

Library Lines

By Amalia Warshenbrot

When the war with Iraq broke out and Israel's name was mentioned in the news, the preschool children looked at picture books from Israel. When the first Soviet Jews arrived in Charlotte, we read about the life of a Jewish child in the Soviet Union.

The above are just two examples of the role of the Speizman Jewish Library as supplementary Jewish education to the Charlotte Jewish Preschool.

The Pre-K class comes to the Speizman Jewish Library once a week; the four-year-old classes come once a month. The JCC also offers an after-school library program for four-year-olds (and older) on Wednesdays.

Our goal is to introduce our children to the joys of our Jewish heritage. Since the kids are exposed to holiday stories in the classrooms, I chose Bible stories and Jewish issues written for their level of understanding. This program is coordinated with Carol Klein's (the school's director) outstanding Judaica classes.

The future library users are taught how to select books, take good care of them and return them on time. Millie Canterbury, the Pre-K teacher, is excellent in instilling library skills which she calls "Library Voices" and "Library Lines." All of the children also improve their listening skills. Thanks go to Millie for her cooperation and educational ideas.

The children also watched the dedicated library volunteer, Leon Benveniste, who is the "Director of the Book Hospital." He repairs books, wraps books and puts on pockets for the cards.

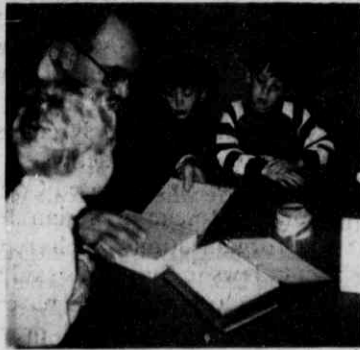
Having the Speizman Jewish Library across from the Preschool office is another benefit of the school's location. The teachers also enjoy the library. They have received a bibliographical list of books by subjects such as how to deal with illness and death, Holocaust, Holidays, etc. The library is open for their convenience as well as for preschoolers' parents on Mondays until 1:45 p.m.

The children's book collection continues to grow, thanks to library funds and the Library Birthday Club. Parents and grandparents demonstrate Tzedakah by purchasing books in honor of their children's birthdays. We wish Mazel Tov to Alison Blair Kushner, who celebrated her 4th birthday in January, and a special thanks to her parents.

It is my hope that as our children's book collection expands, our youngsters will make it a regular routine to enjoy Jewish books.



Jewish Preschool Pre-K class with Amalia.



Preschoolers watch the "Book Doctor" repair a book.

Thanks to volunteer Amy Rogers who has helped the library, but is now leaving.

Welcome to our new volunteers, Helene Howard and Maddie Joffe.

Library Hours

(during school hours)

Sun.	9:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Wed.	9:00 a.m.-1:45 p.m.
Mon.	9:00 a.m.-1:45 p.m.		7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Tues.	4:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m.	Thurs.	4:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m.

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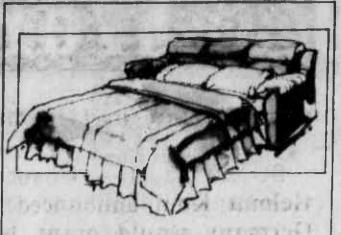


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