

# Teen Page

## Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies of Charlotte

by Sue Brodsky



The Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies of Charlotte kicked off its 1994-95 school year on Saturday night, October 1st with a dual program and ice cream sundae social. In Charlotte for a community "Scholar in Residence" week-end, Joel Lurie Grishaver, owner and creative director of Torah Aurah Productions, was the guest teacher. He taught an interactive Talmud class first to eighth through tenth graders, and later to eleventh and twelfth graders. Between sessions, Rabbi Ezring led students in a Havdalah service. Many thanks to Phyllis Schultz, owner of Ben and Jerry's, for donating ice cream for the students' enjoyment.

Thirty nine Post Confirmation students met in September for dinner and a program entitled, "Everything You Always Wanted to Ask a Rabbi, But Never Had the Opportunity". Rabbi Jim Bennett and Rabbi Murray Ezring openly interacted with students during a lively question and answer session. The interesting discussion centered primarily on topics relating to the treatment of women in the rabbinate and on the question of "Who Is a Jew?" Juniors and seniors in our Sunday night program met in October with Dr. Jay Jacoby to celebrate Jewish Book Month.

CHS Student Council members distributed Welcome Baskets to new Charlotte residents of high school age. The baskets contained information about Jewish activities for Charlotte teens, and "goodies" donated by Ben and Jerry's and Dixie Wholesale.

On October 5th the Consolidated High School opened its doors to over 130 students who registered for our Wednesday night classes. Students in the eighth and ninth grades are taking classes in diverse subject areas, ranging from drama, video, cooking and art to those in creative writing, comparative religion, Hebrew, Jewish Identity, Jewish Literacy and life cycle.

Twelve juniors and seniors have registered for a new class offered on Wednesday nights, taught by an outstanding team of teachers. Arthur Tirsun, Sara Benfield, David Lash' and Susan Jacobs have put together a curriculum which includes Jewish Heroes In and Out of the Bible, Jewish Identity Games, Comparative Religion (western), and Jewish History. The students in the class have a desire to learn more about their Jewish heritage and cultural background. In addition, Jill Freiberg wants to "take advantage of any opportunity to advance my Jewish education" Dara Newman wishes to "continue my Jewish studies, to be a knowledgeable Jewish person, and I also want to be around other Jewish people. It's an important part of my life." Car Brickman responded, "During confirmation class, I really figured out how little I know about Judaism, and I want to learn more." Micah Cooper, Jesse Lepow, Marc Flash and Eric Katowitz indicated a desire to continue learning with their teacher Arthur Tirsun, who has been an inspiration to many CHS students over the years.

To register for classes for grades 8 - 12, please contact Sue Brodsky, Director of CHS at Shalom Park, 366-5007.

## Red Flags In The Classroom

On Sunday, November 13, 1994 the Principal's Council in conjunction with the Carolina Agency for Jewish Education will sponsor a teacher workshop entitled "Red Flags in the Classroom". The workshop, coordinated by Sue Brodsky, Director of the Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies, and Roz Cooper, Director of Education at Temple Israel, will assist teachers in identifying and responding to problems associated with learning disabilities, suspected abuse, and severe emotional and behavioral problems.

A panel of three professionals, Dr. Marla Chalnick, Mrs. Nicki Levine, and Dr. Richard Moniuszko, will address the teachers and answer questions. Participants will split into groups for the second half of the workshop to further discuss the issues and to interact. Dr. Marla Chalnick, a medical psychotherapist, specializes in working with children and families experiencing chronic disease disability. Mrs. Nicki Levine is an attorney who has represented parents and children in juvenile court since 1982. Dr. Richard Moniuszko, Director of Pupil Services for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, works with all counselors and psychologists in the school system, and is very experienced in ADD screening.

The workshop will be at Shalom Park and will begin with lunch at 12:30 p.m., and will conclude at 3:00 p.m. For more information, or to register for the workshop, please contact Lenora Stein at CAJE, 366-3007, ext. 272.

## Keeping Kosher as a Teen in Charlotte

by Adina Dubin

Keeping Kosher (following the laws of Kashrut in the Torah) is very challenging. However, it is even more so as a Jewish teen. My family keeps strictly kosher in our house and when we go out we will only eat dairy or kosher fish. Six years ago, we moved from Long Island, New York to Charlotte. In New York, there were many, Kosher pizza places, restaurants, delis, even Kosher Chinese (Holi Chow). In Charlotte, there is none of that.

In the Olympics, an athlete strives his or her best to win an event for their country. Those who keep kosher, especially as the challenge increases one must show their support as they keep trying to observe their religion. In New York, my family rarely ate out at any restaurant that was not Kosher. Since moving to Charlotte, we have compromised to eating out at places that are not Kosher and "trying our best."

For teenagers, social events are no picnic. There is peer pressure to eat and to put aside one's values. For example, attending Bar or Bat Mitzvah parties can be great fun. I believe I am not in the minority when I say that a few cheese sticks, some fries, or a small side salad constitute a meal. People also question your eating habits even more so. (Why didn't you eat? Was the food not good? Are you OK?) Another example is, if a group goes out for pizza and they decide to get sausage and pepperoni. Again, one feels like an outsider looking in if they do not eat it or have to get a salad or something of that nature. (And there are the questions.. Why don't you eat it? You're not a vegetarian because I've seen you eat meat before. Why don't you just take the topping off yours?)

Keeping Kosher is just another blockade to separate one from their friends. However, I know that I, along with other Jewish teens, am not one to shy away from a challenge.

## Shayna Kossove-Cheerleading

by Stacy Blumenthal

### Shayna Kossove - Cheerleading

Shayna Kossove, a junior at Charlotte Country Day School, is now into her third year as a varsity cheerleader. Shayna says her teammates are great and they really work well together. She added that at the beginning of this school year there were slight difficulties because many new people joined the squad. However, this did not stop the Country Day team from earning a superior rating at the UCA's cheerleading camp at Appalachian State University before school began. They were also honored with an invitation to participate in the pre-game activities of the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Florida over the Holiday Break. About her cheerleading, Shayna says. "It has brought me many new friends and rewarding experiences and has helped me learn the importance of teamwork. It is challenging to build school spirit in high schools, but it is worth the challenge!"

### Danielle Hoagland- Volleyball

Danielle, who is also a junior at Country Day School, plays on the varsity volleyball team. This is her first year ever playing volleyball, as well as her first year living in Charlotte. She also is a very talented soccer player. She moved in mid-August and belongs to Temple Israel and the CHS Post-Confirmation class. Although she is not a starter because she has only been playing for a relatively short time, Danielle puts lots of effort into the time she does play. She really enjoys working with her team and says that the cooperation between them is good. The CCDS volleyball team currently has a record of 7-3, and there are about eight more games in the season. Danielle states. "Being new in Charlotte, volleyball was a good way to meet friends and get involved with my school."

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