

The DALLAS POST

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Jews ready to greet new year

By REBECCA BRIA
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Without herring, Rosh Hashanah just wouldn't be the same for Sandee Cohn.

Cohn, of Dallas, and her husband, Bob, celebrate the Jewish holiday by serving herring for dinner, an ethnic Polish custom.

The Jewish holiday, Rosh Hashanah, begins at sundown on Monday, Sept. 29, and continues through nightfall of October 1.

"Our tradition in the Cohn family is to serve certain foods," Sandee said. "In our house, we have herring to welcome the New Year as a very special family tradition that has been passed on to me from my parents. Every family comes with their own traditions."

Rabbi Roger Lerner, of Temple B'nai B'rith in Kingston, says the occasion marks the Jewish New Year and the creation of the world according to the Hebrew calendar, which is based on a combination of the solar and lunar calendar. Rosh Hashanah is held on the first day of the new moon of the month and may fall anytime between late August and early October.

The holiday also marks the beginning of 10 days of repentance leading up to Yom Kippur, a day of repentance to receive God's forgiveness for sins and the forgiveness of others.

Rosh Hashanah services are marked by the sounding of the shofar, a ram's horn. Services are typically held both on the first evening of Rosh Hashanah and the following morning.

Sandee brings out her best tablecloths and dinnerware, along with special holiday candles for Rosh Hashanah. The Cohns put on their very best clothes and have dinner for about six friends or eight total people.

In celebration of the New Year, Jews traditionally eat sweet apples and honey which are associated with the harvest season. In addition, it is traditional to serve round challah, a special kind of sweet bread with or without raisins, which also symbolizes the season and the cyclical nature of the year, as well as matzah ball soup, a chicken soup with balls made from matzah meal.

The Cohns include apples and honey, challah and matzah ball soup in their Rosh Hashanah dinner. Sandee says Ashkenazic Jews, those of Eastern European descent, including herself, often have tzimmes, a sweet vegetable dish with or without meat. The Cohns eat a tzimmes consisting of meat, prunes, carrots, potatoes, spices, brown sugar and oranges.

The family also always has two other foods at Rosh Hashanah dinner - honey cakes and taiglach.

"My husband absolutely, absolutely cannot live without honey cake," Sandee said. "And my mother gave me the tradition of the dessert taiglach. It's very hard crystallized candy nuts and raisins. And these two absolutely symbolize the sweetness of the New Year. That is a real important foundation that I think every family has where they bring tradition with them and that tradition is passed down to the children and they pass it down to their children. It's not religious; it is traditional."

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Run by Creative Safety Products in Hackensack, N.J., the Officer Phil Program gives presentations on safety, crime prevention, values and responsibility to elementary school children across the United States.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Animator David Carr from Creative Safety Products does magic tricks during an assembly on safety at Dallas Elementary School.

Assembling for safety

Officer Phil Program teaches kids prevention, values and awareness

By REBECCA BRIA
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Michael Krokowski pretended he lost a friend and had to describe him to Selena Bren, who played the role of a police officer. Using a drawing of a face, Krokowski successfully depicted what the imaginary person looked like to Bren.

Krokowski and Bren completed the role play exercise during the afternoon of September 17 as part of the Officer Phil Program at Dallas Elementary School where two identical assemblies were held. Students in a.m. kindergarten and grades one, two and four attended a morning assembly and students in p.m. kindergarten and grades three and five went to the afternoon assembly.

Run by Creative Safety Products in Hackensack, N.J., the program gives presentations on safety, crime prevention, values and responsibility to elementary school children across the United States. Officer Phil offers three programs: safety, fire safety and drug and alcohol awareness.

Dallas Borough and Dallas Township

Police Departments sponsored the program.

"Officer Phil has been coming to us for a long time," Dallas Elementary Principal Tom Traver told his students. "And I wanted fourth and fifth grade to come this year because the new program covers internet safety."

Dave Carr, an animator from Creative Safety Products, presented the program using magic tricks and ventriloquism with a puppet turtle named Freddy Turbo. Carr focused on safety topics consisting of strangers, bullying and internet safety. The children were given internet tips like not giving out their real names, addresses and phone numbers and never agreeing to meet someone they met online.

Carr feels the highlight of the half-hour program is implementing six value words - politeness, honesty, responsibility, friendship, kindness and respect.

"They're all words most likely the teacher emphasizes throughout the year, anyway," Carr said.

Six students were chosen to answer questions pertaining to a scenario related



Selena Bren holds up the correct answer during an assembly on safety at Dallas Elementary School.

ON THE WEB

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to one of the words. Those selected during the afternoon assembly were Dominick Angelicola, Samantha Mazula, Olivia King, Ryan Nelligan, Maria Ansilio and Tylar Miller.

Each child received a grade-specific activity workbook to follow-up on what was taught in the program. Teachers also have the option of requesting character cards on Officer Phil's Web site to distribute to their students when they positively exemplify the six value words.

Lake-Lehman Homecoming events are slated

Plans are in the process for a community event for the Lake-Lehman School District's homecoming. Many school and community organizations will host booths at a festival to be held from 11 a.m. until the kickoff of the football game at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4.

A semi-formal dance will be held on Friday, Oct. 3, for students in grades nine through 12. The dance theme will be "Countries of the World." The gym will be decorated in the decor of several different countries including the USA, France, Mexico, Italy, China "Knight Country."

Along with the festival on Saturday,

other events will be as follows: a Cow Pie Bingo sponsored by the Lake-Lehman Educational Foundation, a parade to begin at 2:30 p.m. at Lehman-Jackson Elementary which will proceed to the high school, a performance in memory of Justice Martin by cheerleaders and A.J. Martin in the stadium after the homecoming court introductions, crowning of the king and queen and a football game versus Holy Redeemer at 4 p.m.

Anyone interested in participating in the parade, purchasing cow pie deeds or needing further information is asked to call Sandy at 831-5156 or 255-2719.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Members of the Lake-Lehman Homecoming Court are, from left, Kelsey Amy, Rachel Litchman, Jamie Wasky, Gabrielle Dragon, Christie Simoson, Leanne Grabski, Dave Heller, Joshua Brucher, Nate Volkel, T.J. Stepanski, Cody Lamoireaux, Roger Jayne, Jr