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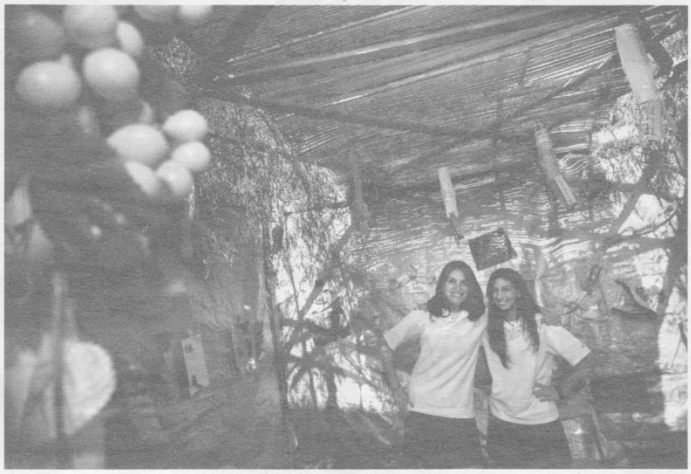
PHOTO MONICA LOPOSSAY



Roland Park Country School students Sasha Frankel (left) and Rebecca Band (right), juniors and co-presidents of the Jewish Heritage Club, helped build the school's sukkah, on campus through October.

Lovin' The Lulav

Sukkot is celebrated at Roland Park Country School

Rochelle Eisenberg
Staff Reporter

On Sunday, Sept. 19, 15 families spent the afternoon hoisting a *sukkah* on the Roland Park Country School's campus.

It's all part of the efforts of The Curriculum Initiative (TCI), a non-profit organization that supports Jewish culture and identity at independent schools to offer Jewish students a chance to experience their culture at non-Jewish independent schools.

The sukkah was originally donated to TCI by a Boys' Latin family that purchased it for the organization last year. In its first year, the sukkah was housed at the all-boys independent school.

"The idea is to rotate it to different schools in the community so they would have the opportunity to have an educational experience associated with hosting a sukkah," said Jason Benkendorf, Mid-Atlantic regional director for TCI.

To celebrate Sukkot, RPCS introduced a school-wide program, inviting faculty and students to lunch, snack and hold classes in the temporary hut. In addition, Rebecca Band and Sasha Frankel, co-presidents of RPCS's Jewish Heritage Club, presented information in assemblies about the holiday to their classmates. Books also were read to lower and middle school students, and the lower school students were taught and sang "This Is What We Need To Build A Sukkah."

The Jewish Heritage Clubs of Gilman School and the Bryn Mawr School will join their RPCS counterparts in the sukkah next week for lunch and a program.

"I hope people who aren't Jewish will learn about Sukkot. It is a holiday that could be celebrated by anyone. It's a fun, fall holiday," said Sasha, an RPCS junior.

Added Rebecca: "It's nice to spread awareness about a holiday that is not highly known about in the Roland Park area."