



# THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, PA



*Dear Parents,*

I have received information from the State of Pennsylvania and the Luzerne County Department of Public Safety regarding the Swine Influenza (Swine Flu). Of course the faxes were sent to the school before the name was changed to H1N1 Virus. At the end of the article, I will attempt to address the political correctness of naming a threat to public health. In the meantime, there is information that I as principal of a school I must share with you to avoid unnecessary panic and also ensure public safety.

Thus far the rate of infection is extraordinarily small. To put this into perspective, in Texas alone there were 300 times the number of deaths from normal (human) virus than reported cases of Swine Flu. Thus, while diligence and care should be taken to avoid the flu as much as possible, clear heads should prevail so that there is no need to panic.

There are 2 websites that are recommended for researching additional information about the current flu: [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us) and [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). The state's own website [www.pandemicflu.state.pa.us](http://www.pandemicflu.state.pa.us) discusses the topic more generally and also focuses on the Avian flu. I did not find it as useful as the first website listed above.

On the website you will find common sense precautions to take to avoid potentially spreading Swine or other viruses. They are good practices for all times and all situations. We do not want our children to become phobic about cleanliness, but they should be aware that we live in a society that exposes to a great variety of germs, bacteria, and viruses that we would do well to avoid.

The PA Department of Health will contact the local public school districts and the UHI. The school staff will monitor our particular situation so that if we see an outbreak of flu symptoms we can take appropriate action. It is highly unlikely, though possible, that the local district will close schools if the Swine flu spreads to our county. In that event, the school will notify parents just as if it was a snow day. I must stress again that as there are no confirmed cases of Swine flu in our state, there is but a remote possibility that this course of action will be taken.

As an aside, I will continue to refer to this outbreak of influenza as Swine flu. I am not worried about offending pigs and I do not believe that our parent body will negatively

impact the sale of pork, ham, and other pig byproducts. In addition, I will resist the efforts of Israel's Deputy Health Minister Yakov Litzman to, "call this Mexican flu and not swine flu." "The reference to pigs is offensive to both religions [Muslims and Jews]," he told a news conference Monday at a hospital in central Israel. I know I am not offended to by the reference to pigs. If any of our parents find this name uncomfortable, please bring it to my attention.

*Shabbat Shalom,  
Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky*

## A NOTE FROM TALY

### PICNIC

We had a nice turnout at the last PTA meeting and many good ideas were discussed. One of the major topics was the UHI Annual Picnic. Those who attended were asked why they attend the picnic every year. The unanimous answer was "for the food" and "to see the people." Thus, it's the community spirit and delicious food that once again will attract attendance at this year's function. We are hoping that members of our UHI family will take part in the festivities and play a role in its success.

This year, we are seeking someone to sponsor the PTA raffle ticket purchase. The cost of the tickets is \$125 and the sponsorship may be made by an individual or a business; and the sponsor's name (or business) will be printed on all tickets in appreciation of their sponsorship. Also we are seeking sponsors to donate the following individual picnic items: ketchup, mustard, salt & pepper, water, soda, Kool-aid, plastic cutlery, napkins, plates, plastic wrap and aluminum foil. Please call me if you are able to donate any of the items. In addition, booth sponsorships are \$20.00.

Everyone is invited to attend the next picnic meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 19, 7:30 p.m. at UHI.

*Thank You!  
Taly Kornfeld, PTA President*

## CALENDAR OF SCHOOL EVENTS

- ◆ May 12, UHI / Bais Menachem Lag Baomer march to Kirby Park, starting at 11:30 from UHI (see article on page 3 for details)
- ◆ May 25, Memorial Day, No Classes, School Closed

**Mazel tov to:**

*Sandy Himelstein on her special Happy Birthday  
Michael l & Justine Weiss on the birth of a granddaughter  
Margie & Murray Ufberg on the birth of a granddaughter  
Ali Kornfeld on her graduation from college  
Marie & Bruce Fendler on the engagement of daughter, Samantha*

**Get Well to:**

*Ed Duncan  
Mark Schiowitz*

**Condolences to:**

*Susan Silverblatt in memory of father, William Weisberger  
Mrs. William Weisberger in memory of husband  
Erin Kilduff in memory of grandfather, Dr. Charles Burns  
Dr. Charles Burns Jr. in memory of father  
Tammy Engel and Family in memory of father, David Harovice  
Betsy Zurek in memory of nephew, Paul Popielarski*

**UHI SCHOOL NEWS**



Thanks to your participation in the Price Chopper Tools for School Program, UHI will receive a (much needed) new Nikon digital camera, sports equipment for our Physical Education Department as well as supplies for our Art Department. These items are in addition to the Loud Speaker System received in March. Again, Thank You and we look forward to your participation next year.



