

Havurat Olam Creates New School

Congregation Havurat Olam, serving University City, Harrisburg, and Cabarrus County, is an independent congregation with an exciting goal: make all things Jewish altogether accessible and a whole lot of fun — without ever compromising on depth or meaning.

Dr. Barbara Thiede, rabbinic student with ALEPH, the Alliance for Jewish Renewal, leads two Friday night services each month.

What makes those services different from all other religious services?

Second Friday Family Night service is replete with creative learning opportunities. Example? Children and congregants alike are given their roles in the Noah story: From lions to tiger to bears to members of Noah's family. And then the story

unfolds. Noah appears. There's time for a short skit and a lot of questions: How do you feel about leaving your friends behind? How do you react to the idea that you have to abandon the herd? Do you have any idea what is about to happen? Do you think Noah ought to talk this one over with God, instead of just following orders?

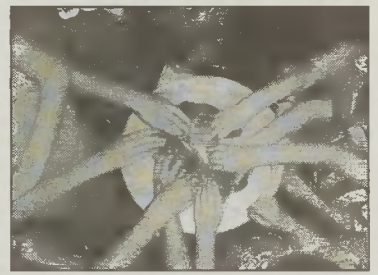
Debates and skits, question and answer sessions with our forefathers and mothers offer lively interchanges with our children for a purpose: learning creatively about our heritage and our traditions. Creative approaches and a musically vibrant environment characterize Fourth Friday services too, where learning Torah is followed by in-depth discussion and debate.

And then there is The New School for All Things Jewish. Recently, Congregation Havurat Olam reopened its religious school basing its pedagogy on some of the latest educational models proven in Europe. Those models include movement integrated in the classroom experience, individualized learning opportunities, and teacher-student ratios of, at most, five to one. The New School for All Things Jewish has a motto: We Encourage Underage Thinking. Teachers take that motto very seriously indeed.

Children move from center to another during Sunday School, spending forty-five minutes in

each. There's Ivrit, where the kids learn Hebrew, prayers, and songs, a second center for Torah and Mitzvot, dedicated to the active study of scriptures, legends and ethics, and a last session in Getting Crafty for fun with Jewish cooking and projects. Our school days begin and end with school-wide prayer for study and songs in Hebrew, Ladino, or even Yiddish.

Every fourth Sunday is a field day for the whole school. The children take the morning for a major craft project, take trips into nature or museums, or go out for a day of tikkun olam. All children earn kitah credits for anything from learning prayers to completing library book reports (prizes awarded for credits earned!). Once the children know their Aleph Bet, they move at their own pace



Students at The New School for All Things Jewish bless the challah.

through an exciting series of texts and accompanying CDs that help them master the components of the Sabbath service.

Interested in a congregation full of actively engaged adults and kids? For more information, please call 704-720-7577, email us at info@havuratolam.org, or visit our website at www.havuratolam.org. ☆

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Partners in Torah

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complete spectrum of Jewish affiliation and educational backgrounds.

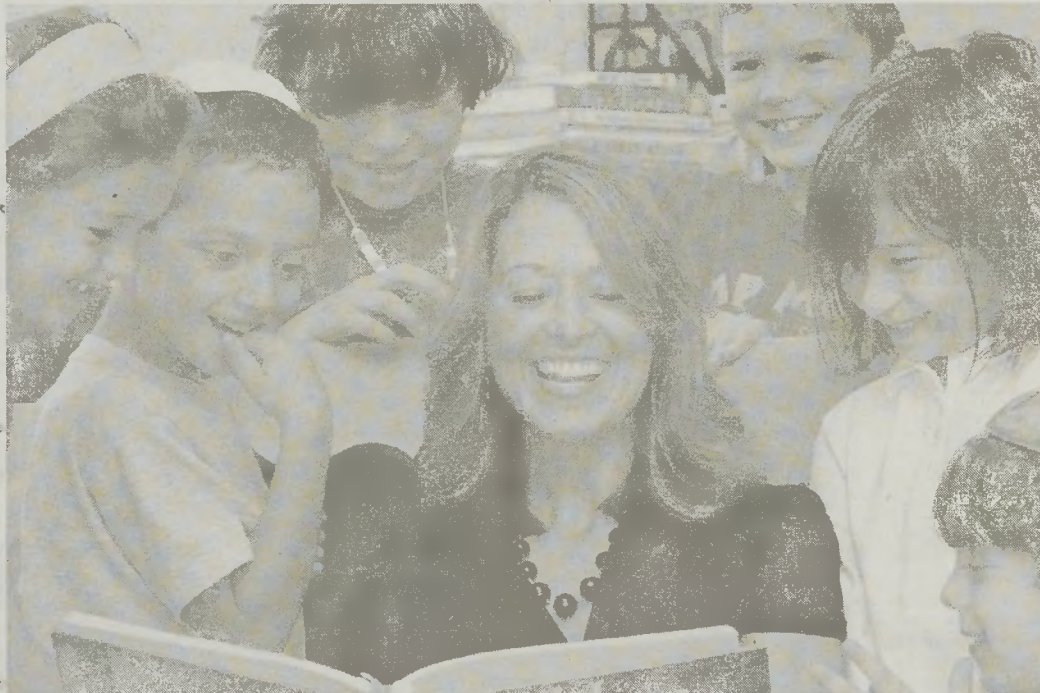
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Call Meechal Roizman at 704-367-1225 to sign up or for more information. ☆

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about teaching your child values in a non-judgmental environment; about nurturing individuality, while building community; about educating to your child's potential rather than to an end-of-year test.

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The Community School with
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