



THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, PA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents,

This week is a very special one in Israel as Jews from all over Israel, including tourists and students, converge on the city of Chevron (Hebron). They do so because in this week's Torah portion we read how Abraham purchased a small plot of land that contained a multi-chambered cave. He desired that parcel of land to bury his wife, Sarah.

The Midrash tells us that Adam and Eve were buried in that same cave, thus making it a unique and holy site. In fact, it is the second holiest site in Israel, with only the Temple Mount in Jerusalem being more holy. In time Isaac and Jacob would also be buried there along with their wives. (As an aside, Rachel, Jacob's wife, is buried in Bethlehem.)

Though I have visited Chevron various times, I never went on the Shabbat of the Torah portion of Chayei Sarah. My daughter, though, went and she reported on the very vibrant atmosphere that permeated the entire town. To put this weekend in perspective, the regular Jewish population is heavily controlled by the Israeli government and there are less than one hundred Jewish families. Adding to the few hundred regulars residents, thousands upon thousands more come for Shabbat.

You may wonder why people choose this Shabbat of all Shabbatot of the year. After all, it's not as if the event itself took place at this time of the year. According to the Midrash, Sarah died of shock when she heard that her son Isaac was bound and offered as a sacrifice. That event took place on Rosh Hashanah. I am sure that Abraham did not wait two months before burying her.

If we are not celebrating or commemorating the event, just what are all those people doing in Chevron. Simply put, I believe they are making the statement that just as this cave belongs to the Jewish people as the Torah explicitly recounts the purchase, so does the rest of the Land of Israel. Chevron is a flash point because there are those in Israel who feel less connected to biblical Israel and feel that those sections that are far away from the major areas of Jewish habitation are expendable.

I am not using this column to make any statement about what the Israeli government should do with Chevron. That is a political issue (and according to some, a religious issue) for the Israelis themselves to decide. My point is that a country that wishes to remain with its own identity must actively demonstrate its heritage, culture, and unique attributes. Otherwise it will eventually be occupied and ultimately overtaken by other people with a stronger sense of mission and presence.

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A NOTE FROM TALY

The Hanukkah/Holiday Boutique was the main topic of discussion at the PTA meeting this week. To date, we have over 15 vendors who have signed up for the Boutique on December 7 at UHI (see details on page 2). Please remember to send in your \$5.00 Theme Basket monetary contribution or gift item for your child's theme basket to be raffled off at the Boutique. If you have any questions about the theme basket please contact Jill Kranson.

At this time, I would like to thank the busy and dedicated moms who attend our meetings (dads are welcome too). A special thank you to Jill Kranson, Zivit Bruce, Jody Stone, Jenny Rizel, Janice Zarad and Malka Seewald for all they are doing to make the Hanukkah/Holiday Boutique a huge success. Without you wonderful ladies, our worthwhile programs would be at a standstill.

The first session of the UHI Lunch Program will begin on December 2. We could still use at least two more volunteers to help once during the first lunch session. In addition there is a free lunch incentive for the children of the volunteers. It is extremely important that all parents send in the first session lunch slips by next week. Please note that a fresh salad bar has been added to our lunch program.

It is so very important that we all support the efforts of our Parent Teachers Association as the success of our programs and events directly benefits UHI and ultimately our children. Please call me at 574-5525 or leave a message at UHI if you are interested in volunteering for either the Holiday Boutique or Lunch Program.

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:

*Benjamin Engel on his Bar Mitzvah
Dr. & Mrs. Engel on the Bar Mitzvah of son Benjamin*

Get Well to:

*Taly Kornfeld
Dr. Ceil Frey
Nancy Shuman
Hazel Garris
Estelle Freedman
Bob Artim
Margot Schwager*

Condolences to:

*Mr. & Mrs. Tony Schwab in memory of James Schwab
Mrs. David Baltimore in memory of sister Selma*

PTA NEWS

- ◆ Hanukkah/Holiday Boutique co-chaired by Janice Zarad and Jenny Rizel will be held on Sunday, December 7, at UHI. See details. Please send in Theme Basket Donations. **Volunteers are needed, please call Janice at 283-9269 or Jenny at 287-7071.**
- ◆ School Lunch Program starts December 2, details available, volunteers needed, includes volunteer incentive.



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 LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS



A Special Friend of UHI is coordinating a program that will provide fresh salad and fresh fruit at every lunch. Our heartfelt thanks and well wishes go out to you!

UHI PTA



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.



UHI PTA HANUKKAH AND HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

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

One Stop Holiday Shopping

(Community Event, open to the General Public)

- ◆ 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 enjoy the free arts and crafts table. There will also be face painting for the children. Hot dogs, potato pancakes and desserts will be on sale for lunch. Gift wrapping is available.
- ◆ An extensive array of Jewish Children's books by Kar-Ben will also be available. Due to schedule conflicts, the special book preview and the Havdallah/story time pajama party has been canceled.
- ◆ Admittance to Holiday Boutique is \$2.00 per person, \$5.00 per family and includes a theme basket raffle ticket. For more information on Theme Baskets call 341-9071.
- ◆ Vendor space is still available. Those interested contact 287-1843; vendor booths are \$36.00 per table.

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 Yahrzait)

JCC COMMUNITY NOTES.

