

Lubavitch of North Carolina

Jewish DaySchool News

Rosh Chodesh School Assembly

Rosh Chodesh, which literally translates as head of the month, is very special at the Jewish Day School. Every Rosh Chodesh, the students at the day school gather for an assembly at the start of the school day.

The assembly might include a story, or skit with a Jewish message, followed by communal prayer and song. "In order to emphasize the day's importance we do something special and exciting," says Mariashi Groner, School director.

Rosh Chodesh, head of the month, indicates that the entire month is encapsulated in this day. In the days bygone, it was a minor holiday. In Jerusalem's Holy Temple extra offerings were brought and people would celebrate with feast and drink. Today we offer extra prayer and read in the Torah.

"The assembly gives us an opportunity to familiarize our students with the Hebrew months," says Rabbi Binyomin Weiss. "It also allows us to give an overview of the month, including holidays and anniversaries." This past Rosh Chodesh the emphasis was on Tu Bishvat, New Year of the Trees, as it comes on the fifteenth of the month of Shvat.

"We also choose a common Jewish topic which we demon-

Farmer Goldsmith with his 'livestock'



Day School students in communal prayer at Rosh Chodesh assembly.

strate through story or play," said Rabbi Weiss. The play this month was about the holy day Shabbat and students depicted the wonderful Talmudic tale of Rabbi Pinchus' cow that refused to work on the Sabbath. The third and fourth graders presented this month's play with costumes and dialogue.

School will celebrate Purim with feast

One of the mitzvot to be

observed on Purim is feasting on a full holiday meal. As school is in session on Purim, the school will host a Purim feast for the Day School students and their parents.

The program will feature a musical holiday presentation by the students and a Kosher Chinese gourmet meal. The feast will be held in the Social Hall at Temple Beth El. A fee of \$5.00 for children and \$12.00 for parents will be charged to help defray the cost of the feast. The day will begin at

school with Megillah reading followed by a multitude of fun activities appropriate for this most joyous day of the year.

Gift Baskets for Purim

The Jewish Day School PTO is offering the opportunity for all members of the community to observe the mitzvah of Mishloach Manot, by sending food baskets to friends and family.

Baskets will contain a variety of quality items, including hamantashen, groggers, fruits and other delicacies. A holiday greeting from the sender will appear on a holiday gift card attached to the basket. Proceeds of the sale of the gift baskets will benefit the Jewish Day School.

The place to be

These essays were written by two fifth grade students in Mrs. Lipscomb's class in response to the topic: "The Jewish Day School is the place to be!"

The Jewish Day School of Charlotte is a very special school. We are more advanced in our curriculum than public schools are. For example, the older children are starting to learn some algebra in math. The school chooses very nice teachers, who are always fair to the students. We don't have very large classes, so each kid gets more attention. Another nice thing about the school is that we are taught about the Jewish holidays, Jewish history, and we learn to

speaking Hebrew.

One other thing that is nice about our school is that we get to take overnight trips. In fourth grade, we get to go to Raleigh. When we are in fifth grade, we get to go to Camp Thunderbird. We also have fun projects that we do in classes which makes it even more fun to learn. One time in social studies, we made salt dough maps of the landforms in the United States. We didn't just read about them!

Brooke Kerendian

The Jewish Day School is the coolest school on earth. I like it because we have really nice teachers. The teachers laugh and play with us, but when it comes time to work, they make us do it. Thanks to these nice teachers, learning is fun. The teachers do not yell at us when we do something wrong; they just tell us not to do it again.

The teachers are not the only people who are nice; how can you forget about the kids? Do not worry about your children, they will make friends because the kids will welcome them like they have known them all of their lives. The older kids get to go on overnight trips, classes that they would not get to go on in a public school. Also, the educational level is outstanding. The fifth graders are on a 7th-8th grade math level! That is what is so special about J.D.S.

DJ Slotkis

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Siberian warmth

80 hours by train from Moscow, Siberian region overcomes isolation and harsh weather to discover its Jewish past

KRASNOYARSK, Siberia — (LNS) From a purely geographical standpoint, Rabbi Shmaya Glick serves the largest and most far-flung Jewish community on earth.

As rabbi in Krasnoyarsk, a key industrial city of nearly one million at the junction of the Trans-Siberian Railroad and the Yenisey River, the 23-year old Glick ministers to Siberia's estimated 100,000 Jews.

He is the only permanent rabbi for dozens of large and small Jewish enclaves in the vast Siberian expanse, which begins where Europe ends, at the Ural Mountains, and continues across the steppes, up through the Arctic tundra and across the Great Siberian Plateau to Vladivostok by the Pacific Ocean.

All told, that's 5.2 million square miles, an area larger than either the United States or Canada.

This Monday, February 2, Rabbi Glick and his community will celebrate the dedication of a new, \$250,000 synagogue building in Krasnoyarsk, which is part of a \$1.5 million complex that will, when completed, house a Jewish community center and school.

"The synagogue opens a new chapter of Jewish life for the community," says Rabbi Glick. "Jews here have long been searching for religious meaning and communal identification."

The new synagogue offers seating for 70, with standing room for another 100 worshippers. The building is covered with a huge metal dome, donated by one of Russia's major aluminum manufacturers, Kras Aluminum Plant, located nearby. The factory's major shareholder provided most of the funding for the project.

Despite his young age, Glick serves as the official rabbi for the Krasnoyarsk Region, and, in the absence of rabbis elsewhere in Siberia, travels to remote communities on behalf of Lubavitch and the Federation of Jewish Communities of the CIS — a membership organization of communities and synagogues — to bring Judaism to where the people are.

The distance problem

The city of Krasnoyarsk is some 80 hours, or 3-1/2 days, away by train from Moscow. Outlying communities are yet many hours farther.

Long-distance travel by car is almost unheard of here. Roads between local cities are so bad that only trucks in convoys dare inter-city roads, and that's only in the summer. Winter, which begins as

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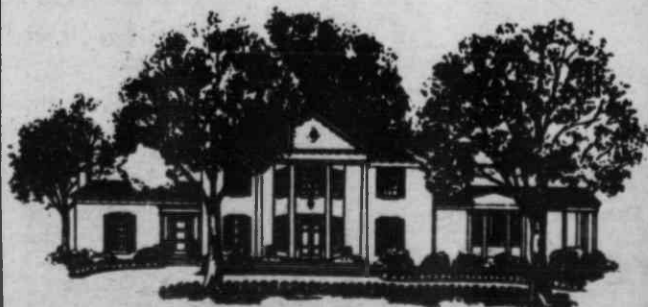
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