

Volume 10, Issue 4
KISLEV 5773
NOV. 15 - DEC. 14
MONTHLY M&M:
K'vod HaBriyot
Individual Dignity



*A Monthly
 Newsletter*

*Abraham and Miriam Gannes
 Religious School*

*By Iris
 Bendahan*

HODESH HAPPENINGS

Youth Services

SME: Shabbat Mishpaha Event 6:30

Dec. 7. with Tanakh Presentation
 Dairy Potluck to follow.

Haverim (10:30 -11:30)

Dec. 8

Youth Congregation (10 – 11:30)

Nov. 17, Dec. 8, 15

Events

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov. 21-25

11/24: Interfaith service at St. Andrews

GAN/ALEF FAMILY ED

Dec. 2 at 11:30



HANUKKAH PARTY

Dec. 9

11-12:30 Students

11:30 – 12:30 Parents (after Annual Meeting)



VAV/ZAYIN TO RETIREMENT HOME

Weds, Dec 13

ADULT ED OPPORTUNITIES

Dec. 2 – Connecting to Jewish Holiday 10-11

Upcoming Kadima Events

Nov. 17 – Movie Night

Dec. 5 – Next Board Meeting

MINYAN - MUSICAL MINYAN – MINYAN

Jewish tradition requires there to be at least 10 individuals (age 13+) present at events such as Torah readings and yahrzeits, in order for those religious services to take place. Although the reason is Talmudic in origin (which is based on Scripture), this tradition certainly has served as a way to ensure cohesion, support and participation, especially in isolated Jewish communities. In order to make sure the bereaved in our community have the opportunity to fulfill the mitzvah of reciting Kaddish during a period of mourning, or at a Yahrzeit (anniversary of a death), Beth David has made a valiant effort to have at least one prayer service each day. We call the ones on Sunday-Thursday simply Minyan. Minyan usually lasts 20-30 minutes and culminates with the recitation of Kaddish by those in mourning. The “El Maleh” is also recited on an exact Yahrzeit. This is a simple, yet truly gratifying mitzvah to fulfill. On the first Tuesday of each month, Barbara and I make it a “musical minyan” by adding guitar and contemporary versions of prayers. Try it by coming even once a month.... You just may find that you get fulfillment yourself!

Our Thoughts And Prayers this Thanksgiving

☆ **To the victims of Hurricane Sandy – our wishes for speedy recovery & clean-up.**

☆ **To our brethren in Israel – safety! That the world finally understand what you’re up against.**

PEOPLE OF ISRAEL BOARD: Morocco

Check out the board outside Rm. 5 for a look at one of the distinctive cultures in Israel.

Remember that our ISRAEL CULTURE FAIR IS ON MOTHER’S DAY; Kita Bet will be teaching us about the Moroccans.

K'vod Habriyot – A tricky Mitzvah

The idea of K'vod Habriyot stems from the Genesis statement: "God created humankind in His own image, in the image of God he created them...". And if all humankind are created in God's image, all human kind are deserving of being treated equally. Some aspects are obvious. For instance, most agree that kids must learn as young as possible that bullying – be it verbal, physical or electronic – of any person (younger, older, taller, shorter, lighter, darker etc.) is simply unacceptable and goes against this core Jewish value. Humiliating someone else, that is making them *feel* inferior, for whatever reason, trespasses on the idea of equality, and is simply forbidden.

There is a line, however, that we have grappled with for centuries. What happens when people on the periphery of society *feel* marginalized? Do the leaders then have an obligation to make them *feel* equal? In the secular world, we have seen that when individual rights conflict with societal norms (e.g. rights of people of color, woman's rights, the rights of the disabled, gay rights etc.), leaders rise to challenge and change the norms. Indeed, Rabbis have done the same and have used the concept of K'vod HaBriyot to both override and uphold Rabbinic decrees; but sometimes it's tricky to decide whose dignity is being squelched. A great example, albeit only one aspect of the issue, is the quest for women's participation in Torah reading. On one hand, women felt that the prohibition of woman to leyn (read Torah) was a suppression of their right to participate fully in an important Jewish tradition; thereby leading to a feeling of inferiority. Likewise, men felt that if women were reading Torah it implied there were no men around capable of doing so. Certainly a tricky K'vod HaBriyot dilemma, and one that Rabbis from different denominations have addressed in different ways. With regards to Gay rights, the dilemma was so tricky, that two rulings were accepted by the Conservative Movement, thus leaving it to individual Rabbis to decide on which side of K'vod Habriyot to land. However, for us in the realm of K-7, the discussion is still simple. We follow Rabbi Eliezer's advice "Let your friend's honor be as dear to you as your own".

K'vod HaBriyot Hero: Gertrude Weil (Woman of Valor for Kislev)

Inspired by Jewish teachings that "justice, mercy, [and] goodness were not to be held in a vacuum, but practiced in our daily lives," Weil stood courageously at the forefront of a wide range of progressive and often controversial causes— not just women's suffrage, but labor reform and civil rights.

TZEDAKAH RADAR! YELLOW COMFORTER

**All classes have now selected their Yellow Comforter Project dreidles.
Please help your student's class complete the purchase and delivery to the JCRC by Dec. 10.**

Jan 21 – RS GOES TO MITZVAH DAY AT OFJCC!

Sign ups are NOW underway. This is a family participation event on MLK day instead of Religious School on Jan 20. If you are unable to accompany your student to the class project, please make sure to try to find a chaperone/carpool for them in their class.

216 BN **Kislev Bnei Mitzvah:**
24 Kislev – Bailey Weinstock
Heads up!
Please bring your students to support our Winter Vacation Bnei Mitzvah: Rafi – Dec 22, Miriam – Dec 29, and Ronen Jan 5!