

Youth Visions

Laura Kaplan and Class Explore The Book of Job at CHS

The Book of Job is the Biblical story of a man who, according to the students in our class, "believes that God rewards goodness." Job is very good, and is rewarded with a large family and much wealth.

One day, however, God makes a bet with the accusing angel that nothing can turn Job away from God. That day, Job's employees and grown children are all killed, and Job comes down with an itchy, painful skin disease.

Job's friends come to comfort him, but no one can think of a word to say. Finally, Job breaks the silence, and says, "I want to die."



Professor Laura Kaplan

Job's friends try to talk him out of it. In the words of the students in our class, here is what they say: "What can I do to help you?" "Your faith and integrity to God and yourself makes you free and fortunate." "You can again be a

satisfied man." "I know things will come better to you because you are a good man." "I think if you do the right thing, God will take care of you."

But Job thinks these are all empty words that don't help him at all. After all, he thought God used a system of rewarding good and punishing evil, and now it seems he is wrong. As one student in our class put it, Job says, "There must be a meaning behind this for sure." He demands that God explain it to him.

God appears in a storm and puts Job in his place. God asks if Job understands the mysteries of the universe or has the power to control them. Job admits he does not, and apologizes to God. God then grants Job renewed wealth and a family full of new children.

Does this story convince you to have faith? Students in our class gave different answers.

Yes, said some. Job obviously didn't have true faith, so the story tells us how to have it.

No, said others. It's hard to

have faith in the tough, mysterious God of the story.

What does it mean to have true faith? Students tried to explain:

Don't question God.

Appreciate what God has done.

Never stop praying and loving.

If God is tough and mysterious, why have faith at all? All the members of our class agreed:

We have no choice. If we didn't have faith, the world would be a most uncomfortable place. ☆

Every Wednesday

By Laura Black

Every Wednesday night, my mom drives me to Hebrew High. As I walk through, into the building many other Jewish teenagers from in and around Charlotte are seen walking into their classes. What are they going to learn about? Is the information valuable? Here is my account of what I think.

My first class is my core class. That's where we study Jewish History. We have discussions and read different texts. We work on

interpreting them to modern day life. We've discussed being Jewish. Sometimes it can be difficult to fit in. We debate issues like how the school system had picture day on Rosh Hashanah. We also consider the great things of being Jewish. I consider all of this extremely valuable. We can learn lessons from history and relate them to ourselves.

In my elective class we talk about God. Our main focus is to consider how good is God. We read the book of Job. The story is

about God testing a man by taking everything away from him to see if he only cares about his possessions. He kills Job's sons. He gives Job a terrible itching disease. Once again, we can relate this to our generation. Why do innocent people die? What keeps us going? These are issues we face every day.

So, all in all I think Hebrew High is great. We learn a lot and use the information in our very own lives. I hope that you now have a better understanding of what we do at Hebrew High. ☆



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Yiddish Institute a Life-Changing Experience for College Student

By Evita Sokol, Jewish Theological Seminary

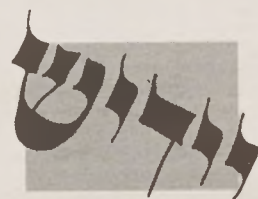
New York - As the sun shone brightly on a peaceful August afternoon, I entered a bus filled with strangers at the Charlotte airport. Little did I know that after only three days, the people around me would become much more than unknown faces.

I had only taken Yiddish for two semesters at the Jewish Theological Seminary where I attend an undergraduate program with Columbia University. I also took a Yiddish literature class and the history of the emergence of Yiddish. By the end of my junior year, I was able to understand and read various articles and poetry written in Yiddish. I tried several attempts at conversing with my grandparents in their mother tongue, but unfortunately, I failed. Never had I thought I could attend a whole weekend of intensive Yiddish experience.

I had heard about the Charlotte Yiddish Institute weekend from my best friend at school whose grandparents are very involved in the Institute. After hearing about

this wonderful opportunity, I felt an obligation to attend the event to further my understanding of the Yiddish language, the Yiddish culture, and the Yiddish past.

Yiddish has empowered me as a young Jewish adult and fulfilled my college experience. It captures



not only the twinkle in my grandparents' eyes, but it releases a story to every person that utters its words.

The one weekend that I spent in the scenic North Carolina mountains allowed me to learn and hear the stories of all the people who attended the events. I have never in my life encountered a more loving, caring, open, and honest group of people. The whole experience was incredible. Although I could not understand everything that was discussed at the events, each and every participant was willing to translate and make me feel part of the group. It was absolutely amazing to see people from different cities around the United States congregate in one area and act as if they had known each other their whole lives. The Institute was a family reunion for all participants. Once I arrived, I felt part of the family.

The whole weekend - Shabbat dinner, onegs, discussions, stories, singing, jokes, and Shabbat morning services with the Torah and Haftarah recited all in Yiddish - burst with the joy and love not only for Judaism but also for Yiddish culture. I cannot even describe in words what this weekend has meant to me and how it has strengthened my love for Yiddish culture. I know that I, too, will continue to attend this event, and God willing, I will one day be able to bring my children with me to further continue the memories and love for Judaism that my family shares with me now. ☆

David Silverman Memorial Tournament Results

The seventh annual David Silverman Memorial Adult Basketball Tournament, held November 10-11 at the JCC of Charlotte, was another outstanding success.

A total of six teams from four different Jewish Community Centers competed in this special event. Teams from Atlanta, GA, Brooklyn, NY, Richmond, VA and West Palm Beach, FL as well as two teams from Charlotte participated.

The defending tournament champions from Atlanta once again defeated the two-time tournament champions from Richmond in the champi-

onship game by a score of 83-71. The game was evenly contested



The tournament champions from Atlanta, GA.

throughout, with Atlanta's patient play and excellent free throw shooting at the end spelling the

margin of victory. The team from Richmond, which had lived and died with their three-point shooting in their previous tournament victories, saw their outside shooting "go south" in the championship which helped ensure Atlanta's success. Brian Jessie, Stanley Goldberg, Michael Goldberg and Torie McCrary led the way for Atlanta with 20, 15, 14 and 14 points, respectively while Bart Vaughn, John Burgett, Warren Fische and Dan Plondke led Richmond with 21, 18, 17 and 11 points, respectively.

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