



תורה HOD-SHEET

A monthly publication of the Abraham & Miriam Gannes Religious School
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Heshvan
5770

10/19 – 11/17 2009

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MITZVAT HaHODESH:

Tzedek Tirdof

Pursue Jusitce

Event Highlighter

Youth Services

Shabbat Mishpaha and Supper
11/6 (RSVP by 11/3, \$45/family maximum)
Haverim (10:30 -11:30)

10/24, 11/14

Youth Congregation (10 – 11:30)

10/24, 10/31, 11/14

Also check out Tot Shabbat, PJ Shabbat and Shir Shabbat times....

Events

Torah Trope Class Begins

10/18 -11/24 9:00 -9:30

All qualifying 5th/6th graders (interested parents)

Sugihara Celebration

Sunday, 10/25

Ceremony 1:00 – 2:00; Lecture/Program 2:00 -5:00
Any interested students – if you're a scout, come in uniform.

Silk Tallit Making Class with Ricki

Overview of Project: 11/8 at 12:30

Workdays: 11/22 1:00 -5:00; 1/24 1:00-4:00

Interested 6th/7th and parents;

Up Coming Family Education Hours

Kita Zayin – 10/25 11:30 Kita Gan/Alef – 11/1 11:30

Kita Gimel – 11/1 11:30 Kita Vav – 11/8 11:00

Mini Fundraiser! Shop at Learning Express

Tuesday 11/10 - 20% of proceeds will go towards helping fund Religious School programming.

Veteran's Day & Kristallnacht Program

Wednesday, 11/11 4-6:15

(Yes – this is a school day)

Parent/Teacher Conferences

11/15

Parents: Conference times to be sent; can check out TA program
Students: Regular time - Tel Aviv 100th Anniversary Program

Our Heshvan Honorees

The month of Heshvan is the only month of the school year without a Jewish holiday. So we take this opportunity to focus on the upcoming holiday of Thanksgiving and how we might give thanks - todah – and appreciation to others. We will have several opportunities to do so in the coming month:

- a. **Chiune Sugihara** : On October 25 Beth David will be honoring Chiune Sugihara who wrote travel visas that facilitated the escape of more than 6,000 Jewish refugees to Japanese territory, risking his career and his family's life. A small street on CBD/Ascension Church grounds will be named during the ceremony. All scouts will participate in a flag ceremony and any other students who come can join in the singing of Heveinu Shalom. There will be a sizeable Japanese contingent of guests, so it would be nice to have our children show our appreciation for this man who saved so many of us.
- b. **Jewish American Veterans**: For a long time now, Veteran's Day has become a fun, vacation day for many of us. I believe we need to give the kids an opportunity to reclaim Veteran's day as a day of *todah* to Vets for our freedom. Our program on 11/11 will help them do so.
- c. **Kristallnacht**: Also on 11/11 we will commemorate Kristallnacht with a short ceremony in honor of all the Jewish children who kept their Jewish identity alive despite the difficult circumstances of the holocaust which began with Kristallnacht on Nov 9, 1938 .

Kita Zayin Food Drive CONTEST!

Kita Zayin is continuing its food drive to support West Valley Community Services (our local food pantry). The class who collects the most food items will be awarded an ice cream party served by Kita Zayin! Have your students bring in canned goods to the decorated boxes in their classrooms.

Pinat Ivrit פינת עברית Hebrew Corner

Tzedek - Justice
Tirdof - Chase/pursue
Todah - Thanks
Tefilla - Prayer
Dor - Generation

CANDLE FUNDRAISER

Order deadline for Hanukkah is November 16th.
Order forms are in the lobby/hall. Contact Irene Swedroe with any questions:
Myuchad@aol.com.

מזל טוב

Heshvan Bnot Mitzvah

Jessie Hirsch 10/24

Emma Schneider 10/31

From Generation to Generation – L'Dor va'Dor

Years ago, when my older kids (Tamara is now 22 and Aurie is nearly 21) began attending Haverim /Youth Congregation, these services were filled with 20/40 kids each week, thereby making the experience not only an educational one but a social one. In those days, nearly all students led Birkot HaShahar, Musaf and some even Shaḥarit in addition to the Torah Service for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah; Hebrew School was 3 times/week! Today we only have Religious school twice a week, and other activities take priority over Youth Service attendance. As a result most students are only able to lead the Torah Service.

Over our 4000 year existence, Judaism has been able to flourish despite constant travail because of the strength of it's generation to generation (*l'dor va'dor*) learning/teaching cycle. Our ancestors were passionate about making sure their children were well educated in Jewish tradition, texts (at least boys) and values. Thus, if we want Judaism to continue to flourish this century, we must make Jewish Education a priority. Coming to Religious School is a great first step; coming to Youth Services is like the lab in which to apply the theory we learn in class. Like with sports, science, or the arts, its really only the consistent hands-on experience which can bring mastery and comfort with the techniques. Consistent *tefilla* (prayer) practice together with a community of *Haverim* (friends) at Youth Services, allows kids to become comfortable with the art of *tefilla* (prayer), enjoy each other's company, and enable them to teach it to the next *dor*!

I know children today have many other activities which compete for their time, however, it is clear that we must prioritize Jewish practice into this schedule, or the heritage our ancestors so tenderly nurtured *l'dor va'dor* will be lost. Can our *dor* meet this challenge? Our Youth Service attendance requirement is for 10 services for K-3 (of which 7 must be at Haverim) and 15 for 4th-7th (of which 10 must be at Youth Congregation). This translates into only 1 or 2 services per month, still leaving families plenty of Saturdays to fit in all those other activities, yet giving our kids a major boost in *tefilla* mastery. This requirement exists in order to make sure our kids are versed enough in the art of *tefilla*, so that it becomes a natural part of their lives, not a Bar/Bat mitzvah chore. Who are the teens who participate in services and are our Torah Tutors today? They are the ones who came to Youth Services regularly and were able to make doing *tefilla* natural.

So, we hope to see your students come to Haverim/Youth Congregation, so they can continue the *dor l'dor* cycle which have kept our people strong for so long. *Please note that some dates have changed since September's calendar, so check the wiki calendars, fridge magnets that are marked up, and flyers in the lobby for the most updated information schedule.*