

Sept 2012



# Hebrew School Happenings



Neve Shalom, Metuchen, NJ

Volume VIII, Issue I



## DATES TO SAVE:

### SEPT

- Fr 7 Kabbalat TOT Service 6:30pm
- Su 9 9am First Day of School, Assembly for all students and Parents  
9:30am Special 2nd grade Parent Mtg.
- Tu 11 Hai class starts 5:45pm  
Hebrew High starts 6pm
- Fr 14 Friday Alive Outdoor service, Fun refreshments & singing 6:30pm
- 17 & 18 Rosh Hashana services  
Children services start at 10:30am  
**(No Hebrew School on Tuesday)**
- Su 23 Java Nagila for Parents 9am
- Tu 25 Kol Nidre service 6:30pm  
**(No Hebrew School)**
- We 26 Yom Kippur services all day  
Children services start at 10:30am

### OCT

- 1 & 2 1st days of Sukkot  
**(No Hebrew School on Tuesday)**
- Fr 5 Family Service 6:30pm  
special discussion of Food & Israel
- Su 7 Welcoming Sukkah Lunch for FAMILIES 11am-noon (see flyer)
- Mo 8 Simchat Torah parades & dancing 6:45pm
- Tu 9 Simchat Torah celebrations continue **(No Hebrew School)**
- Su 21 Jewish Children's Museum Trip (see flyer)

### NOV

- Fr 2 Family Service 6:30pm  
special discussion of Thanks
- Su 4 Book & Author Event for Adults 10am
- Tu 6 **(No Hebrew School)**
- Th 8 **(No Hebrew School)**
- Su 11 **(No Hebrew School)**

This year the school will focus a great deal on Israel as well as all of the other subjects in our curricula. One of our Hebrew High teachers took training from the "David Project" and will teach that on Tuesday evenings. We have purchased new videos from Jerusalem On-Line for older students and will be using some new books, posters, games and other activities with the younger grades to bring Israel to life in our classes. Blue Box Bob will be visiting in January and we are planning to be part of a community wide Israel 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration hosted by Neve Shalom in April. We will be building Jerusalem with LEGOs in April. We are one of the first schools to offer a new PJ Library Hebrew Book program. This is FREE program and will send a new book or CD each month to families that register. The books seem to be designed for ages 7-12 though the Hebrew level will be difficult for those who do not already speak Hebrew. Other special events, presenters and programs are also in the works.



We are adding to our books for grades 2-7 a new series of workbooks from a company called "Sarah and David." These are designed to help pre-bnai mitzvah better understand prayers, develop Hebrew reading skills and do activities to help prepare for bar and bat mitzvah. A consultant from this company will be meeting with the faculty to share ideas of ways to use the texts and to help make learning fun.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade families voted to try a pilot program of one day of class and one day of on-line Hebrew school work. We are using new materials, books, CDs and the on-line learning center developed by Behrman House Publishing to bring the Bible and Hebrew lessons into the home. We are also trying a program of home "Journals," an adorable workbook, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to do some holiday and prayer thinking at home.

Our first trip for grades K-6 will be Sunday Oct. 21 to the Jewish Children's Museum in Brooklyn. Parents are invited. At NewCAJE (a Jewish education conference) I participated in an intensive day of study on Experiential Family Education. Our first program from ideas I learned will be at the "Welcoming Sukkah" luncheon on Oct. 7. All Hebrew School families are invited to bring a dairy lunch and share in some fun learning of songs, stories and activities.

We are trying some new and creative programs during Family services and Shabbat morning Jr. Congregation. Please come as often as you can with your children to services. The October Family service on Oct. 5 at 6:30pm will include many connections to food and Israel. Cookies and Brownies will be served. Then on Simchat Torah there will be lots of singing, dancing, parades and Torah reading on Monday evening Oct. 8 starting with a brief service at 6:45pm and the festivities at 7pm.

