

EDUCATION

It's Time for Your 2002-2003 CAJE Membership



This is the very important time of the year when your Carolina Agency for Jewish Education (CAJE) annual membership can make a difference for you and your family.

Please complete and return the membership application below with your check so that you may enjoy this year's membership benefits. Your CAJE membership is a tax-deductible donation.

The most important benefit of your individual or family CAJE membership entitles you to borrowing privileges in the multimedia Resource Center at Shalom Park for a whole year. Membership contributions also support the workshops, speakers, newsletters, publications, exhibits, consultations, reference services and other programs that CAJE offers, which reach hundreds of children, teachers and families in our community.

As a member-supported agency, CAJE depends on the financial support raised through this, our annual membership campaign, as a significant part of our program budget. We can't do it without you.

This year, we are pleased to offer a special premium gift to every CAJE individual or family member who contributes at the

Bonim (Builders) \$250 or more level: BimBam, a weekly Jewish current events from around the world newsletter, will be emailed to your home or office during the school year as our way of saying thank you for your extraordinary support of CAJE in 2002-2003/5763. Log on, sit back and enjoy.

CAJE, the central agency for Jewish education in Charlotte, and in the greater Carolinas region, is a project of the Carolinas

Association of Jewish Women and Men (CAJWM) and is funded through grants from the Blumenthal Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, grant funders such as the Arts and Science Council of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc., local family foundations, and is supported by you, our members.

Many thanks in advance for considering support of CAJE at this time. To many families and teachers CAJE ensures Jewish renewal. We hope that you will help us this year, and, please, with our increasing needs, would you especially consider a CAJE membership donation at this time? ☆

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Speizman Jewish Library

Did You Know?

By Cynthia Chapman

The Speizman Jewish Library has been using a specialized library computer program since the beginning of 2002 to check books out and in. The computer allows us to do a number of things which were much more difficult to do without it, such as search for books by author, title, subject or keyword. It also makes it easier to generate reports to help us explain who uses our library.

Our adult library readers come to us from across the community. We have seniors who check out books when they come to Oasis programs at the JCC, and unaffiliated (both Jews and non-Jews) members of the larger community who are interested in learning more about Jewish religion and culture. Since January, our largest group of adult readers has come from Temple Beth El, with over 150 books checked out from January through June. Temple Israel readers are not too far behind, though, with over 100 books checked out.

During the school year, we work with our Religious schools to help meet the need for extra-curricular reading with Jewish content and with books to support the various curricula of the schools. We worked with the Charlotte Jewish Day School in the spring in a special outreach program. Books were taken from the library to the Day School and students checked out



books. Close to 300 books were checked out by the Day School students.

Students from the Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies kept the library busy each Wednesday night, using books for research and projects. Many parents often come to the library while their children are at Hebrew High. Students borrowed books to complement their studies. Students from Temple Israel's Religious School used the collection to expand their Jewish knowledge. The students from Temple Beth El's Religious School were one of the biggest groups using the library and they checked out over 100 books, with six teachers encouraging and planning class visits.

But the largest number of books checked out by students in one of our educational programs was over 500 books checked out by the Preschool students from January through April. We have 263 books in our collection for their reading level. Eleven of our Preschool teachers brought their classes to the library on a regular basis during the year. It is wonderful to see the children's excitement as they choose a book. It is so important for our children to be nurtured with books containing Jewish ideas and

about Jewish subjects. It helps reinforce what they are taught at home and in our schools and synagogues.

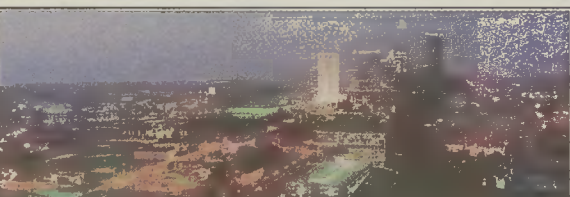
Teachers from the Preschool, Hebrew High, and the Religious schools borrowed 250 books to use in the classroom, to supplement other teaching materials they use, and they even found adult reading material to enjoy for their own pleasure.

We have almost 600 people who have checked out books since we started circulating with our computer software, and we will be happy to add you as one of our readers.

We have 4,200 titles in our collection and subscribe to 15 magazines, including two magazines for children. If we had to rebuild our collection at today's book prices, spending about \$25 per book, it would cost about \$105,000 to replace our library. Our collection is a wonderful asset to our community and we encourage everyone to come and discover what we have to offer.

We look forward to working with all our students and teachers in the year ahead. It is always a pleasure to see young readers excited about a book. As Rosh Hashanah approaches, we wish all our readers and friends a sweet and healthy New Year. Come check out one of our books on the holidays and add the sweetness of words to your celebration, along with the apples and honey.

(Continued on next page)



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