Public Television's epic ninepart HERITAGE: CIVILIZA-TION AND THE JEWS, chronicling over 3,000 years of the history of the Jewish people, makes its debut this Fall on Monday, October 1 at 9:00 p.m. WTVI-42 will be airing this monumental series, which traces the evolution of Jewish, series originated with a major history, thought, insights and culture.

Statesman, diplomat. scholar and writer Abba Eban, host of the series, says: "This is not a story of the Jewish people from within, as many histories are. The emphasis is not on Jews, but on Jews and the mind, spirit and character of the people with whom they were in contact. What we want to talk about is Jews as creators of ideas and currents of civilization."

Filmed in 19 nations and

four continents, this sweeping series travels from the heights of the Sinai to the Dead Sea. from Delphi to Rome, and from the ghettos of Europe to the kibbutzim of Israel.

**HERITAGE: CIVILIZATION** AND THE JEWS is produced by WNET New York. The grant from the Charles H. **Revson Foundation in 1979** and has been financed since by additional grants from that foundation. Other major funders include Milton Petrie, the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Bank Leumi le-Israel Group and Israel Discount Bank of New York, the Crown Family, the Frances and John L. Loeb Foundation, Joseph Meyerhoff, and the Nate B. and Frances Spingold Foundation, Inc.



### **New Teacher Hired**

Eleanor Weinglass announced at the July Board Meeting that Gail Burke has accepted a contract to be a 2nd to 4th grade secular teacher at the Academy during the 1984-85 school year.

Mrs. Burke has a B.A. (cum Laude) from Duke University and an M. Ed. in Elementary Education from Millersville State College in Pennsylvania. She has eight years experience as an elementary school teacher. Most of her teaching



**Gail Burke** 

took place in Reading, PA.

Gail Burke is married to Laurance Burke and they have two sons, ages 6 and 4.

In addition to teaching, Mrs. Burke has numerous handicraft skills. She designed and wrote a needlework book, "Country Baskets" which was published in 1983.

### **Committee Chairmen** Announced

Peggy Gartner, President of the Hebrew Academy, announced that the following people will be committee chairmen for the 1984-85 school year; Finance: Larry Widis; Raffle: Mary Gordan; **Tribute Cards: Batya Straz;** Friends of the Academy: Bob Abel: Fall Fund Raiser: Paula Klein; House and Grounds: Dick Muller; PTA President: Roslyn Segal; Recruitment and

Public Relations: Richard Klein and Joe Steiner; and Publicity: Saul Brenner and Rose Massachi.

Page 5-THE NEWS-September, 1984

### **Raffle Sponsored**

For a summer fundraiser, the Hebrew Academy sponsored a Raffle. According to Mary Gordan, chairperson of the event, the first prize was a video cassette recorder; second prize, a Carand' Ache pen and pencil set; and the third prize was a dinner for two at a local restaurant.

The drawing was to take place at the Academy on September 4 by the students. The entire Jewish community was asked for their support in this endeavor, and an excellent response was received. The winners will be announced in the October issue of this paper.

### School Spruced Up

Many thanks go out to Moshe Straz and Richard Muller, who have taken it upon themselves this summer to donate the labor and materials, respectively, to paint the entire inside of the Academy and parts of the outside of the building. Because of their generosity, the school will be spic and span and ready for another fruitful year.

# **Hebrew Academy Children** Scored High on CAT Exams

#### **By Saul Brenner**

Last March the 6th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st grade students at the Hebrew Academy scored high in their California Achievement Test exams. The results were received in June.

It is unreasonable to compare the scores of the Hebrew Academy children with those of students who attend public schools because of the obviously different backgrounds of the two populations. Rather, their scores will be compared with children who go to nonpublic schools. The CAT people supply data for all nonpublic students in the country.

The two sixth graders at the Academy scored at the 12.2 grade lever (that is, 12th grade, 1st month) for all three exams (Reading, Spelling and Language, and Math), while their nonpublic school counterparts scored at the 8.7 grade level. The scores of the Hebrew Academy children were at the 98 percentile (that is, at the top 2% of the students in the sixth grade), while the nonpublic school students were at the 83 percentile.

The eight second grade children at the Academy also scored significantly higher than the nonpublic school

students. Their scores ranged from 4.2 in Math (97 percentile) to 5.3 in Language (94 percentile), while the CAT scores of the nonpublic school students were between 3.5 in Math (82 percentile) and 3.9 in Language (82 percentile).

The seven-member third grade class, however, had CAT scores that were similar to those of the nonpublic school pupils, with both groups scoring at the 4.8 level. And the eleven first graders at the Hebrew Academy were only slightly higher than those of the nonpublic school children. The Hebrew Academy students had scores that ranged from 2.7 in Reading (91 percentile) to 2.4 in Math (86 percentile), while the nonpublic school pupils had scores between 2.4 in Reading and Math (85 percentile) to 2.2 in Language (79 percentile).

In the past the students at the Hebrew Academy have generally scored significantly higher than the children in the nonpublic schools. This result is not surprising, for most Academy children come from upper-middle class homes, have parents who have attended college, and are being raised in families where intellectual achievement is prized. These same values are fostered by the Hebrew Academy, which, in addition, supplies individualized teaching in a warm and caring environment.

That the Hebrew Academy children devote a substantial part of their day to Hebrew and Judaica does not appear to hamper secular learning. Indeed, it may be an enriching experience which may enhance secular learning.

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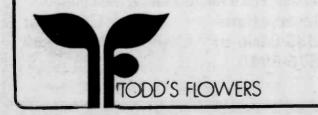
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