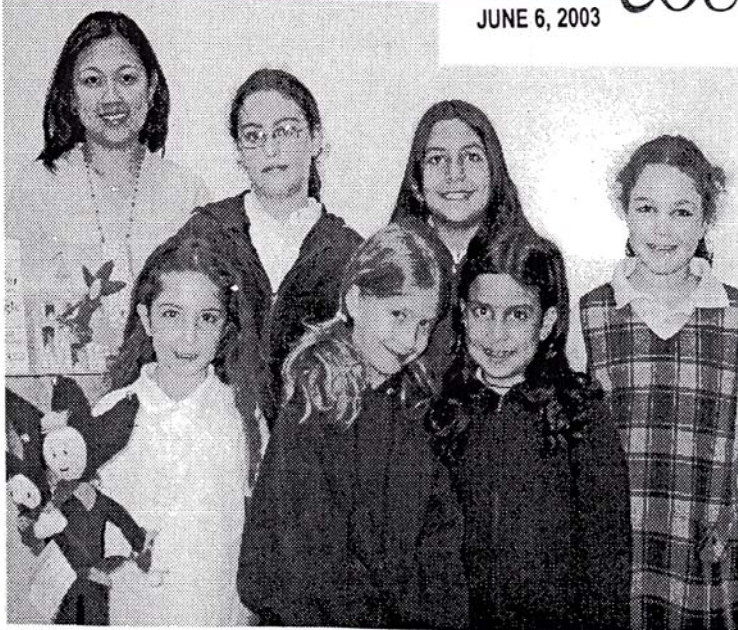


# The BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

The Best Read Newspaper in Beverly Hills

JUNE 6, 2003



**READING FOR A CAUSE** — Students at the Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy participated in the Reading to Give Marathon, a read-a-thon benefiting the Jester & Pharley Phund. Donations went to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Pictured (left to right) in top row: Joanne Borromeo (Cedars-Sinai representative) with students Stepania Yashar, Rebecca Maghen, and Robin Ashkenazi; in bottom row: students Rachel Lester, Julia Kandel and Ariella Maghen.

## Benefit Keeps Late Author's Message Alive

By Kendra Kozen

Participating in the Reading to Give Marathon, a read-a-thon benefiting the Jester & Pharley Phund, students at the Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy donated 24 copies of the children's book "The Jester Has Lost His Jingle" and 18 companion jester dolls to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Wednesday.

The students collected a penny per page, raising a total of approximately \$620 toward the books and dolls. Student Rachel Lester said she read 10 books and had fun with the project.

"Many of the students read more than 1,000 pages apiece, demonstrating both a love of reading and a strong desire to help others in their community," said General Studies Principal Ed Eiseman.

"The Jester Has Lost His Jingle" tells the story of a jester expelled from his kingdom for not being funny, but who once again finds joy and laughter with the help of a young cancer patient. It was written by the late David Saltzman, a Palos Verdes native and 21-year-old Yale University student who was diagnosed with Hodgkins disease.

Saltzman, an aspiring children's author, made it his final mission to complete the book and bring hope, happiness and laughter to children in need. He died March 2, 1990, shortly after finishing his work. In memory of David, the Saltzman family created The Jester Co., Inc. and the Jester & Pharley Phund to publish "The Jester Has Lost His Jingle," making it available to suffering children. More than 275,000 books are now in circulation and since the book's release in 1995, over 40,000 'Jester' books and dolls

have been donated to ill and special-needs children and literacy programs nationwide.

" 'The Jester Has Lost His Jingle,' with its message that laughter is always in use, is an invaluable resource for patients and their families. We are thrilled to receive them for our young patients," said Joanne Borromeo, child life specialist at Cedars-Sinai.

Veteran 3rd-grade teacher at the Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy, Beth Hollander helped get the school involved in the read-a-thon. Hollander says she and Eiseman first met Saltzman's mother, Diane Saltzman, about five years ago at a teacher's convention and has read the 'Jester' story to her class every year since. This year the school's PTA sponsored a visit from Barbara Saltzman.

"My class was so moved that they wanted to do something," said Hollander. "I found out about the read-a-thon and the administration decided to involve all 1st through 5th-graders."

According to Barbara Saltzman, the Harkham Hillel donation will help restock the Jester & Pharley Smile Cart, donated to Cedars-Sinai by the Bloomingdale's Fund of the Federated Department Stores Foundation.

"We hope other schools will join Harkham Hillel in helping us provide these Jester and Pharley materials to young patients," said Saltzman.