

Schools

Destination: 1840

— What do you use for eating utensils when you're ready for dinner in a Native American village in 1840?

— How do pioneers make a winter coat from a handful of wool that was part of "clothing" for a sheep just hours before?

— How can enemies learn to live in harmony or at least co-exist peacefully?

These are some of the questions that CJDS fourth-graders faced as they traveled to Earthshine Mountain Lodge in Lake Toxaway, NC for a three-day, two-night journey back in time. Our CJDS students were joined by another group of CJDS students - Columbia Jewish Day School - for this educational and fun-filled experience. The students served as

"apprentices" in a pioneer settlement and a Cherokee Indian village. As they role-played the parts of pioneers and Native Americans, they learned of the ongoing struggles and animosity between the two groups. By the end of the sessions, they had gained a new understanding of and respect for both cultures.

At the closing session, the students were divided into six groups and presented with a challenge: Given unequal quantities of

resources (such as food, clothing, technology, housing, etc.), how could the groups work together to negotiate ways to fairly distribute and utilize the available resources? Each group bargained with all the other groups to ultimately procure enough resources to sustain their own group. The end result was that every group had the necessary materials to meet its needs and to insure peaceful coexistence.

*Answers to the questions:

— Slices of carrots and cucumbers made handy scoops for eating delicious "bear meat" (roasted brisket), sweet potatoes (tzimmes), grilled trout, and corn — but truthfully, vegetable soup presented quite a challenge.

— Our pioneer "apprentices" learned how to card the raw wool and spin it into yarn on a spinning wheel.

— Peaceful co-existence is a challenge that people all over the world are still addressing. ☆

JPS Silent Auction a Big Hit

Friends and families from The Jewish Preschool on Sardis traveled back in time recently, pulling out their sparkly shoes and patterned pants in honor of the '70s and all its disco glory. Guests

came for the school's largest fundraiser — its silent auction — as well as to toast longtime director Fern Sanderson, who retired in February. A wide range of items were auctioned off, from trips to

San Francisco and Barbados to diamond necklaces, earrings and bracelets, to Charlotte's premier sporting events. Special thanks to this year's auction sponsors, who made the night a tremendous suc-

cess: Laxer, Long and Savage Pediatric Dentistry; Arboretum Pediatrics Carolinas Healthcare System; Steve Lepow RE/MAX Executive Realty; Hendrick Honda; Varji and Varji Salon and Spa; Ditesheim Cosmetic Surgery; Dr. Scott Menaker, DDS and Associates; Charlotte Pediatric Clinic; Diamonds Direct Southpark; Mann Travels; Zobotv.com; Scope Architectural Consulting, PLLC; Rogers and Gala Creative Partners, Inc.; Action Plus; Mecklenburg Foot & Ankle Associates; Family Dollar; OrthoCarolina; and Volvo/Saab of Charlotte. ☆



Aly Lerner and Michelle Rusgo on their '70s best at the JPS silent auction.

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Amy Levine and Betsy Olinger check out the hundreds of items to bid on.

Photos courtesy Burt Gellman.



Debbie Freedman, Audrey Pearlman and Lori Lucente enjoy a night out to support JPS.



Director Fern Sanderson, who retired in February after 22 years at JPS, was honored during the evening for her dedication and leadership to the preschool.

Happy Mother's Day

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Mazel Tov!

The Barbara and Jerry Levin Jewish Middle School went to a wedding. But the bride didn't wear a white dress, and "Hava Nagilah" or other traditional music — we didn't dance to any of that. The food didn't feature any kugel or matzah ball soup either.

As part of the Middle School's Life Cycles curriculum, Rochel Vorst's Judaica class has been learning about marriage. Rather than just learn about the weddings that many of us are likely to participate in, the middle schoolers chose to experience the most exotic and exciting wedding.

The class's project began with four groups doing research and preparing Power Point presentations on four types of wedding customs: Ashkenazi, Sefardi, Chassidic, and Yemenite. As we watched the Power Point presentations, it became obvious to us that however many different customs there were, the basics were all the same. For example, all Jewish couples marry under a chupah, have a ketubah, and every bride is given a wedding ring.

We voted for the wedding we wanted to experience — the Yemenite wedding, complete with a henna ceremony, *zchug*, and a

traditional bridal head piece.

Ilana Hirschmann was a beautiful bride (kallah) in her lavishly detailed red dress and ornate headdress. Her groom (chatan), Sammy Lerner, also dressed in traditional red. Hayley Rusgo, our henna artist, decorated the kallah several days before the wedding ceremony. Rachael Hall, the rabbi, conducted the ceremony with appropriate dignity. The chupah bearers were Benny McShane, Rachel Denenberg, Cailey Kreitman, and Hayley Rusgo.

Morah Rochel was the Middle School's wedding planner and caterer extraordinaire. At the reception, everyone feasted on *zchug* (Yemenite hot sauce), potato cigars, hummus, pita, falafel balls, and *jachmun* (Yemenite pastry).

A special thank you goes to Hannah Kaunitz, a teacher at the Charlotte Jewish Day School, for acting as adviser to the group researching Sefardi weddings, and to Michelle Rusgo, a BJLJMS parent, for helping with costumes



Sammy Lerner (the Chatan), Ilana Hirschman (the Kallah), and Rachael Hall (the Rabbi) under the Chupah

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



Shaina Gleiberman, mother of the bride, entertains with her timbrel.