

Youth Visions

Funny, You Don't Look Jewish

Ninth Grade CHS Retreat

By Sue Littauer, Director

On January 23 and 24, 1999, fifty-four ninth grade students at the Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies gathered together to explore the topic, "Funny, You Don't Look Jewish." The Retreat, which is co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and the Consolidated High School, was a wonderful learning experience for students and teachers alike.

We started out in Gorelick Hall with a Havdalah service, and immediately afterwards had students make a poster and write a paragraph about what the typical Jew looks like. The posters were marvelous as were the students' explanations of the stereotypes they chose. Each group drew not only a man but a woman - the women looked like "bubbes," some Orthodox, some were young girls with perfect make-up, nails, clothes from Abercrombie and Fitch, armed with credit cards, and shopping bags from Blooming's. The men were generally rabbinic types from the Old Country.

After a short but rousing sing-along led by Mary Jean Kushner, an International Dinner followed (with one food on the buffet from each country we would be studying):

- Rice Pudding from Cuba
- Vegetable Barley Stew from Ethiopia
- Sopa (corn soup bread) from Argentina
- Hummus and Pita Bread from Yemen
- Chai (spiced tea) from India
- Egg rolls from China
- Portuguese Salad from Portugal

The students really enjoyed the beautiful buffet prepared by Cathy Surratt.

The last segment for Saturday night was for students to meet in their groups to begin studying



Students visiting China examine their "fortunes" as they munch cookies, while teacher Roz Cooper guides them in their exploration of the Jews in CHina.

about the Jews in one of the above named countries. Every group had a video to watch, and each did a variety of activities. As a point of interest, when Arthur Kramer was previewing his video "Havana Nagila, The Jews of Cuba," he noticed Hardy Spatz as a young man in the video. Hardy was happy to join us on Saturday night to speak to Arthur's group about the nineteen years he spent there.

On Sunday, students regrouped at Temple Beth El and began working on their countries to prepare for our Around the World Tour. In Yemen, students in Guy Pearlman's group made kafias (Arab headgear) for all occasions. While sipping Chinese tea in Roz Cooper's country of China, students read fortunes stuffed into cookies - the fortunes were actually facts and questions about Jewish life there. Susan Jacobs' group wrote letters to the Argentinean government to send the remaining Nazi war criminals residing there to Israel. Arthur Kramer and David Lash had their groups make game boards to teach facts about their respective countries of Cuba and Ethiopia. Marc Titlebaum's group learned about Sephardic Jewry in Portugal and Spain; and Nicki Fisher's group learned about Jewish life in India.



Elliot Kessler and Adam Freiberg put finishing touches on a display poster for the country of Yemen.

Each of the seven groups made excellent display boards which were used as educational tools for the group as a whole.

In the afternoon segment, students were asked to establish a Jewish Community on Mars in the year 2014. What people, items, mitzvot and slogans would they use as a basis for their community? The answers were compiled in the following list.

- The people they would take:
 - A 65 year old rabbi, who is an expert on Judaism
 - A 25 year old rabbinic student

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Magical Mystery Bus Ride!

Liberty Temple Beth El Senior Youth Group

It was an event full of mystery... no one knew where they were going! And the advisors were not about to tell anyone. Everyone was excited but at the same time apprehensive about what was going to happen. The journey wasn't that bad as we arrived at the Charlotte Coliseum. The Charlotte Hornets weren't playing! The concert which we said we were going to was not on! But were we really going to a concert? (The plot thickened.) The only concert that was on at the Coliseum was the Little Mermaid and unfortunately it would not have been very exciting or even magical for the group of 8-12 graders who had waited so long for this mystery tour to happen.