We look forward to a great year with lots of learning, joyful programming, family education and children's participation.  
Hazzan Sheldon Levin



Jeanne Cowhey is the new Hebrew School Secretary. Call her extension **732-548-2238x11** for any forms, flyers and attendance questions or email her at [jc2061@aol.com](mailto:jc2061@aol.com)

# Hebrew School Happenings

Join Neve Shalom Hebrew  
School Parents  
for discussions,  
friendship, coffee,  
tea and bagels

at **JAVA NAGILA**



Please join us Sunday  
Sept. 23  
9am

## GAN & KEN

## Susan Kashan

### Hebrew

The Gan & Ken class will play a ball game, learning our Hebrew names and getting to know each other (*Ha shame shelli*—My name is...). We will greet each other and our families and friends with "*Shanah Tovah*"! We'll learn Hebrew words such as *Shalom*, *Sukkot*, *rosh* (head), *lavan* (white), *baruch* (blessed), *tapuach* (apple), *davash* (honey), *metukah* (sweet), *motzi*, *kiddush*, *kippah* (yarmulka), *degel* (flag), *todah* (thank you), *b'vakashah* (please), *mitzuyan* (excellent), *mitzvah* (commandment), *henaynee* (here I am), *tzedakah* (charity), *Shana Tovah* (Happy New Year), *machzor* (holiday prayer book), *siddur* (prayer book), and *boker tov* (good morning). Your child will start writing his/her Hebrew name with the help of a flash card. We will begin our Hebrew letter books with the letters *tav*, *shin* and *resh*.

### Holidays

Utilizing the *Let's Discover the Holidays* series, we'll learn the following Rosh Hashanah concepts: shofar, sweet new year, and the cycle of the Jewish year. We'll dip apples and round challah in honey and taste how sweet they are. We'll discuss *tzedekah* and *mitzvot*, learning about helping others and feeling good about it. We'll learn about Yom Kippur, including wanting to do better, fasting, the color white. Our own *tashlich* ceremony will be a good experience, as we throw our sins down the moving body of "water". We will talk about Sukkot, the Sukkah, thanking G-d for the fall harvest and comparing ourselves to our *ushpizim* (ancestors.) We will compare and contrast Sukkot with Thanksgiving.

See the **Parent**

**Handbook** for answers  
to many of your questions at

[http://neveshalom.net/  
Parent.pdf](http://neveshalom.net/Parent.pdf)

A complete list of our  
**class goals** can be seen at

[http://neveshalom.net/  
HebrewSchoolCurriculum.htm](http://neveshalom.net/HebrewSchoolCurriculum.htm)

**High Holiday home  
rituals** can be seen at

[http://neveshalom.net/  
PRH.pdf](http://neveshalom.net/PRH.pdf)

High Holiday **prayer  
melodies** can be heard at

[http://neveshalom.net/  
MUSIC/T01.mp3](http://neveshalom.net/MUSIC/T01.mp3)

### Prayers

We'll chant prayers for sitting in and for eating in the Sukkah (*al niteilat sukkah* and *layshave b'sukkah*). We'll recite *Borei pre ha'atz* to eat our apples and recite the *Shehecheyanu*, thanking G-d for sustaining us. We've learned the *Motzi* and the *Kiddush* and will recite them during most classes when we have *challah* and "yayin" (juice actually) weekly so that the children learn it.

### Bible

Just as the Torah contains the Jewish people's "list of rules to live by," our class will make a list of rules, rewards and consequences so that we can all get along nicely and learn efficiently. We'll read "Jonah and the Whale" and talk about the moral of the story. We'll hear the story of Creation. Then we will study the Noah's Ark story.

## Congregation Neve Shalom Presents

Sam  
GLASER

IN  
CONCERT!



"A JOYFUL UP-ON-YOUR-FEET  
FEEL GOOD EXPERIENCE  
OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY"

The  
**PROMISE**  
TOUR

A Chanukah celebration featuring  
recording artist Sam Glaser and  
co-starring our own kids!

Sunday, December 16 at 9:40am

For more information contact  
Hazzan Levin (732) 548-2238 or can2r11@aol.com



NEW CD!  
www.samglaser.com

Congregation Neve Shalom 250 Grove Ave, Metuchen, NJ 08840

**This is a FREE Family concert. Don't miss this amazing event !**

# Neve Shalom trip to the **Jewish Children's Museum**

In Brooklyn, NY



## **Sunday, Oct. 21, 2012**



Trip leaves Neve Shalom at 9am  
and returns at approximately 1:30pm  
(Seats are limited RSVP early,  
first priority comes to Hebrew School Students)

**For grades K-6** No Charge, Costs are paid by the Hebrew School Fund

## **Parents are welcome, Bring a Dairy lunch**

We will be going by bus. The costs have been paid for by the Hebrew School

My child \_\_\_\_\_ has permission to attend the  
Jewish Children's Museum trip on Oct. 21, 2012.

