Weber will start a support group for those seeking help with their careers.

Dr. Weber is currently processing applications for the Student Loan Program and also will be providing counseling to individuals and families.

Dr. Weber's office will be located in the trailer next to the Armstrong House. Anyone wishing to talk with Dr. Weber can call 364-6594 or 366-5007 to arrange a confidential appointment.

VCR NEEDED (VHS Format)

The Charlotte Jewish Federation is seeking the donation of a VCR to record & play programs of Jewish content including major TV productions & tapes from national Jewish organizations.

To donate a VCR (a camera would be incredible), or if you have tapes that we may copy to add to our collection (many were lost in JCC fire), call 366-5007; M-F, 9-5. (We also have educational/entertaining tapes available if you wish to inquire about borrowing them.)



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