

Schools

Preschool Puzzlers

By Fern Sanderson

Preschool Puzzlers is a bimonthly 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

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Q: As a parent, I want to be certain that I teach my children what they need to know at this stage of their lives. Can you help me?

A: As a parent, your job is to teach your children positive behaviors, positive ways to express their feelings; positive ways to play; family values; and safety for themselves, other people and things.

Teaching young children works best when there is love and respect. Show your love - with hugs and loving words, catch your children doing the right things, and tell them over and over what you like.

Children are not born "bad" or "good." Each child is different. Some are quiet and more laid back; some are more active; others act without thinking. Children may misbe-



Fern Sanderson

have because they may not know how to do what you want, they may not understand, they may forget or they may be tired.

To help prevent problems, set clear rules your child can follow every day.

Changing the rules confuses young children. Always remember your children's ages and what they are able to do. For example: Don't expect a two-

year-old to sit still and be quiet for more than a few minutes. Help your children find fun and active ways to use energy. This can be very helpful if they are starting to do something you don't like. Have routines: meal-time, bath time, bed time. Children behave better if they know what to expect.

As you already know, parenting is a job to be taken seriously but also, to be enjoyed. ☆

Barbara & Jerry Levin Middle School Students Lend a Hand at Chanukah Dinner

By Sandy Hirschman

The Barbara and Jerry Levin Jewish Middle School joined Charlotte Jewish Day School to host a family Chanukah dinner, candlelighting, and sing-along on the third night of the holiday. Rabbi Murray Ezring and Rabbi Faith Cantor of Temple Israel lit the menorah and led us in reciting the blessings and singing "Ma-oz Tzur" ("Rock of Ages").

Every table in Gorelick Hall was adorned with a striking, original centerpiece that was created specifically for this occasion by the middle school students as part of an art elective taught by Wendy Hennes and Michelle Rusgo. Working in groups of three, the students discussed and sketched out a concept for their centerpiece. Once the basic design was agreed upon, each person in the group

personalized his or her design. For example, one group decided to use tall vases filled with blue, silver, and gold spray-painted branches and gold and silver rocks. One student hung golden, glittering latkes from the branches and surrounded the vase with potatoes and potato peelers. Another youngster in the group made sparkling dreidels to hang from the branches, and the third adorned the branches with golden gelt. The centerpieces were placed on mirrors and surrounded with jewel-toned stones. Some groups created their centerpieces using fishbowls, others used trifle bowls, and still others built their creations around dreidel sculptures. Thus, each centerpiece was different, but they all complemented each other to create an eye-catching effect.



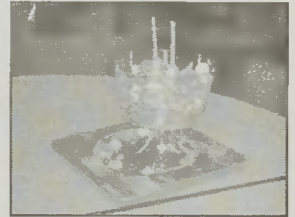
Dillon Rusgo says everything is all good.

The middle schoolers also volunteered to work behind the buffet tables and serve the more than 350 adults and children who attended the supper. Salad, tuna fish, latkes, corn-on-the-cob, and pizza were served with aplomb. Each middle school server wore an apron that

he or she had personalized especially for Chanukah with fabric paint, pens, and stamps.

After supper, everyone adjourned to Lerner Hall for hot chocolate, dreidel games, and songs. Each grade in the day school entertained their family and friends with Chanukah songs. Everyone in the audience was encouraged to join in and sing along.

A great time was had by all in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.



One of the centerpieces from the Chanukah dinner.

If you have any questions about the Barbara and Jerry Levin Jewish Middle School, please contact Sandy Hirschman at 704-366-4558 or shirschman@cjd-school.org. ☆

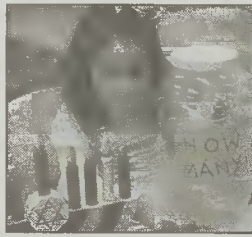
A Green Shabbat and Hanukkah Fun at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool

Twinkle Twinkle Hanukkah lights, Shining brightly for eight nights.

The shammos stands so straight and tall,

He lights the others one and all.

Twinkle Twinkle Hanukkah lights, Shining brightly for eight nights.



Alexandra Cohen guesses the number of dreidels.



Cooking latkes.

children rotated to the different rooms to decorate cookies, play the dreidel game and pin the light on the menorah, listen to Hanukkah stories and sing songs. The four year old and pre-K classes had individual parties in their classrooms. Parents were invited for lunch and latkes and to hear their children perform some holiday songs. "Twinkle Twinkle Hanukkah Lights" was a favorite.

Upcoming Events at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool:

January 4: CJP Open House: 9:30-11 AM. Come tour our classrooms and learn about our program. For more information, call 704-944-6776.

February 9: CJP Silent Auction: We have something for

every stage of life. Are you planning a family reunion ... how about a one-week stay at a seven-bedroom luxury beach home? Or a romantic three-night stay at the St. Francis Westin, San Francisco? Want a custom home renovation at cost or ten hours of college counseling from a national expert? Build a memory ... whether it's a child's birthday party with a Zamboni ride or a family Shabbat dinner for eight by Rabbi Faith and David Cantor. Come to the auction and enjoy an elegant evening catered by Mama Ricotta's. \$25/person includes dinner, dessert, wine and beer. LJCC Lerner Hall, 7-9:30 PM. Contact Kelly Keeling at 704-846-7929 or nkeelings@earthlink.net for more information or reservations. ☆



The students at The Charlotte Jewish Preschool had a ball celebrating Hanukkah during the month of December. This year we kicked off the holiday with an all green Shabbat. Students were asked to give "green" tzedakah (instead of coins) to help raise money for Jewish Family Services. About \$500 was raised so that JFS could buy Hanukkah gifts for local Jewish families in need. Thank you to all of our families for your continued generosity throughout the year.

The festivities continued with field trips to the synagogues with Morah Elka, CJP's Judaica Teacher, to act out the story of Hanukkah. The children loved seeing the synagogues on their "behind the scenes" tour. The three's classes then celebrated with a Hanukkah round where each three year old class hosted a special project or game. The chil-

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YOUTH DIRECTOR

Temple Beth El is searching for a dynamic, creative individual to serve as our first full-time Youth Director.

Oversee the congregation's vibrant youth department. Advise high school youth group and supervise other advisory staff. Be part of a talented professional team. Connect with youth of all ages in programmatic, educational, and informal settings. Make a difference in Jewish lives!

Are you:

- An experienced programmer?
- Jewishly knowledgeable?
- Good at connecting with teens and kids?
- Organized and creative?

Please visit www.beth-el.com and click on "Staff Opportunities" for a complete job description.

Position begins July 1, 2008. To apply or for more information, contact Rabbi Micah Streifer. Email: mstreifer@beth-el.com Phone: 704-366-1948 Fax 704-366-1365. Resumes must be received by January 20, 2008.