My cell phone if you need to call me \_\_\_\_\_.


\_\_\_\_\_ I will also be attending the trip (Parent name ) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Jeanne Cowhey (School secretary) by Oct. 7 [jc2061@aol.com](mailto:jc2061@aol.com)



# Welcoming Sukkah



## **SUKKOT FAMILY LUNCHEON**

**Sunday, Oct. 7**

***11am till noon***

**Holiday Stories, Games,  
Bible role play and  
fun activities**

**Bring a dairy lunch  
for your family**

**We will provide  
drinks and cookies**

## KITA K'TANA

### HEBREW

Elise Berlin

We will start off by learning the Hebrew alphabet, the *Alef Bet*. We will sing songs, write and color all the letters of the Hebrew language. We will play *Cham*-(hot) and *Kar*-(cold), with the *alef bet* letters. We will play "tic tac *alef, bet*" and we will move our bodies to create the shapes of the letters. We will start off by learning that the letter *Alef* has two hands in the sky and two feet on the ground. *Bet* has a belly button and *Vet*, although a twin with *Bet* does not have a dot in the middle. We will practice writing each letter in print in our special *Machberet*-(note book). For each letter written, we will learn a new word. For example, with the letter *Alef*, we will learn the word *Abba*-(father). From time to time, please review the letters with your children. In addition, we are so excited with the on-line Hebrew program. I will be monitoring your children's progress and, from time to time, I will e-mail you with comments.

### HOLIDAYS & ISRAEL Leora Weiner

We will be learning about the Jewish holidays and Shabbat. Some of the holidays we will be learning about are: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simhat Torah and Hanukkah. We will also be learning about Israel. Some of the things we will be learning about are: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the Galilee, Haifa, the Negev and Eilat. We will also do some scavenger hunts as well as for homework a workbook titled "Here I Am! My First Fun Jewish Journal". In this journal will be the Hebrew 12 months with fun activities to do inside. For example: What's my name? Who am I named for? Drawing pictures of what your name means, etc.

### BIBLE

Michelle Preefer

In September, Kita K'Tana is going to be learning about the birth of the world! The students will have the opportunity to read from the text, *The Explorer's Bible: Volume I*, as well as make a mobile or collage representing what G-d did on each day. The students will have an opportunity to share and display their hard work and we will have a short discussion on *what we all can do to make the world a better place!* In addition, the students will learn some of the prayers and blessings recited on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. These include, but are not limited to, the blessing to welcome the New Year and the *Shehechyanu*, the blessing we say to celebrate the new beginning! The students will also begin to learn *Modeh Ani*, the prayer we recite when we wake up in the morning! We will be busy but it will all be introduced in a fun, kid-friendly manner!

### PRAYER

Michelle Preefer

In prayer, we will be learning the *bracha*(blessing) for the Shabbat candles. The *kitah*(class) will be incorporating art projects as well.

## ALEPH CLASS

### HEBREW

Cindy Baruch

During the month of September, we will be reviewing all of the Hebrew letters, and learning our first two vowels which are the *kamatz* and *patach*. They both say AH (when you go to the doctor office and stick out your tongue). We will be writing Hebrew letters in our *machbarot* (notebook) along with Hebrew vocabulary words. These words have the *kamatz* and *patach* vowels and they are: *aba*(father), *gam*(also), *shabbat*, *al*(on), *chazan* (cantor), *bat*(daughter), *bah*(comes), *ad*(until), *af*(nose), *aron*(closet), *cham*(hot), *ya'ar*(forest), and *marak*(soup).

