



# THE UHI BULLETIN

## The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, PA



*Dear Parents,*

We often hear the buzzword leadership. Is there something we can do that can transform a person into an effective leader? Is a person born with the qualities necessary for leading others, just as person is born with athletic abilities?

What is a leader anyway? In practical terms, a leader is someone who can influence others to follow him or his ideas. Powerful leaders can influence many people and perhaps even passionately so. While the general public today can be excused for its disillusionment and cynical attitude towards our public figures, we can all agree that we need good leaders.

History is littered with the memories of poor leaders, evil leaders, and even a few madmen. The list of outstandingly good leaders in world history is depressingly short. However, the opposite is true in Judaism. In every generation we have had exceptional people who devoted themselves to the perpetuating the Jewish people.

However, it is not a coincidence that our history is replete with so many great leaders. This is because the history of the Jewish people is really the history of its great leaders including its prophets, kings, rabbis, and moralists. Maimonides lists all the Jewish leaders from Moses until the authors of the Talmud who transmitted the Torah, both Oral and Written, to each successive generation of Jews.

So what is the Torah's outlook on leadership and by extension, leadership training? The Talmud points out that all the greatest leaders of the Jews (Moshe, King David) were shepherds first. Taking care of animals with compassion, even when the animals do not reciprocate those feelings, is an excellent apprenticeship for a job that often is a thankless task. Hard as it is to imagine, Moshe was accused of nepotism for making his brother Aaron the high priest, and even attempted genocide when the people ran out of food or water.

Unfortunately, people confuse good leadership with popularity. When difficult decisions are implemented, some people will be adversely affected and resent the measures undertaken. Rabbi Yisrael Salanter, leading ethicist in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe, said this of the rabbinate. "Any rabbi that the people don't want to depose is not a rabbi. Any rabbi

that the people actually depose is not a *mentch* (a decent person)." A rabbi, and by extension any leader, must be prepared to do things that are unpopular to at least some of the people.

This makes all the more important leaders be moral and compassionate. Although compassion is seen as being the opposite of decisive, it is not really so. For example, a surgeon deciding which limbs of a patient to save and which to amputate must be decisive, but is guided by his compassion to save the patient's life. So too, a leader must make painful decisions with the understanding that compassion for the greater good must outweigh individual accommodations.

Next week, America gives honor to its greatest presidents. While not drawing any direct parallels to Jewish leaders, I believe that their greatness lies in their doing that which was unpopular to at least a significant portion of the population they led. Yet they persevered and were ultimately successful. This is a lesson for all of us. Greatness can sometimes be measured by immediate actions. Most of the time, the slow wheels of history have to turn for some time for greatness to become apparent and recognized. Certainly the reputation of our Jewish leaders have withstood the test of time, as have the universally recognized American heroes.

*Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky*

### A NOTE FROM TALY

A special thank you to Malka Seewald for preparing and distributing the Tu B'Shvat seedling planters and treat bags to all the UHI students. They were beautifully arranged and enjoyed by all!

Please submit your Parnas HaYom lists to Barbara Bell for loved ones you would like honored and remembered (see page 2).

The students continue to enjoy our lunch program. Please send in your Session Two lunch forms. A special thank you to all of our volunteers, you are amazing!

Watch for details on the PTA Purim Seudah lunch to be held at UHI on Tuesday, March 10.

Thank you everyone for all you do for UHI!

*Taly Kornfeld, PTA President*



### CALENDAR OF SCHOOL EVENTS

- ◆ February 16 - President's Day, School Closed
- ◆ February 18, UHI Learning Fair, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at UHI

## GOOD AND WELFARE

### Mazel tov to:

Jewel Jacobs on your "special" Birthday  
Leslie Baltimore on your Happy Birthday  
Coach Donald Flynn on your Happy birthday

### Get Well to:

Hope Samperio  
Wayne Baer

### Condolences to:

Diane Swanson in Memory of your Mother  
Mary T. Russin in Memory of Brother (correction)  
The Greenwald Family in Memory of Sylvia  
Mrs. Richard Gross in memory of Mother Marilyn