It's always a special day at UHI; but Friday, April 3, was extra special. A beautiful rainbow shined brightly over our sweet school for all to see and enjoy. Thank you to Jeanette Good for sharing this beautiful photo with us.!

**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE**

- ◆ JFS Silent & Live Auction on Sunday, May 17, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the JCC. Live Auction 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., Great Items, Food, Entertainment, Celebrity Donations and Art!! Proceeds benefit JFS community Services.
- ◆ Third Annual Grandparent's Conference, "Raising Grandchildren: Empowering the Intergenerational Family," on Friday, May 8, 7:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., at Genetti's Hotel & Conference Center, Wilkes-Barre. Workshops and Education Credits Available. For more information or to register call Annette Grella @ 570-822-1159, Ext. 2429.

**UHI LUNCH PROGRAM MENU**  
**Week Three of the Third Session**

- Tuesday, May 5 - Hot Dogs w/French Fries
- Thursday, May 7 - Pizza w/Veggies & chummas dip
- Fresh fruit and salad served at every lunch

Please note that some of our students are requesting more than the allowed two main course servings. Because this is a planned lunch, we must adhere to the two servings limit and request that the students enjoy the plentiful side dishes (fruits & salads) along with their main course.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**

- ◆ Sunday, May 24, JCC Day Camp Clean-up, Mitzvah Mania, 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Lunch and Snacks provided. Please join us to clean, point, organize and ready our camp for the 2009 season. Contact Lydia Sarnevitz Lerner at 570-690-1015
- ◆ Sleepover at the camp that evening; includes dinner, breakfast and tent \$20 couple, \$35 family of 3 or 4, \$50 family, 5+ donation. Campfire, songs and lots of fun. Contact Gina Malsky for reservations at 824-4646

**WILKES-BARRE  
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER  
DAY CAMP  
JUNE 22-AUGUST 14  
(NO CAMP FRIDAY, JULY 3)**

**CHILDREN 2-15 YEARS OF AGE  
WELCOME  
9:30 AM-3:30 PM  
MONDAY-FRIDAY**

**LUNCH-SNACK-TRANSPORTATION  
INCLUDED IN CAMP FEE**

**OVER 20 DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES  
OFFERED WEEKLY**

**CALL RICK EVANS,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR  
MORE INFORMATION AT 824-4646 OR  
947-6766**



**LITTLE MENSCHEN**



**K'TON TON  
NAGILA/  
KADIMA**



**MITZVAH**



**NOAR**



**WRITING TO REMEMBER**

*Language Arts Teacher: Barbara Welch*

*Judaic Teacher: Malka Seewald*

Holocaust survivor and the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, Elie Wiesel, said, "Let us remember, let us remember the heroes of Warsaw, the martyrs of Treblinka, the children of Auschwitz. They fought alone, they suffered alone, they lived alone, but they did not die alone ...." The middle school students of UHI have not forgotten the suffering of the millions of Jews and others who endured the horrors of the Holocaust. As long as the events of the Holocaust and the stories of the victims and survivors are shared, recorded, and taught to the children, they will never be forgotten.



**Andrew Sarnevitz (5th Grade), Winner of Honorable Mention in the Elementary School Division in the EMUNAH Project's Contest**

In Judaic Studies class, the students learn not only of the tremendous loss of freedom and life but also how Hashem was and always is with His people. Stories of suffering, sacrifice, compassion, and how religious beliefs sustained the Jewish people during this most difficult of times are taught to UHI's children. As a result, they have the opportunity to reflect on this time in history and to remember.