### HOLIDAYS Michelle Preefer and Vera Schreck

Aleph is going to be very busy in September! Since Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are in *Tishre* (September), we will be focusing on both of these holidays. Your children will learn why Rosh Hashana is special to the Jewish People as well as some of the traditions performed during the holiday. These traditions include having a holiday meal, eating apples and honey and making New Years cards for friends and family. In addition, your children will hear the shofar being blown and have an opportunity to learn how to blow the shofar. In preparation for Yom Kippur, your children will learn about *Tashlich*, the act of throwing away the bad things we have done. The class will also discuss the importance of Yom Kippur and what they [the students] can do on this day in Synagogue and at home. I am sincerely looking forward to a fantastic September and a fun-filled year!

With Vera Schreck we will begin the school year focusing on Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur. We will discuss the mitzvah of listening to the blowing of the Shofar and we will talk about how a Shofar is made. The students will be introduced to the Holiday Vocabulary as well as to some simple Hebrew words taken from the prayers we will work on holiday rituals the children should know how to do.

### BIBLE

Michelle Preefer

Throughout September, Aleph will be jumping right into *The Explorer's Bible: Volume 2*! The class will begin with a matching game to recap what was learned last year. Once their prior knowledge has been activated, we will start learning about 'The Great Miracle'...the freedom of the Israelites from Egypt! Throughout this chapter, your children will learn the song *Mi Chamocha*, that Moses and the Israelites sang to God. In addition, your children will learn about Miriam the prophet and her timbrel (a small hand drum), which she played as the women danced with her. Bible studies in Aleph are promised to be both informative and interactive!

### PRAYER

Cindy Baruch and Leora Wiener

The class will be practicing their T'fillot for Shabbat services. Some of our prayers will be: candles for Shabbat, *Shalom Aleichem*, *L'cha Dodi*, *Sh'ma-V'ahavta*, *V'shamru*, *Oseh Shalom* and *Adon Olam*. We will also be making projects along with the prayers. For example, candle holders for the time we do candles for Shabbat.



### Cindy Baruch

wins Grinspoon-Steinhardt  
Hebrew School Teacher of the  
year for Middlesex County

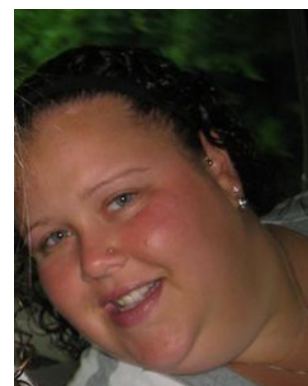
Join the Neve Shalom  
**Simchat Torah**  
**Celebrations**  
**Mon. evening, Oct. 8**  
**6:45pm**  
**Tues. morning, Oct. 9**  
**9:30am**



שמחת תורה

**Torah reading,**  
**Lots of Dancing,**  
**Aliyot for everyone**  
**(including kids),**  
**flags, funny hats,**  
**parades & apples.**

**On Simchat Torah**  
**morning there will be a**  
**special stuffed cabbage**  
**luncheon.**



We welcome  
Michelle Preefer to our staff

# Hebrew School Happenings

## Adult Ed

Many of the Neve Shalom Ad Ed programs are great for Hebrew School parents. Please join us for the film **FACES of ISRAEL** on Sat. Sept. 8 at 9:30pm and throughout the year.

See the Brochure: <http://neveshalom.net/adedbro.pdf>

### Jr. Cong., Mini-Minyan and

#### Tot Shabbat will meet

Sept 8, 15, 22

Oct. 6, 13, 20

From 10:15-11:45am.

*Tot services meet every week*



### AFTER SHUL FUN

(grades 3-6)

meet Oct. 13 & Nov. 3

### Family Friday Night services at 6:30pm

Oct. 5

Nov. 2

**Kabbalat TOT Shabbat )Grades 2 and younger) meets Sept 7 6:30pm**

*Every time children attend services they should point stickers in their point books and if they participate in any Jewish activity (outside of class) parents should send an email to [can2r11@aol.com](mailto:can2r11@aol.com) for us to give the children points in order to receive candy bars and certificates at the end of*

## BET CLASS

### HEBREW

In Kita Bet we will begin the school year with a detailed review of the Hebrew letters and vowel sounds before we get into the actual text book "The New Siddur Program". Students will be given basic words in Hebrew to practice using in class which will eventually allow them to form simple sentences in Hebrew. Since we are about to enter our Jewish Holiday season, students will be given a Holiday Vocabulary List which I hope will enhance their understanding and enjoyment of the Holidays.