Have a special day? Or Yahrzeit,  
UHI PTA Invites you to share with:  
**Parnas HaYom!**

**What is Parnas HaYom?** Meaning "sustainer of the day" in Hebrew, Parnas HaYom gives people the opportunity to remember a loved one or celebrate a joyous event by underwriting the study of Torah by UHI students for a day, a week or even a year. Parnas HaYom is now conducted in countless Jewish day schools nationwide, and school supporters use it to remember a Yahrzeit, celebrate a birth, wedding, anniversary or bar/bat mitzvah, or to reap the spiritual benefits for a speed recovery (in Hebrew, *refuah sheleimah*) from illness.

**But how does it work?** The students are made aware for whom they are learning through an announcement at the beginning of the day, as well as a placard at the entrance of the school noting that day's Parnas HaYom and notices placed in the school newsletter.

**How can I be part of this?** Individual days may be obtained for \$18, a week for \$72 and the rest of the year can be sponsored for \$360. Days in perpetuity, along with a special Etz Chaim plaque, can also be reserved so that your loved one can always be remembered by UHI in a living, vibrant and uniquely Jewish fashion. Please contact Barbara Bell at 570-696-4447, Malka Seewald at 570-288-7317 or return the attached form to the UHI front office at 570-287-9600 in order to reserve a date for your special commemoration.



**FEBRUARY 14 IS THE LAST DAY TO USE YOUR ADVANTAGE CARD FOR UHI'S "TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS" PROGRAM SCHOOL CODE 17362.**

*Thank you to all who participated in this program that benefits UHI!*

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### UHI LUNCH PROGRAM MENU Week One of the Second Session



Tuesday, February 17 - Chicken Soup Matzo Balls and noodles w/vegetable

Thursday, February 19 - Scrambled Eggs and Pancakes

Fresh fruit and salad served at every lunch

### PTA NEWS

- ◆ Next PTA meeting details to be announced
- ◆ The school lunch program begins the third week of Session Two. Please send in your child's completed lunch form.
- ◆ PTA Purim Seudah lunch to be held at UHI on Tuesday, March 10 (watch for details)
- ◆ Contact Barbara Bell with Parnas HaYom requests

**SCHOOL NEWS:** UHI will soon receive two new Mac Mini-computers through the PA Department of Education.

### JCC COMMUNITY NOTES.

- ◆ February thru March from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Rabbi Roger Lerner, Rabbi Larry Kaplan and Rabbi Nachman Bruce are leading an Introduction to Judaism class. This will be an 18-week class covering all topics such as history, textual Hebrew and more. Cost is \$18 plus cost of books. JCC 824-4646.
- ◆ February - April 1, JCC Institute of Learning will meet on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Center from January 14th thru April 1, contact JCC for topics, speakers and dates, 824-4646.
- ◆ February 22 (Sunday), a presentation by Dr. Sheldon Spear discussing his new book on Dan Flood, at 11:15 a.m. A congregational lunch will follow, contact the JCC for reservations.
- ◆ March thru April (Thursdays), Eezy-Peezy Poetry Class at JCC from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., cost is \$25 per student plus cost of book. Instructor is Jim Landon, local poet and photographer. For more information call Barbara Sugarman at 824-4646.

### JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

- ◆ JFS taking donations to fill the shelves at Sarah's Table.
- ◆ JFS would like to buy two children new bicycles through the Samuel Nelson Bicycle Fund. Please call Lisa Morgan at 823-5137 with your request. All

## PRE-K TAKING GYM FOR THE FIRST TIME

*Phys Ed Teacher: Coach Don Flynn*



New students were in gym class recently, and they were a little bit shorter than the other students. The 3Y and 4Y children are learning the same physical education activities as

the higher grades but at their level of ability. They are having so much fun exercising and playing physical games; hopefully making their first



ever gym class an experience that will stay with them a lifetime and promote a healthy exercise routine.



