### Hebrew Academy News

#### Purim "Jewbilee"

By Berta Straz

On March 16, we held a wonderful festivity...the celebration of Purim in its entirety. The Academy children sang songs and did all sorts of Israeli dances. They got into the Yom Tov spirit with such a wonderful beginning thanks to Marlene Fuerstman and Ziva London who taught the yeladim the beautiful holiday songs.

The morning shifted to many fun activities. First there was a special presentation, "Hanimals," by the Charlotte Public Library. Then balloon sculptures were taught to the children and a "hands on puppet" session took place; each child learned to put on a mini-puppet workshop. We also made special Purim masks and then addressed them to the leader of the Soviet Union in remembrance of all our brethren who are not free now to celebrate this joyous holiday.

The morning was topped off by a magician and a ventriloquist who put on a forty-five minute show for all of the yeladim. Following the show, we held a luncheon for the children and for the members of the Chai group who joined us for Purim. We also watched videos on Purim, both in Hebrew and English. Overall it couldn't have been a nicer Purim celebration.

#### The Shabbas Bride

By Cheryl Spangenthal

Another busy week draws to a close. "And God rested on the Seventh Day...And made it Holy." (Gen. 2:2-3)

On Friday afternoon we lay down our "tools" and prepare ourselves for Shabbas. It is a time given to us by God to escape from the "rat race" and mundane affairs. It is a time for renewal. It is a time set aside for spiritual upliftment and to reflect on our lives and God's greatness and to share a togetherness with family and friends.

The Friday night service at Temple Israel on February 27 gave many people the chance to think about their families, their religion and the direction in which they are moving. The entire service was conducted by the children from the Hebrew Academy. The Shabbas Bride was welcomed with such enthusiasm that many present were deeply moved. From K-6th grade, each child participated in the service. The K-1st graders sang the Shema and performed a special medley which was heart-warming and touching. The 2nd-6th graders, both individually and as a group, led us through the rest of the prayers and songs. The children were totally involved and this helped bring to life the richness and depth of the Shabbas prayers.

After the service there was an Oneg Shabbat with delicious food, cakes and cookies supplied by parents of the children.

Being there that night was an emotional and spiritual experience. On leaving Shul a wonderful feeling of inner peace and a sense of belonging to the Jewish family must have been experienced by all who were present. It is a feeling to be treasured and nurtured. It is a feeling which can easily be lost and which can only continue to be felt in the generations ahead if Jewish teachings and values are reinforced in our children. It is a feeling which will continue to be part of the education of children at the Hebrew Academy.

A special thanks to Ziva London and Berta Straz for their energy and commitment in putting this program together. Also thanks to Lynne Tarlton and Helen Bronson for their help and support. To Rabbi Marc Wilson, thank you for allowing and encouraging our children to express themselves at your Temple.

## Chai-Lites Enjoy Being With The Academy Children

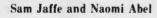


Philip Schreibman and Dorothea Rosen sharing "happy moments."



Syd Leventhal (L), Josh Davidson, Sam Lanski (R).







Jane Abel, Sr. Activities Director

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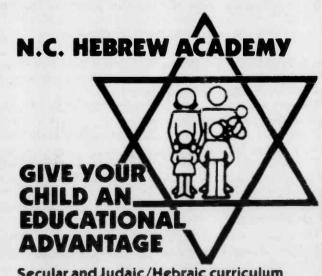
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