### PRAYER

We will begin teaching the prayer *Ein Kamocha* (the prayer we say before taking the Torah out of the Aron STORIES/VALUES

In this class we will be reading from a book called *Lessons from our Living Past*. These stories have valuable lessons that the students will be discussing in class.

### HOLIDAYS

Since Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are in *Tishre* (September), we will be focusing on both of these holidays. Your children will learn why Rosh Hashana is special to the Jewish People as well as some of the traditions performed during the holiday. These traditions include having a holiday meal, eating apples and honey and making New Years cards for friends and family. In addition, your children will hear the shofar being blown and have an opportunity to learn how to blow the shofar. In preparation for Yom Kippur, your children will learn about *Tashlich*, the act of throwing away the bad things we have done. The class will also discuss the importance of Yom Kippur and what they [the students] can do on this day in Synagogue and at home. I am sincerely looking forward to a fantastic September and a fun-filled year!

### HOLIDAY VOCABULARY

*Metukah-sweet, Shana-year, Bracha-blessing, Devash-honey, Shofar-horn, Tashlich-casting away, Agolah-round, Gezer-carrot, Dag-fish, Tefillah-prayer, Yom Tzom-fast day, Beit Knesset-shul, Machzor-prayer book for special holidays*

## GIMEL CLASS

### HEBREW

In this class we will be looking at ways of making prayers meaningful as well as knowing how to say them. We will learn how to recite many Hebrew prayers- *Teffilot*. We will learn many new vocabulary words and root words, too. Through short stories from our guide *S'fatai Tiftach Vol I- Open Our Lips*- we will learn techniques on how to help us appreciate prayer. Through *Kavanah*- understanding- words will turn into prayers.

Students will read aloud and in a *chevruta* style- one on one. There is a workbook that coincides with our lessons. Every student will receive a homework book to review and share thoughts with their family. We will start off by explaining why the book is named *S'fatai Tiftach- Open Our Lips*. King David wrote this prayer understanding that finding words that move the heart and soul are difficult.

### HOLIDAYS

We will focus on rituals and prayers for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur that are chanted in shul including *Avinu Malkenu, Kol Nidre* and many others.

### HISTORY

We will be learning about the time after the Bible until the Rabbis wrote the Talmud. These are some of the topics we will be learning about: the covenant, the Promised Land, the Philistines, the Kingdoms of Israel, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Temples, Herod, the last days of Judea, Bar Kochba and the Jews of Babylonia.

### LIFE CYCLE

Some of the topics we will be reading about are: Birth: the journey begins, Bar & Bat Mitzvah, marriage, death & mourning and Just the Beginning: Coming Full Circle. The class at the end of the units will be making projects or having plays about the units in order to help them understand what they are learning.

### PRAYER

As a Rabbi who is both a leader and teacher of prayer, I juggle many balls: mastery of a foreign language and melody is always the starting point – and that is no small feat, - but I am after so much more. How do we plumb the prayers for meaning – not only historical meaning, or meaning to those Jews who have traditional sensibilities - but to our own kids, as well? Can they hear the prayers speaking to their adolescent experience? Can they open their siddur and – even for a moment - experience the words they encounter as *avodah sheh-ba-levy* – a labor of the heart? -- That is my personal prayer as I happily begin my association with Neve Shalom.



## DALED CLASS

### HEBREW

**Vera Schreck**

In Kita Daled we will begin the school year with a Hebrew reading refresher by reading basic prayers from the Siddur such as the *Shema*, *Ashrei* and *Aleinu*. I also expect to use games both on the classroom board and handout sheets as tools for review. Students will be given a Holiday Vocabulary List although I am confident that many of the Holiday words are already familiar to Kita Daled students but a review is still needed. We will, of course, start working on our text book "S'fatai Tiftach Vol. II" as well.

### HISTORY

**Leora Weiner**

In our History class we will be covering the time period of the Middle Ages through the Jews of today. We will be reading about Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews, about The Enlightenment, Jewish life in Europe as well as the birth of Israel.

### ISRAEL

**Leora Weiner**

In our Israel class we will read as well as make projects that coincide with our textbook. We will be learning about the geography of Israel, the weather, the regions and the environment. We will read about the government, the people of Israel, religion, culture, economy, the history of Israel and the archaeological digs that are ongoing in Israel.

