



THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, PA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents,

This is the third and final installment of my analysis of the article that researched the situation that women in the U.S. are poorly represented in the highest level of mathematics competition.

One suggestion to motivate women to compete is to have the media focus on the mathematical achievements of women. Think about this and you will appreciate how bankrupt these researchers have become. The suggestion is that companies whose goal is generate profit by broadcasting content that is of general interest should refocus their business model to promote a value in society that is presently unpopular and probably not of great interest. In other words, the general culture that has relegated math to status of "for geeks and nerds," should now be led by the mass media - which has no profit motive to do so.

This suggestion is all the more startling because women from other cultures who immigrate to the United States comprise most of the American women who do compete. This illustrates the concept that immigrant women who have a value system that defies our common cultural norms do excel. Parents who direct and control their children to greater achievement are successful, in spite of the common culture.

In essence, the real solution is for parents to act as real parents and make some hard choices of what they want for their children and not relegate their values for reinforcement by the media. Yet that solution is seemingly avoided, perhaps because in the educational society parents are relegated to secondary, passive roles. Judaism speaks much about who is responsible for teaching values. Parents have primary responsibility. (Coincidentally, in this week's torah portion, Abraham has to banish his wife and son, Hagar and Ishmael, because they are introducing poor values into his home.) Parents have to make decisions and they have to lead by example.

For example, there are many expressions that would not be considered acceptable language at school. Yet, if it is not acceptable at school, is it acceptable at home? And if it is acceptable at home, starting at what age? If a parent uses some choice words when angry or frustrated, does a child

need to be of a certain age before it is ok for him to do so the same? If the answer is that at a some age various expressions are acceptable, does it follow that a young child using those expressions should be congratulated for his advanced development?

Another suggestion proposed in the article was that there should be specialized teachers for math in middle school. I am happy to report, as most of you know that the UHI middle

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A NOTE FROM TALY

The PTA is very busy coordinating the Holiday Boutique that will take place on December 7 and the Pasta/Bingo "Fun" Raiser on January 11 along with other future events.

I'm happy to announce that the UHI lunch program will begin on Tuesday, December 2 and run in three sessions. This is a program made available to all students and is not subsidized by any governmental organization and any shortfall in income will be made up by the PTA. Details will be distributed to all parents in the very near future

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve lunch as well as the cleanup afterward. A special incentive is offered to volunteers: Their children will eat free the day of volunteering. Please call me at 574-5525 or leave a message at UHI if you are interested.

Thank You!

Taly Kornfeld, PTA President



CALENDAR OF SCHOOL EVENTS

- ◆ November 26, beginning at 2:00 p.m., Thanksgiving Program at UHI, Family and Friends Invited, reception following program.
- ◆ November 27 - November 30 Rosh Chodesh Kislev, Thanksgiving Vacation, School Closed
- ◆ December 1 - School Open, Classes Resume
- ◆ December 7, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., PTA Holiday Boutique at UHI, see details on reverse side
- ◆ December 12 - Hearing test will be given to all UHI students. Watch for details, as the date is subject to change

Mazel tov to:

*Judd Shoal and Family on the engagement of his children
Mr. & Mrs. Kenny Greenberg on the birth of Marcus Benjamin Lipton
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Suravitz on their 70th wedding anniversary*

Get Well to:

All ailing members of the community

Condolences to:

*Stanley Morris and Family on the death of Mother
Don Keefer and Family on the death of his wife, Anne
Gary Davis in Memory of his Mother
Mrs. Sylvia Fischbein and Family on the death of Alvin*

Operation Warm-Up



There will be a collection of new and gently used winter gear. This includes but is not limited to hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, coats, blankets and snow boots. Barrels will be placed at Temple Israel, JCC, Temple B'nai B'rith, and UHI for donations. This is a cooperative effort by Congregations Ohav Zedek, Jewish Community Center, Temple Israel, Temple B'nai B'rith, Bais Menachem, Jewish Federation and the United Hebrew Institute.



UHI PTA HANUKAH AND HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Sunday, December 7, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

One Stop Holiday Shopping

- ◆ National and Local Vendors from Sugar Plum (Kosher) candy, the latest in Blue J fashion accessories, Lia Sophia Jewelry to Puppy wear by Kathy Roth and much more! Shop while children take part in crafts and face painting. Gift wrapping available. Hot dogs and latkas on sale for lunch.
- ◆ An extensive array of Jewish Children's books by Kar-Ben will also be available. A special preview will be held on Saturday, December 6, at 5:30 p.m. a Havdallah and story time pajama party with pizza, milk, and cookies will take place at UHI at a cost of \$5.00 per child. Call UHI at 287-9600 with your reservation.
- ◆ Admittance to Holiday Boutique is \$2.00 per person, \$5.00 per family and includes a raffle ticket.
- ◆ Interested Vendors please call 283-9269 or 287-7071; vendor booths are \$36.00 per table



JCC COMMUNITY NOTES.

