

# Schools

## Preschool Puzzlers

By Fern Sanderson  
*Preschool Puzzlers is a bi-monthly feature presented by the Jewish Preschool on Sardis. Fern Sanderson is the director of JPOS and a member of the national, state, and local Associations for Education for Young Children, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the National Jewish Early Childhood Network. She can be reached at jposonsardis@earthlink.net.*

and downs. Every child needs to learn how to deal with others by having a positive attitude. As you reflect on your own childhood friendships, I'm sure you'll agree that's easier said than done.

There are many more social skills to develop. For example, children must learn to tactfully stand up for their wishes and to express their own point of view during social play. They must learn how to get their own play needs met without resorting to aggression, manipulation or word calling.

They must be able to cope with rejection from time to time. It's hard to hear your child be told, "No, I don't want to play with you." But it's a reality that some children want alone time when others don't. To face such rejection, children need to be able to de-personalize statements

and learn that people's moods vary. If one child declines an invitation to play, children can learn to seek out another playmate.



Fern Sanderson

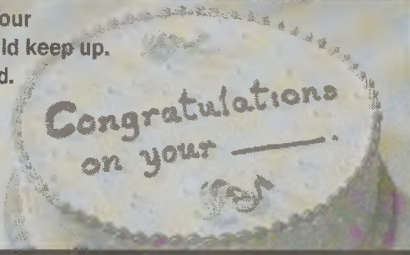
Sharing, negotiation and compromise are skills that come into play as children interact with others. Children will be left alone and isolated if they don't gradually learn to adjust and tweak ideas to keep play partners actively engaged and mutually satisfied.

During play, children need to learn to express their ideas and the reasons for them. But at the same time, they need to be responsive to the ideas of others. Compromise and negotiation skills help children build upon each other's ideas for mutual participation and enjoyment. Children who dictate play or only issue commands to others quickly become isolated or rejected as play partners. ☆

**Q:** I read your column so I understand that children need to have certain social skills (knowing how to join others in play, how to listen and respect feelings, how to practice compassion and how to include and accept others). Are there other skills?

**A:** Like those of adults', children's friendships are full of ups

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# Write on, Carolina Authors

The Carolinas are blessed with wonderful writers. And here's your chance to get up close and personal with four of them at the Public Library's annual Novello Festival of Reading. In addition to hearing from these writers, the Novello Festival Press will announce the 2008 Novello Literary Award winner. It's going to be a fun night, and it's free.

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Tuesday, October 16 at 7 p.m.

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**Fannie Flono** is an associate editor at *The Charlotte Observer* and author of *Thriving in the Shadows: The Black Experience in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County*.



**Miriam Herin** is the author of *Absolution*, winner of the 2007 Novello Literary Award. She holds a Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of South Carolina.



**The Rev. Billy C. Wirtz**, a blues-and-boogie-woogie piano player and humorist, has written about music, legendary performers, and life on the road for *Musican*, *Keyboard* and *BluesWax* magazines.



Charlotte writer **Judy Goldman's** critically-acclaimed novel, *The Slow Way Back*, won the Sir Walter Raleigh Fiction Award and the Mary Ruffin Poole First Work of Fiction Award. Her new novel, *Early Leaving*, will be published in October.

## Jewish Community of Lake Norman

(Continued from page 8)

The Ark was dedicated in memory of Paul and Esther Grossman, Jack's parents, and features two-toned stained doors that emulate the tablets of the Ten Commandments. There is also hammered copper on the top and bottom, as well as a stainless steel Star of David with a turquoise center stone.

On June 23, LNJC celebrated its first Bat Mitzvah, and what is believed to be the first ever in the Lake Norman area. Karah Grossman conducted her Bat Mitzvah in the Charles Mack Citizen Center Auditorium in Mooresville by leading a service and reading from the newly acquired Torah. "She did an amazing job. It was also very special to have her two older sisters, Rebekkah and Jessikah, read from the Torah," stated Barbara Thiede, the LNJC Religion School Director, and Karah's Bat Mitzvah teacher. LNJC also celebrated the recent Bar Mitzvah of Joseph Natt, son of Alec and Jo Ann Natt. Several other B'nai Mitzvah are already on the calendar. "We are also extremely pleased to announce that we've secured the leadership of Sarah Wolf, a fifth year Reform rabbinic student from New York," said Goldstein. "The URJ helped us to arrange a meeting with Sarah and guide us through the process of securing her leadership for the next twelve months."

Shabbat services are held every third Friday of the month at Fair View United Methodist Church in Mount Mourne/Mooresville on Highway 115. For more information, contact LNJC at 704-987-9980 or by visiting [www.lakenor-mjanjc.org](http://www.lakenor-mjanjc.org). ☆

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