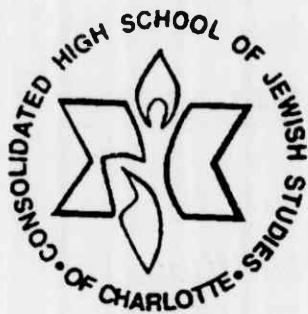


CHS Student Council

By Sue Brodsky, Director



The Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies is proud to announce the members of its 1997-98 Student Council. They are: Jonathan Bedrick, Bethany Bernstein, Jessica Brandt, Sara Bryan, Rena Chernotsky, Adina and Joyce Dubin, Erin Goldstein, Dana Gottheim, Melissa Katzman, Josh Klein, Jacob Komisar, Jenny Minchew, Lauren Rauch, Vivian Resnik, Abby Rosenthal, Jessie Sachs, Andrew Sadow, Amy and Stuart Shapiro, and Allison Wallsh.

The officers are: Vivian Resnik - President, Dana Gottheim - Vice-President, Abby Rosenthal - Treasurer, Sara Bryan - Recording Secretary, Jessica Brandt - Corresponding Secretary, and Amy Shapiro - Sunshine Chairperson.

The Student Council members have been hard at work planning and

implementing old and new projects. Thus far, six Welcome Baskets have been distributed to new teens who have moved into the Charlotte area. Four Student Council members represented the school at Shalom Y'all. Sara Bryan, Melissa Katzman, Abby Rosenthal and Allison Wallsh each spoke eloquently about their positive feelings about Hebrew High. Other projects include: Hannukah Helpers, which will benefit children through Jewish Family Services; the sale of school tee shirts; Purim King and Queen, a tzedakah project for Purim; and an autograph book for a signing party the last night of school.

Tee Shirts Available

School tee shirts are currently on sale for \$10 each and are available by contacting Sue Brodsky at Shalom Park, 366-5007, ext. 261. The tee shirt was designed by student council member, Jacob Komisar. ☆



Morah Susan: Charlotte Jewish Preschool's "Bubbe"

Judaica specialist Susan Jacobs calls herself the "grandma" of the Charlotte Jewish Preschool because every day with the children is such a pleasure for her.

"I don't ever remember enjoying anything as much as I love working with the preschoolers," she says. "They make me smile every day."

Jacobs teaches each grade twice a week. During Judaica classes and the Shabbat celebration she strives to provide each student with the first positive step into Jewish life.

"I want them to know that it's a wonderful thing to be Jewish, that it's part of who they are," says Jacobs.

She introduces concepts like tzedakah, ritual and holidays through songs, stories, puppets, and art projects. "I try to make it as

interactive as possible, so the children have something that belongs to them."

One major project was producing an audio tape of the children singing all their favorite preschool songs. Featuring the rabbis and cantors from Temple Beth El and Temple Israel, the cassette is guaranteed to charm grandparents and is available through the preschool office.

She also introduces her young students to Hebrew phrases and vocabulary, from body parts and numbers to holiday greetings.

"It's amazing how much they retain by the end of the year," she says. "And it gives them a good introduction for when they start Hebrew school. They don't have to start at ground zero."



Susan Jacobs, Judaica Specialist and self-defined "Bubbe" at the CJP, relishes sharing her joy of Judaism.

As parents stop by to comment on a lesson, or older siblings return to blow kisses to their former teacher, Jacobs remarks on she enjoys reaching an entire family through her Preschool classes.

"I play such small part in their lives," she says of her students. "I don't think they realize how big a part of my life they are." ☆

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Where is my Christmas present?

(Continued from page 10)

the difference between Christmas and Chanukah. They should help them formulate answers to common questions like what they received for Christmas. I know that it helped me not wish to celebrate Christmas when my parents told me the truth about Santa Clause, although it was hard not to ruin the secret for my Christian friends.

Talking to teachers or school administrators may help the problems encountered at school. Parents can suggest only displaying winter time decorations or including Chanukah and other religious holidays of the season in the exhibitions. Jewish parents could even volunteer to do a program on Judaism and Chanukah. My mom used to come to my class

every year to explain Chanukah. She would serve latkes and apple sauce, read the story of Chanukah, light the menorah, say the Chanukah blessings, let us play dreidel, and translate everyone's name into Hebrew.

Things can get complicated when intermarried couples and even solely Jewish couples still choose to celebrate Christmas to some extent. Every family has its own way of celebrating these holidays that works best for them.

The problems that occur during the holiday season are part of being a minority religion in our community. It is extremely difficult for children of all religions to understand that what they celebrate at home is not necessarily what everyone else celebrates. Jewish children however, have it worse because most public displays contradict what they learn in their families.

The only question I have is when are the Christian children going to start asking their parents if they can celebrate Chanukah — because eight is always better than one. ☆

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