

The Charlotte Jewish Day School Pesach Experience

You know the story well According to the Book of Exodus, Moshe was born in a time when his people, the Children of Israel, were increasing in number and the

Egyptian Pharaoh was worried that they might help Egypt's enemies. Moshe's Hebrew mother, Yocheved, hid him when the Pharaoh ordered all newborn

Hebrew boys to be killed. He ended up being adopted into the Egyptian royal family. After killing an Egyptian slave-master, Moshe fled across the Red Sea to Midian where he tended the flocks of Jethro, a priest of Midian on the slopes of Mt. Horeb. After the Ten Plagues were unleashed on Egypt, Moshe led the Exodus of the Hebrew people out of Egypt and across the Red Sea, after which they based themselves at Mount Sinai. It was at this time that Moshe received the Ten Commandments.

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Classrooms were transformed into living history museums where teachers gave guided tours; students served as the memorable characters; and the props, sets and special effects made the accounts of Pesach so vivid to the heart and mind.

The first stop on the tour was along a specially crafted Nile River, where we saw baby Moshe adrift in a basket as his older sister Miriam looked on. Next, we entered a "hands-on" pyramid building site, where guests were invited to build pyramids out of blocks. This depicted the hard work and enslavement of the Jewish people. Soon, Moshe was growing older and we found ourselves with Moshe in the desert where he was rescuing a lost lamb. We heard "Hashem" speak to Moshe, who directed him to set the Jewish people free. Next...we

Check us out on youtube!
www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJRF3f2yjFk
CJDS Pesach Experience

and people with boils, to name a few. In response to the plague of the firstborn, people painted their door frames with blood so that the Angel of Death would "pass over" these children. Next, we experienced the first Seder. Guests ate matzah together quickly as Egyptian soldiers readied for attack. Not to worry. Hashem would help the Jewish people. Visitors entered the undersea world of the Red Sea complete with fishes and sound effects. When they arrived on "dry land" they celebrated this miracle with song and dance. Finally, after a long walk through the desert, visitors emerged at the foot of Mount Sinai. Moshe appeared amidst thunder and lightning and presented The Ten Commandments.

If you would like to be a part of this living history, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJRF3f2yjFk.

Many thanks to our fine Judaica staff for putting this phenomenal exhibit together. ☆



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The Israelites roasting the sacrificial lamb.

The trick for the Judaica instructors of Charlotte Jewish Day School was how to bring these stories to life for students and parents alike. With a little cre-

were witnesses to the ten plagues. Dioramas made by the students in our Ein Gedi program depicted these plagues such as water turning to blood; frogs; sick animals;

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The CJP Welcomes the Hill Family to Charlotte

By Darcy Alban, PTO President
 I first encountered the Hill family last fall at one of The Charlotte Jewish Preschool's welcome events. I had heard through the PTO grapevine that Caren Hill

was a new CJP parent who wanted to get involved. As a PTO volunteer myself, naturally I was eager to meet with Caren and explore her interests. Caren and family have been a joy to know and work with all year. Caren has donated her time and expertise to make the CJP Silent Auction, the Perspective Parent Open House, and other CJP events a success. She and her husband, Richard, even chaired our recent event, Spring into Reading, by bringing her brother's business, Innovative Kids, to CJP for a highly successful spring bookfair. Caren has also been recruited to help out with the Camp Mindy 10th Anniversary Celebration as a member of the Family and Youth Services Committee for the LJCC. As members of Temple Beth El, the family has helped out with Chai Lytes for couples in their 40s and 50s, too. With all of this Jewish Community enthusiasm and involvement, you would never know that the Hill's just moved to Charlotte on July 1st of 2009.

If you hear a bit of their story, however, you would find a history of supporting Jewish Community events, as Caren and Richard met



The Hill family.

in 1993 at a Matzah Ball Jewish singles event held in Boston. Prior to moving to Charlotte, the family had been living in Las Vegas for twelve years, though both Richard and Caren grew up on the East Coast (Caren in Great Neck on Long Island; and Richard in Peabody, MA). Richard and Caren wanted to get back to the East Coast and desired to raise their three children, Bayleigh (7), Ethan (5), and Delanie (3) in a more child-centered, family friendly city like Charlotte. The kids have participated in many Shalom Park activities, too. Delanie thoroughly enjoyed Camp Katan last summer and now attends The Charlotte Jewish Preschool. Her parents have been very pleased with her "great educational experience," thus far. They chose the CJP because "from the minute (Caren) walked in the doors," she felt comfortable with the "teachers and the warm, friendly environment."

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