- ◆ November Activities for Children Program at the JCC, contact Gina Malsky, Youth Director, at 824-4646 for details.
- ◆ Sunday, November 16, Jewish Community Center and Jewish Family Service present Ron Eliran appearing at the Jewish Community Center, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Reception to follow. For more information call the JCC at 824-4646 or JFS at 823-5137.

PTA NEWS

- ◆ Chanukah/Holiday Boutique co-chaired by Janice Zarad and Jenny Rizel will be held on Sunday, December 7, at UHI. Watch for details. **Volunteers are needed, please call Janice at 283-9269 or Jenny at 287-7071.**
- ◆ Pasta/Bingo "Fun" Raiser to be held on Sunday, January 11, at UHI from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed, please call co-chairpersons Zivit Bruce at 283-1710 or Lydia Sarnevitz-Lerner at 690-1015. Adults \$6, Children \$4, and \$20 maximum for family. Janice Zarad contacted Barilla Pasta and they have donated 100 pounds of pasta to UHI. *Thank you, Janice!*
- ◆ School Lunch Program starts December 2, watch for details and **volunteer incentive.**



Volunteers Needed for Hanukah & Holiday Boutique contact 283-9269 or 287-7071!

◆ **JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES**

- ◆ Always accepting Kosher, non-perishable food for Sarah's Table.
- ◆ JFS is offering Operation Mattahias and will provide Chanukah gifts to children up to 16 years of age. Special circumstances will be considered. Donors and those interested in participating are to call Lisa Morgan at 823-5137 before December 12.

Friends Helping Friends

There are many ways to become a partner with UHI as you are remembering loved ones, extending wishes for good health, or taking note of a special occasion. Please use one of the following to make your special contribution.

Happy Event, Memorial, Good Health Donation::

\$5.00 (minimum) Regular Card, \$8.00 Scholarship Fold Over Card; and \$18.00 Chai

Library Fund:

\$10.00 per book

Donations for Continued Education:

\$100

Tree of Knowledge:

\$180 Leaf, \$1800 Brick

Memorial Plaque (Auditorium):

\$300 (Annual notification of Yarhzait)

LASHON HARA

Dinim (Laws and Customs) In Fifth Through Seventh Grades

Judaic Teacher: Malka Seewald

What is “Lashon Hara? What are its effects? How can we prevent it? Loshon Hora is literally translated as “bad speech.”

The fifth and seventh grade students have been studying about the importance of guarding our tongue and only speaking kind and nice words. They have learned many different “pitgamim” phrases, which our Rabbis taught us to help us to succeed in guarding our tongue. Each student made a poster for our bulletin board elaborating on one of the pitgamim.

Included in the students’ posters are the following pitgamims:

- ◆ *Don’t judge your friend until you are in his place.*
- ◆ *Who is strong? Someone who overcomes his desires.*
- ◆ *Silence is a fence (guardian) for wisdom.*
- ◆ *Judge everyone favorably.*
- ◆ *Being respectful comes even before Torah.*

All are welcome to stop by to see these wonderful posters throughout the hallways!



All the students enjoyed working on their posters with their own personal pitgamim.

Photos on Left: Bailey Fender and Mikah Kaplan working on their posters, part in Hebrew!

Photos on Right: (top) Meitar Dougherty (below) Adina

Newcomb-Beill and Andrew Sarnevitz put the finishing touches on their posters, part in Hebrew as well! Great Job!

Rabbi Nemetsky’s article continued . . .

school has had a specialized math teacher for the last 30 years. Thank you Mrs. Panunzio! Please note that while this suggestion was offered, the research did not investigate or evaluate what the effects of this type instruction yields.

The article did note that while women did not compete very much, they are much better represented in research and scientific positions in academia and companies. In other words, women who are extremely capable ignore competitions but pursue their scientific careers. If so, why the great worry that they are not competing? Is competing a goal unto itself? In Judaism, competition itself is worthless (or even negative) except for when it motivates adults to strive for greater achievement. If a person achieves his goals without the competition, that is even better. The best competition is when one competes against oneself. By contrast, much of what drives Western culture competitively is foreign to Judaism.