This spring, the middle school students wrote essays for the Project of EMUNAH of America -

Jossi Berger Holocaust Study Center's essay contest and the local 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Yom Hashoah/Holocaust Essay Contest. Andrew Sarnevitz was notified that he received Honorable Mention, Elementary School Division, in the EMUNAH Project's contest. He and his family traveled to the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in New York City to attend the Holocaust Commemoration Ceremony and to receive his award. In addition, Kyle Deutschman, Ashley Kaplan, Mitchell Pisarz, Ross Kleinman, Meitar Dougherty, and Ben Engel were notified that they placed in the local Yom Hashoah/Holocaust Essay Contest. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, the students were invited to the JCC to share their winning essays and receive their awards. We commend all our students for their thoughtful and poignant essays on this important subject.

We feel that essay writing is an important way to communicate one's viewpoints. From the initial phase of reflection and research to the final draft, one travels on a journey through

writing. Through writing, we remember and honor those who lived during the Holocaust. Elie Wiesel said, "...to remain silent and indifferent is the greatest sin of all." We, at UHI, will be counted among those who will not forget.



*Pictured above are: Ross Kleinman (6th Grade), Ashley Kaplan (6th Grade), Kyle Deutschman (5th Grade), Meitar Dougherty (7th Grade), and Mitch Pisarz (6th Grade) all placed in the local Yom Hashoah/Holocaust Essay Contest. Ben Engel (7th Grade) (not in photo) also placed in the Essay Contest.*

**LAG BAOMER MARCH TO KIRBY PARK  
TUESDAY, MAY 12**

**Please join us for a UHI / Bais Menachem Lag Baomer march to Kirby Park on Tuesday, May 12. The march will start at 11:30 from the UHI and will proceed to Kirby Park where the students will have a barbeque lunch followed by games and activities led by our staff and Bais Menachem students. Parents can also purchase a meal at the park, but advance notice is appreciated to ensure enough food and supplies for everyone. There will also be a motorcycle escort for the march. If you or someone you know would like to join the group, contact the UHI office with your information.**



**3Y LOVES PARSHA**  
**Judaic Teacher: Jenny Rizel**

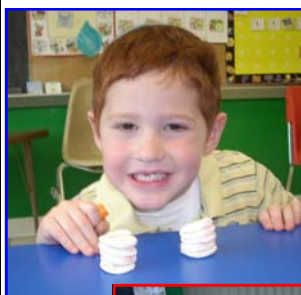
The 3Y children learn about the Parsha every week, and the name of this week's Parsha is Achier-Mot and Kedoshim. Parsha Kedoshim tells about Shabbat and the children love to learn about Shabbat but most of all they enjoy the weekly Shabbat party.



We sing wonderful Shabbat songs and one of their favorites is "Put the Chicken in the Pot." Each child picks a different food to put in their chicken soup; and at the end, we have a wonderful

feast. *Special thanks to Jody Stone for teaching us this song.*

As a special project for this Parsha Kedoshim, the children made beautiful candle holders so they could light Shabbat candles every week. First we took clay and rolled it into coils, the coils were cooled then wrapped around candles. After they dried, we decorated them! The children had so much fun and can't wait to light their special candlesticks every week.



**PRESIDENTIAL PHYSICAL FITNESS CHALLENGE AT UHI**

**Physical Education Teacher: Coach Don Flynn**



The Presidential Physical Challenge took place at UHI this week. Thousands of students across the country are doing this and our students are no exception. UHI students have participated in this Challenge for the last ten years. We have been preparing for this all year by doing the exercises included in the five main categories of the Challenge including: pushups, sit ups, V-reach, shuttle run, and the half-mile run. By preparing for the challenge, the students have been able to build up their speed, agility and physical fitness. .



The students are scored by "Boy Scores" and "Girl Scores" and then by age category. They are not working against each other, nor is it a contest to find the best athlete in the group. It is to find the best in themselves as individuals.

There are three major awards: the President's Certificate (requires a perfect score in all categories); the National Award Certificate (requires an excellent score); and the Participant Certificate (requires that the child participated and displayed a genuine effort).

*Good Luck to all participants in the Challenge, I'm very proud of all of you! Watch for more photos and the results in a future of edition of the UHI Bulletin.*