### HOLOCAUST

**Leora Weiner**

We are going to be reading about the Holocaust. We will be covering the years from the 1930's through the early 40's. I will be using as examples scenarios to which children from the ghettos were subjected to or we will role play who would have to go to a Ghetto. The class will be seeing films such as "The Wave" and other films as well during the year.

### TROP, PRAYER

**Reb Leibe Hoffman & Hazzan**

The students in the Fall will learn many blessings for bar and bat mitzvah and Torah Trop which they will use to learn portions for the Shabbat morning Family services. Children who wish can volunteer to chant Torah in Jr. Congregation. In the Spring the class will learn Haftarah Trop.

## HAI CLASS

### HEBREW

**Elise Berlin, Cindy Baruch & Dali Paul**

The students are divided by Hebrew levels and each group will start with S'fatai Tiftach Vol. III and continue at their own pace. We will practice reading and recognizing key words from the text and in daily conversational Hebrew. We will find the roots of words and analyze through work sheets and games.

### MITZVOT

**Michelle Preefer**

September is going to be filled with choice making for Hai's Mitzvah class! The students will continue to discover the world of *Mitzvot*. As a whole, the class will research and decide on a mitzvah project to be worked on throughout the year. In addition, the students will begin to explore one of their textbooks, *Tzedakah, Gemilut Chasadim and Ahavah: A Manual for World Repair*. We will begin by learning about *Tikun Olam*, "repairing the world", and the role of the Jewish People as 'fixers' and how we can use *mitzvot* as tools. These topics will open the gates to other discussions about Tzedakah projects and Mitzvah projects that the students can do during and outside of Hebrew School and as their bar or bat mitzvah projects and how they can become part of the Mitzvah Honor Society.

### PRAYER

**Reb Liebe Hoffman**

As a Rabbi who is both a leader and teacher of prayer, I juggle many balls: mastery of a foreign language and melody is always the starting point – and that is no small feat, - but I am after so much more. How do we plumb the prayers for meaning – not only historical meaning, or meaning to those Jews who have traditional sensibilities - but to our own kids, as well? Can they hear the prayers speaking to their adolescent experience? Can they open their siddur and – even for a moment - experience the words they encounter as *avodah sheh-baleiv* – a labor of the heart? -- That is my personal prayer as I happily begin my association with Neve Shalom.

### BIBLE

**Lincoln Richman and Elise Berlin**

In our Hai Bible class, we will study the book of Genesis from the Torah. Starting with Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden and Cain & Abel. We will cover the story of Noah and the flood. And we will continue with Abraham's journey as the world's first Jew. We will use the actual Torah text and discuss each sentence for various interpretations and understandings.



PJ Library and Neve Shalom bring you

### SIFRIYAT PIJAMA

**Hebrew** books and CDs for parents to read to their children. If you can read and understand Hebrew and would like the **free** books sign up at [www.SP-BA.org](http://www.SP-BA.org)

## facebook

We invite all Hebrew School families to join our **Neve Shalom PTA Facebook** site. We have discontinued the Activit-E website and would like to be able to easily share photos, videos, announcements and other information. If EVERY family "friends" this site we will be able to stop the weekly listserv emails. In the meantime if you are not on the listserv please ask Jeanne Cowhey [JC2061@aol.com](mailto:JC2061@aol.com) to add you.



Mrs. Telson presents **Eitan Szeinbaum** with the points award for 2nd highest score. Ben Daniels received the most points award on a Friday night so no photos were taken.



Reb Leibe Hoffman  
joins our staff

## Neve Shalom Hebrew School

250 Grove Avenue  
Metuchen, NJ 08840

Phone: 732-548-2238 x 14

Fax: 732-548-2335

Email: [can2r11@aol.com](mailto:can2r11@aol.com)

Synagogue Web:

[NeveShalom.net](http://NeveShalom.net)

### SAVE DATES of

Feb. 17-20:

### Trip to Washington for

PANIM

EI PANIM

Grades 10-12



Check out  
[panim.bbyo.org/](http://panim.bbyo.org/)  
for info and  
email  
[can2r11@aol.com](mailto:can2r11@aol.com)  
if you are  
interested  
in going this year.