- ◆ Calling all children 2nd Grade and up. Join the JCC every Wednesday from 4:15 to 5:00 p.m. for the Jewish Community Choir directed by Cantor Ahron Abraham. The choir will perform at the Chanukah Community Celebration, Purim Carnival and other community event. Call the JCC at 824-4646
- ◆ December 18, Oy Vegas II at Mohegan Sun, call JCC 824-4646

KINDERGARTEN LEARNS PARSHA

Judaic Teacher, Geveret Pernikoff

The children enjoyed acting out the Parsha of the week, Vayaira, when the angels visited Avraham.



Avraham was so pleased when the three angels visited him in the desert. Avi Rizel as Avraham, Ethan Lieberman as the Angel Raphael, Aiden Dougherty as the Angel Gavriel and Daniel Tillman as the Angel Michael.



Our UHI Angels were so happy to serve the weary travelers that stopped by the Kindergarten class for a glass of water and kind words. Jacob Sarnevitz enjoyed meeting the Angel Gavriel.

Angel Raphael (Ethan Lieberman) on the left



Angel Michael (Daniel Tillman) made sure everyone received a drink of fresh water.

Water is served to the weary travelers in Avraham's Eshel (hotel) located in the hot desert. Three angels came to visit. Each angel was on a special mission. One angel came to heal Avraham, another came to tell Sara good news that she was to have a son. The third angel came to destroy the wicked city of Sodom.

Last Week's Parsha NOAH AND THE FLOOD



The children enjoy running through the flood waters! Thank you, Geveret, for making learning Parsha so much fun!

WHEN IS K NOT OK?

Principal: Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky

UHI requires that students bring Kosher food only to school. I am happy to report that not only are parents very cooperative, but that there is an air respect and accommodation that makes everyone's coexistence very pleasant at our school. My goal in writing this mini article is to help guide parents through what is sometimes very confusing process.

Many products we see on supermarket shelves have a plain K on them. The letter K is just a single letter in the alphabet. Companies may put a K on a label for any reason – or for no reason. Most companies put a K on a product to indicate that it is kosher, at least according to the company. Call me naïve, but I would like to think that most companies are run by people who mean well and when they put a K on a package they honestly feel that their products are truly kosher. However, most heads of companies do not know the laws of kosher and they may erroneously place the K on the package.

To ensure that an item is kosher, you should look for a kosher symbol. Mr. Alvin Schwartz, one of our board members who has spent a lifetime in the food business, informed me that there are over nine hundred kosher symbols and more emerging all the time. Many are quite obscure, local organizations. However, we recommend the 4 national symbols that have gained prominence and are quite common on many products. They are:



If you have any questions about kosher products, you can ask your child's Judaic teacher. Geveret is also available to respond to your inquiries. If I can be of any assistance, please call me. Again, I thank parents for all their efforts to provide kosher products for their children.

Rabbi Nemetsky's article continued (from page 1) . . .

As Americans, we find many ways to celebrate our achievements as the great country that we are with past legacy of remarkable achievements. Coming up next week is the school's pre-Thanksgiving celebration. All the classes will participate with secular and Jewish production. Most timely and appropriately, the theme will be giving thanks. We use the celebration of this American holiday to emphasize the secular cultural / historical components as well as the religious / Jewish values.

I hope parents will use next weekend to talk about American history and why we are fortunate to live in such a great country. Citizenship is important enough to spend time celebrating our being a part of this wonderful country exercising our freedoms in a democratic society. I would like to add that if this is important to us as Americans, how much more are we to invest in the notion to our children that we are also citizens of the nation of G-d. As Jews, we are part of a movement that has been in existence since the beginning of time and we should celebrate that as well.

WILKES SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS VISITS UHI

Teacher: Barbara Welch

Recently, Assistant Professor of Education Dr. Robert S. Gardner and his Education 360 class from Wilkes University conducted workshops for UHI's seventh grade social studies students. During the first social studies workshop, Dr. Gardner's class worked with the students to analyze primary source documents written by leaders of the Jamestown and New England colonies.



L to R first row: Natalie Apellaniz; Alyssa Mazza; Katie DeBias; and Shelley Hydock. L to R second row: Dr. Robert S. Gardner, Assistant Professor of Education, Wilkes University; Samantha Blum; Brooke Priest-Barney; Mrs. Barbara Welch, UHI Social Studies Teacher; Lauren Goff; Kimberly Baldino; and Raphael Nemetsky, UHI Principal

The careful and thorough instruction of these sources enabled our seventh graders to learn the information, reflect on the documents' implications, and then write their essays which demonstrated an understanding of the differences between these colonies. Dr. Gardner and his students returned for the next workshop where they helped the students to revise their document-based essays successfully. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with Dr. Gardner and the eight members of his Education 360 class.

The following are some of our students' reflections of the Wilkes Workshop:

"When the Wilkes students came, it was very exciting. It's not every day you get to work with college students."

"Dr. Gardner's class was very well-prepared."

"I liked the analogies they used to explain the parts of the documents that were unclear."

"What I liked was if we didn't understand something, they [the Wilkes students] would explain it thoroughly."

"When they get their degrees, they will all be great teachers!"

"We learned about the Jamestown Colony and how the colonists had to be forced to help others."

"When Wilkes came, they gave me more information which helped to me to write a good essay."