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Havurat Tikvah's Annual Spring Retreat: "Shechinah and Kavanah"

By Jessica Saxe; Photos by Hardin Rubin

Warmth defined Havurat Tikvah's retreat at Camp Cheerio on the weekend of May 6 — from



Jessica and Talia Saxe.

the perfect spring warmth of the mountain air to the warmth of friendships made and renewed. From Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday night to the closing circle at noon on Sunday, the retreat provided a mixture of scheduled programs and free time to enjoy hiking, canoeing or just taking in the beauty of the setting.

In true Reconstructionist style, Havurah members shared their talents in creating services and programs. During p'sukai d'zimrah in the Shabbat morning service, Deborah Bosley encouraged all to end the sentence "I find God. . ." and elicited poetic talents as yet undiscovered in members of the group. (For the responses, check our web-site at http://free.prohosting.com/~havtikva/) Laura and Charles Kaplan led services, which a new participant observed were filled with "shechinah and kavanah," holiness and intention. Sharon Kugelmass led us in a Torah discussion about our responsibilities to the disabled as expressed in Kedoshim.

With her usual creativity and overestimation of our abilities, Ellen Chelmis conducted a workshop on making doumbeks, a type of Middle Eastern drum sometimes called tof Miriyam. With great persistence, participants stretched and pushed their goatskins into impossibly tight crevices under the rims of the drums. To our amazement, we actually ended up with a collection of working drums — and are all still friends with each other.

Adults unwound later in the evening with Jewish and Yogic meditation led by Laura Kaplan. Sunday morning brought a T'ai Chi experience led by Karen Rubin. This was followed by a drumming workshop led by Charles Kaplan. As participants

got into the rhythm of doumdoum-beka-doum-beka while singing "Hinei Ma-tov" and "Dovid Melech Yisrael," they felt pride in their handmade doumbeks and were carried away by the hypnotic rhythms.

The children enjoyed the organized activities of services and drum-making, as well as activities of their own design such as rolling down hills and playing charades.

Those at the retreat were a mixture of longstanding members of



Charles and Laura Kaplan sing with the children.

Havurat Tikvah and our newest members: Hardin, Karen, and Sarah Rubin, as well as a new guest, Lesley Cohen Ringley. And, as many observed in the closing circle, being together was like with being with family. \$\Pi\$

BJH Announces New Relocation Plans

By Sue Clein

A unique opportunity has recently become available to the Blumenthal Jewish Home.

The Home is leasing two floors in the Bass Care Center, a facility on the Masonic and Eastern Star Home campus in Greensboro, NC, as a temporary relocation facility until the new Blumenthal Greensboro Home is completed. During the relocation period, which we expect to be approximately 1-1/2 to 2 years, the Blumenthal Jewish Home will operate the leased area. The Masonic and Eastern Star Home. under the lease agreement, will provide the maintenance, laundry, housekeeping, and food services to the BJH building. For residents desiring kosher food, accommodation will be made. The operation of the Blumenthal temporary facility will be under the auspices of Choice Health Management services operated by Mr. Don Beaver and Dr. Richard Aronson

and will provide for nursing, social services, activities and administrative and financial services.

The Board of Trustees feels this unique opportunity will allow Blumenthal Jewish Home to remain viable and continue to ful-



fill its mission to the Jewish communities of the Carolinas. A move at this time will decrease the large and growing deficit at the Clemmons facility and help to preserve the endowment. It will also place the Home in a position to increase admissions, build professional staff and develop relations with the Greensboro healthcare network and the Greensboro Jewish Family Services while the construction of the new Blumenthal Home takes place.

All present residents of BJH will have the opportunity to move with the Home to this temporary Blumenthal Jewish Home at the Bass Care Center in Greensboro. We hope to complete the relocation of the Home by late summer. We assure you that every effort will be made to insure the health and welfare of our residents and to see that the move is as easy and comfortable as possible for our residents.

The Blumenthal Jewish Home will accept admissions at the Greensboro temporary facility following the move.

BJH is presently in the process of refurbishing and redecorating the two floors in the Bass Care Center dedicated for our use. We expect to be able to offer private rooms to the majority of our residents. The common areas, therapy pool, grounds and other amenities of the Masonic and Eastern Star campus will be available to us and will be shared with the residents of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home. Jewish services, holiday celebrations, cultural and activity programs of the Blumenthal Home will continue.

The Board of Trustees has accepted an option to purchase the property of the Blumenthal Jewish Home by a group of Winston-Salem investors and developers. Purchase price is \$6,750,000 for the 116-acre tract and buildings. Proceeds from the sale will be used to build the new Blumenthal Home in Greensboro and to fund a Blumenthal Home Foundation. The mission of the foundation will be to provide Jewish services to the Jewish elderly in facilities throughout the Carolinas.

The Blumenthal Jewish Home looks forward to a future filled with progress and growth. We are seizing this opportunity filled with hope and we ask you to join us in being a part of a new beginning for the Blumenthal Jewish Home.