## HEBREW HIGHLIGHTS

### BIBLIO DRAMA: A Torah "Playshop"

Reb Liebe Hoffman

What happens when ancient, sacred Torah teams up with the world of improv theater – (with some rabbinic rap thrown in for good measure)? The results are a call to creativity and imagination, while at the same time displaying a faithfulness to traditional Jewish interpretation. This chug comes with a promise: an experience that is participatory, playful, personal and profound! As one enthusiastic participant wrote of her experience: "I will never read the Bible the same way again!"

### FAITH AFTER 9/11

Rabbi Gerald Zelizer

Using documentaries and discussion we will look at the role of God and faith on 9/11 and afterwards.

### THE DAVID PROJECT

Rabbi Joseph Carlebach

I attended a seminar this summer in using an exciting new curriculum to empower teens to support Israel and understand the complexities of many issues regarding Israel. There will be short films and use of creative power point presentations to help bring the material to life for the students, and lots of debates and discussions to get their view points.

### GREAT JEWISH DEBATES

Reb Liebe Hoffman

We Jews have never been a passive, acquiescent people. Not by a long shot! Confronting authority in the name of justice, pluralism and multiple points of view seems to be encoded in our spiritual genes. Think back to Avraham's piercing challenge to God: "Will not the Judge of the world do justice!!!" I often think back to that fearless exchange as the first act of Holy Chutzpah and feel a sense of pride that I am descended from such a people. This year our Hebrew High students will have an opportunity to enter into the historical arc of the great Jewish debaters, adding their own voices to the sages, rabbis, monarchs, judges, and statesmen that came before them.

### JEWIS IN CINEMA

Lincoln Richman

In our Hebrew High School class we will explore the history of Jews in Cinema. From the beginning of film history, Jews have figured prominently in the art and commerce of the movie business. We will explore the careers of prominent Jewish directors like Steven Spielberg, Woody Allen, Mel Brooks and the Coen Brothers. We will see clips from and discuss films like "Fiddler on the Roof," "The Jazz Singer," "The Ten Commandments," "Schindler's List," "Annie Hall," "The Chosen," "Exodus," and "Gentleman's Agreement." And we will learn about prominent Jewish actors like the Marx Brothers, Dustin Hoffman, Harrison Ford and Adam Sandler with an eye to developing our Jewish outlook and identities.

### JEWISH MEDITATION

Reb Liebe Hoffman

Educators in the public school system speak of the growing interest that their teenage students have expressed in learning about meditation as a way to deal with the very real pressures and stresses of their lives. Just as many adult meditators have experienced throughout the world, these young people feel the value of creating a place of internal quietness and calm where they can recharge and renew, where they can connect to a source of peace, wholeness and self-acceptance, and where both the internal and external clutter of their lives is rendered powerless. Unbeknownst to many, Judaism offers a whole tool chest of meditative techniques and experiences accessible to all. This course will offer just a taste of what Judaism has to offer.

### Mitzvah/Torah/Values (MTV)

Rabbi Joseph Carlebach

Using clips from movies, TV shows and even commercials we will see how Jewish values are or are not represented in the media and popular culture.

### SEX IN THE TEXT

Hazzan Sheldon Levin

Since many of the holidays meet on Tuesday evenings our first session will not be until mid-October. We will start with analysis of the Adam & Eve stories, the role of the snake and the punishment of Lillith.

### WORLD RELIGIONS

Elise Berlin

The world is a fascinating universe with millions and millions of people and many different religions. We will focus on five religions- Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity. We will compare and contrast each religion with Judaism. We will discuss terms such as *monotheistic*- believing in one G-d, *polytheistic*- believing in many gods, and an *atheist*- not believing in any G-d at all. We will discuss which religions are *optimistic*- looking at the world in a positive manner (with a glass full) or *pessimistic*- viewing the world in a negative manner (glass half empty.) We will learn that in Judaism there are four branches- Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist. We will see how each branch practices Judaism and what they believe We will learn and see what Judaism contributes to this wonderful world.

**MIDRASHA (11th-12th grade)** will meet on the 1st Sundays from 11-noon on Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, etc.

Hazzan Levin will focus on Israel History and Contemporary Israel issues. Rabbi Zelizer will discuss believing in God and what that means for us today.