We were once again on the road, this time to Charlotte Douglas Airport where the adventure began. The kids split into three groups and they were handed a set of clues and a Polaroid camera. They were now competing against each other in the most creative and unusual scavenger hunt possible. Creativity was certainly earned by all teams. Who would ever think that when asked to get a photograph of a pilot they would sit in

the cockpit right next to the pilot? How did they manage to get into the VIP Lounge of US Airways? They had the photos to prove it! And we had no complaints. Everyone was certainly convincing. We returned to the Temple for dinner and a count up of points to see which team won. I think it was the team who managed to get 32 boarding passes that won! Everyone had a great time.

NFTY-Mar events coming up:

Thevent, March 12-14 in Rockville, Maryland; A Color War of the regions: Northern, Central and the South!

Mitzvah Corps, April 2-4 in Havre de Grace, Maryland; Through magic and working together come and see what can magically appear with a little hard work.

Spring Kallah, April 15-18 in Washington D.C. Elections, party and more! NFTY-MAR welcomes you.

Our trip to NFTY Convention 1999, Los Angeles, California will be told in the next issue of *The Charlotte Jewish News*. ✨

Mickey Barak Aberman

AZA

By Jordan Klemons, MBA Sophomore

For several months, MBA AZA and the girls have been working very hard on planning a great Sweetheart Beau. This dance brings in people from all over the state, and even Virginia, and also served as a large fund raiser for us. It's a dance and a great time. We even had a co-ed program to learn how to swing dance, swing being the theme of the dance, about a week before the dance. Sweetheart Beau was a great success and a lot of fun for everyone who went.

Also, we had a Super Bowl party in January. First we played our own football game, and then we went to the house of Stuart Miller where we ordered pizza and watched the Super Bowl. When that Sweetheart Beau was over, we headed up to Judaism Institute and concentrated on programming on our Jewish heritage. This conven-



MITS take a break from their swing dancing lesson for a quick hug.

tion is greatly-looked forward to because its only biannual, where as most are annual. ✨



Emily Rotberg and Jacob Pinion show everyone how swing dancing is done.

The Difference Between Ordinary and Extraordinary is That Little Extra

By Dana Gottheim

Throughout January and February, Chai Chaverim has put forth that little extra that sets them apart, and they will continue to do so into March and the remainder of the year. Chai Chaverim excels not only because of the quantity of its members (70 girls!), but because of the quality. Each and every girl has something diverse and wonderful to offer to the chapter. Chai Chaverim undoubtedly benefits from the attributes of all girls, whether freshmen or seniors.

In January, Chai Chaverim participated in a successful summer programs program to encourage all members to take up the amazing opportunity of a BBYO summer attendance of past programs. They shared their experiences with BBYO members and their parents. Chai Chaverim was especially successful in conducting their annual BBG Business Meeting, for all girls to better understand BBG rituals and procedures, and to elect a 1999 Beau from Mickey Barak Aberman. The lucky man was Andrew Coen, a junior from MBA AZA. We are very excited about his election! BBG also participated in volunteering at Room in the Inn and



The 1999-2000 Sweetheart & Beau - Dana Gottheim and Andrew Coen

success with great attendance, beautiful decorations, the debut of a professional photographer, and plenty of dancing. The rest of February brought the chance for programming by chapter chairwomen, from sisterhood bonding to education on our minds, bodies, and attitudes. The board held a meeting to plan the rest of the programming year, and the entire chapter had a great showing at Judaism Institute held in Reidsville, NC. This event was coordinated by Alana Brock of

continued their collection of pennies for social action to benefit the community.

February brought a cornucopia of programming and fun. There was night of swing dancing to prepare for the Swingin' Sweetheart Beau 1999, coordinated by Rebecca Frucht and Mitchell Gartner. Everyone had a wonderful time learning all the right moves to show off on the dance floor the following Saturday. SHB 1999 was a raging



Lauren Rauch, Sarah Passe, and Becca Frucht are all smiles during a presentation by Camp Shalom.

Wilmington, Ben Leshin of Winston-Salem, Allison Goodman of Virginia Beach, and Matt Hurwitz of Richmond.

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