The children walk into the gym wide eyed with anticipation and excitement, raring to get started. We most recently played musical chairs with the children feeling the rhythm of the music as they surrounded the chairs. Some of their other favorites are hopping and skipping and activities that promote

*Everyone enjoys the sweet enthusiasm of our little ones and watching how they perform in their very first gym class. Thanks Coach Flynn for making this gym class a fun and healthy place to be! Watch for more great photos in next week's bulletin.*



## NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

*Teacher: Barbara Welch*

The fifth and seventh grade students completed a study of the different Native American groups and how they used the natural resources in their regions to not only survive but also to create works of art. The Native Americans believed that we should all be good stewards of the land and to preserve it for generations to come. They practiced this belief through the careful use of natural resources.



The seventh graders learned that the Plains Native Americans were excellent recyclers – using many of the parts of the buffalo, for example. Buffalo meat was used to make jerky and pemmican to eat, the bones for tools and utensils, and even the skin for teepees. Another use of the buffalo skin was to create a winter count, a type of calendar, used by the Lakota Sioux tribe.

This group would select an important event in the year of the tribe and then record it on a buffalo hide. Winter counts are “read” starting at the center of the skin and then proceeding counterclockwise out from the center. Our seventh graders created their personal winter counts by selecting an important event in either their young lives or the lives of their “clan.”



The fifth graders learned that the Native Americans of the Northwest used trees not only for housing but also for works of art, totem poles. The students learned that the totem poles were created to honor family members or to remember details of their clan's legends. One totem pole, for example, was initially created to honor Secretary of State William Seward. He, as you may recall, recommended that the United States purchase Alaska from Russia in 1867. Seward was honored at a special feast called a potlatch, but when he did not then host a potlatch in return, the ears and mouth on his totem pole were painted red because of his failure to follow this important custom. As our fifth graders completed their totem project, they had the opportunity to reflect on this as well as the history of other poles.

The seventh and fifth grade students would like you to stop by Room 12 when you attend the school's annual Learning Fair. At that time, you can read the winter counts and view the totem poles created by our students.

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**BROCHOT - BRACHOT - BRACHOT**

*Judaic Teacher: Geveret Pernikof*

*Everyone says Brochot, Everyone knows Brochot and Everyone Loves Brochot!*

In the Gan, we think Brochot are so holy and so important that we spend a whole week learning about each special Brocha. For Ha'Mo'tzi (for bread), we actually baked challa; really, and it was so much fun! For Mezonot necklaces from cereal and for Ha'etz, we made Mezonot necklaces from cereal and for Ha'etz, we bought fruit at the store. It was a very cold day, but we went anyway and ate delicious grapes, clementines, grapefruits and apples. For Ha'adama, we bought popping corn, we popped it; and yum, delicious! Geveret gave us our very own Kosher grape juice bottles that we used for Shabbat Kiddish at home. That was special!

*For Sh'hakol - well, next week. . . well, we'll let you know!*



**3Y LEAPS AND BOUNDS**

**Teacher: Sara Eneboe**



*Chaya Seewald, Chezky Rizel, Molly Romanowski, Ita Brownstein, Juliana Good and Kole Kranson*

The 3Y children have been learning and growing with leaps and bounds.

The letter "J" has jumped into the classroom. The children enjoyed rhyming games and songs

along with the creation of beautiful jeweled necklaces. These lovely creations will be on display for up close inspection at the Learning Fair.

The Letters K, L and M have joined our letter learning. Everyday the children have fun singing, dancing and clapping in learning about numbers 1 through 10.

Also, our 3Y students have recently written number 6 and created a number craft with sticks. Number 7 is next with lot of tricks in store.

The children explore the world of reading and story time with Mrs. Jacobs each Monday. Computer introduction is always fun with Mr. Showalter on Monday. Recently, they have been "working out" with coach Flynn each Tuesday.



*Looks like Chezky and Cole are having fun!*



*UHI's budding artists :Simmi Hershkop, Chaya Seewald, Julianna Good and Chezky Rizel. "So intense, Great Job!"*