

Jewish Academy marks triple celebration

By Jean Campiola

When we say from generation to generation, it usually means passing on Jewish values to our children. But on November 19th at the Heritage Retirement Community, it meant our children giving Jewish ruach to our seniors.

In the exercise room at the Heritage, the students of the Jewish Academy spread the warmth of Hanukah through song and story. The visit concluded a 6 week period in which the students learned about kindness, and worked to improve this character trait.

Heritage residents greeted the students warmly and all joined in singing familiar songs. Even those who were initially subdued were singing and clapping and waving their hands to the old favorites "Dreidel, Dreidel, & Oh Hanukah."

Since it was just before Thanksgiving, Rabbi Aaron asked the students what they were most thankful for. Most mentioned their families, especially their parents and siblings. Moshe McNally said he was thankful for being a Jew.

If the double anticipation of Hanukah and Thanksgiving weren't exciting enough, the students also welcomed in the Sabbath. Rabbi Lev and Rabbi Aaron

led the group in "Shalom Aleichem" and "Oseh Shalom," and Sarah Rosner, mother of a 2nd grader, led the group on the violin in "Shabbat Shalom."

Before parting, the students gave out chocolate Hanukah gelt. The seniors were delighted and impressed that there is a thriving Jewish Day School in Raleigh. An elderly woman who had

Jewish Academy students enjoyed performing for and getting to know the residents of Heritage Retirement Community.



been waving her hands like a conductor marveled, "You're telling me they learn regular subjects *and* Hebrew *and* the Torah?" Indeed they do.

What a fitting conclusion to the kindness project. The students filled out a "kindness report" when they caught someone doing something kind. Rabbi Lev read these reports aloud during lunch and the children were given a small prize. This article serves as my kindness report. I caught the students and parents and teachers of the Jewish Academy performing a great and joyful kindness.

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