

Volume 9, Issue 3

**Heshvan 5772**

**OCT. 29 - NOV. 26**

**MONTHLY M&M:**

**Pidyon Shvuyim**

**Freeing Captives**

*ה'ש"ב*  
**HOD-SHEET**

Our Monthly Newsletter  
by Iris Bendahan

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**PLEASE!!** Read LaDaat and teacher updates. They are being written for YOU!!

*216 BN* **Upcoming Bnei Mitzvah**  
**15 Heshvan– Josh Mendel (11/12)**  
**22 Heshvan– Rebecca Paktor (11/19)**

### **Making L'Dor Va'dor a Certainty**

The seeming miracle of the survival of the Jewish people, despite centuries of persecution, has hinged on heeding the call in V'ahavta, *v'shinantam l'vanekha* "and you shall diligently teach [these words] to your children", and the Kedusha, *l'dor va'dor nagid godlekha* "from generation to generation we declare Your greatness". But can this miracle be counted on for the future, as more of more of our people distance themselves from the source of these ideas – the presence of God? Regardless of one's feeling about God, I would venture to say that when parents heed the call of the V'ahavta and the Kedusha, there is a better chance of defying the current statistics which state that the American Jewish population is declining. Certainly without a vibrant and caring American Jewish population, Israel's survival, and thus the survival of the Jewish people, is in jeopardy. Jewish continuity is dependent on each generation doing their part to heed the call of V'ahavta and Kedusha: diligently teach your children to live Jewishly, and make sure they understand their responsibility to do so from generation to generation. From my perspective as a parent with a 4<sup>th</sup> child in our school, I believe that the probability a child will care about Jewish continuity increases when you:

- 1. Make sure you and your children are always involved with Jewish learning.** Religious School is obviously a great start for K-7 (as is helping them through their homework), but Hebrew High is essential after that, and Adult Ed after that. Unless you believe Jewish continuity is an option, I don't believe Jewish learning can be considered optional. Our current Hebrew High numbers are telling me that many parents are letting this become an optional activity. This is not 'teaching diligently', *so lets nip this trend now!!!*
- 2. Make sure you and your children are part of a Jewish community.** For kids, having a Jewish social life is a key factor in making *l'dor va'dor* a certainty. In Tefilla JAM (my weekday service for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders), I teach that the purpose of prayer is 3-fold. J – judge our actions (are our actions making the world better?), A – come closer to Adonai (words of prayer reflect our view of what God is like, and thus what we Jews strive to be like), M – mingle with our fellow Jews. So, coming to services, where a quorum is required, is and has been, the Jewish way of forcing social interaction! And the more people who come to Jewish opportunities to mingle, the more people/kids want to come. This is a reason we have a Youth Service requirement (its more fun if everyone comes). This is why being part of Kadima and then USY is so important, and this is another reason why Hebrew High cannot be considered an option. You can't feel a part of a community, if you don't mingle! And if you don't come, others won't either, & *l'dor vador* dies!

Of course there are other aspects to help make *l'dor va'dor* more certain. Celebrating Jewish holidays at home, having conversations about Israel and other Jewish topics around the dinner table, doing social action projects as a family, are all important parts of the equation as well. However, there is power in numbers. Making sure each and everyone of us makes it a priority to bring our children to as many opportunities for Jewish mingling as possible is THE most powerful way to make L'dor va'dor a certainty. See you there!

## Sababa Concert on Dec. 3rd!

Speaking of opportunities to mingle! Sababa is one of many wonderful Jewish music groups in the U.S. Due to cost, it's been very hard to bring cool musicians to our area and we're really lucky to have Sababa coming on Dec. 3rd. So it is a must to come, not only for the great mingling opportunity, but also to support the idea of bringing Jewish musicians to our area. All 4 South Bay shuls have combined forces with the SVJCC to sponsor this FAMILY concert. Some familiar songs are "Love Adonai" and "Maariv Aravim" that we sing during Shabbat Mishpaha. Be there and have a SABABA time! [www.sababmusic.com](http://www.sababmusic.com). Advanced tickets \$5 -SVJCC.

### SUPPORT MYUHAD AND ISRAEL!

PURCHASE BEAUTIFUL SAFED CANDLES.  
PREORDERS DUE NOV. 6. STOCK SALE  
DURING MISHPAHA PROGRAM.

Forms in lobby, D'var and on wiki!

### Welcome Home Gilad

Yes, the price tag is high; but the mitzvah of *pidyon shvuyim* is deeply ingrained into the Jewish psyche. In both Birkot HaShahar and Gevurot we chant *Matir Asurim*, "releases the bound". This mantra, repeated multiple times daily, has taught us that releasing the Gilads of the world, is our responsibility.

### Israel Culture Tour

OUR HESHVAN UNDERSTANDING:  
Israel is a country whose values have been shaped by both leaders of its biblical past and modern times.

### OTHER NOTEWORTHY DATES

November 4-5 Global Hunger Shabbat  
December 11 - Hanukkah Mishpaha Program  
December 18 - Annual Meeting

### ELUL WOMAN OF VALOR

This *hodesh* we look at Emma Lazarus, whose words are memorialized on the Statue of Liberty. Emma pushed us to remember our history, and make sure we take on the responsibility of bringing freedom to all people.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Youth Services

Shabbat Mishpaha ( First Friday 6:30)

11/4, 12/2

Haverim (10:30 -11:30)

11/12

Youth Congregation (10 – 11:30)

11/12, 11/19

### Events

Time Change: FALL BACK on 11/5

Learning Express Shopping Day 11/6

Make your gift buying count!

Percentage of items bought on 11/9 support Religious School!

Vav Shabbaton 11/12

11/12 10am – 6pm

Parents/Students/Rabbis

Pre-Bnei Mitzvah Bonding event.

Conferences/Traditions Fair 11/13

Gan-Ganon Regular school

Alef – Hey Traditions Fair 9:30 -12:30

Vav – Zayin No School

Alef-Hey Parent-Teacher Conferences

Up Coming Family Education Hours

11/6 Gimel Family Ed – Siddur 11:30

12/11 Mishpaha Program - Hanukkah

THANKGIVING BREAK

11/20 – 11/27

Sababa Concert 12/3

12/3 7 pm at JCC

Upcoming Kadima Events

11/2 – Kadima Board meeting 6:15

11/5- Kadima Laser Tag

**Pinat Ivrit** פינת עברית *Hebrew Corner*

L'dor va'dor – from generation to generation

Pidyon Shvuyim – Releasing captives

Sababa – Hebrew (arabic) slang -'awesome'.