Beyond the contrast to Jewish values, I offer two reasons why the researchers are so concerned about women competing. Perhaps they feel that women need to share equally with men the prominence of awards. I also suspect that they wish women be seen not only as equal to men, but also identical to men. Thus if men are motivated to compete, so should women. Remember that the president of Harvard University was forced out of his position for merely suggesting that research be conducted to investigate if there is an inherent difference between men and women in the areas of math and science. (This from an institution that prides itself on free and unrestricted thought. Amazing.)

There is so much more that can be written, but I have limited myself to three articles on this topic. I wish the readers to consider three main ideas. First, researchers can be very unscientific in their analysis and suggestions. Second, Torah does have something to say about everything important in life. Third, parents play the greatest role in the development of their children. With that privilege comes extraordinary responsibility to exercise care and diligence for guiding their children and not to rely on someone else to fill that role.

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky



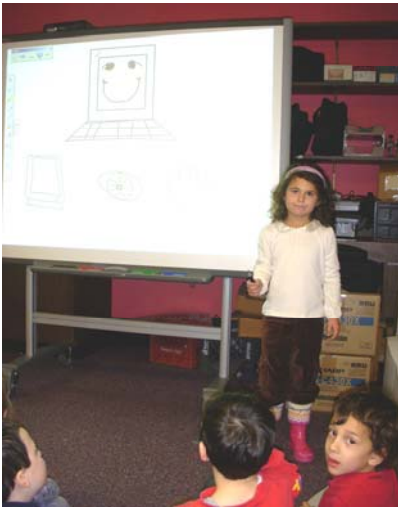
DON'T FOGET TO HELP OUR SCHOOL GET FREE EQUIPMENT

Please remember to register your Price Chopper Advantage Card for UHI school code 17362. Our school will automatically earn credit every time you use your card.

If you signed up last year, you do not need to re-register. Call UHI 287-9600 with any questions. Please spread the word!

BUILDING SMART FOUNDATIONS AT UHI

Teacher: Timothy Showalter



The SmartBoard has arrived! I can easily declare that the students of UHI love to use it. Throughout the past few months, I have witnessed how the SmartBoard can be a very powerful classroom aid. Since the SmartBoard may be new technology to some, I would like to briefly explain the benefits that it provides to our school.

4Y's Sarah Newman demonstrates how to use the SmartBoard to her class. Great Job, Sarah!

The SmartBoard is essentially an extension of your computer's monitor. You first connect your com-

puter to a projector which mirrors your computer's screen onto the SmartBoard. Once the SmartBoard is connected, that's when the fun starts. The main function that the SmartBoard provides is interaction. The board allows the teacher and students to bring all the benefits of the computer to the front of the class. Typically a computer is limited to only the one person using it. The SmartBoard opens up the technology to the entire class. This helps teachers create whole lesson plans built around the SmartBoard. They are able to display their points visually and interact with the lesson as they go. The actual SmartBoard program is very simple to use. It is modeled similar to the Power Point program. You create your presentation slide by slide. You can even go to, www.smarttech.com, and download fully developed lesson plans that correlate with Pennsylvania State Standards.

The older grades are already hard at work creating their very own presentations. The seventh grade will be focusing on lesser known countries. They are still doing research and I can't wait to see what they come up with. I even use the SmartBoard with our wonderful preschoolers. This week we learned about all the different rooms, people, and rules of our school. The students especially liked when I moved an illustrated student around a map of our school.

The school is preparing to install more SmartBoards. Mrs. Baylor will have a board and projector mounted in her room. Many teachers have already worked with me to incorporate this new technology in their class. It is very exciting to see the excitement and productivity that the SmartBoard brings to UHI!

THANKSGIVING AND NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE IN ART CLASS

Teacher: Sara Eneboe

American Indian culture has been the focus of Art History throughout October and November.



Kindergarten Class (1 to r) Aiden Dougherty, Ethan Lieberman, Daniel Tillmen, Avi Rizel and Chen Bruce display their hand-made American Indian collars. The are so colorful and original!

The Kindergarten class experienced creating American Indian collars by simulating animal leather with brown bags. Basic shaped patterns were drawn with white oil pastels.



3Y is busy coloring their Indian corn, looks so festive!

First grade, 4Y and 3Y enjoyed creating textured Indian corn with torn colored paper and learned that maize is a very beautiful and life giving vegetable. First grade practiced the use of colored oil pastels to make the multi-colored corn.

Fabulous original Indian totem pole paintings will be on display for Thanksgiving. The theme of Indian culture is reflected in the weavings created by the fifth and 6th graders. Patterns are achieved by wrapping the yarns in alternate colors.



So busy making their original Indian collars!

All the students love to learn about other cultures and create a craft to experience art as the past cultures did.