



THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute,

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



We live in an era when we are inundated with news. We have talk radio, twenty-four hour cable news networks, news talk television, plus internet news. Yet, many Americans are quite ignorant of basic current events. How is it that we are surrounded with so much important information, yet so little of it is absorbed by the population at large?

Like most good habits, becoming an informed, active citizen starts at a young age. To become informed, one must read – a lot. Just watching the news, even serious news programs, is not enough. There are no footnotes to a broadcast and there is also a limit to what can be said within the time frame of most television and radio shows.

I remember my father sitting with me and reading the newspaper to peruse interesting articles. He would point out an interesting picture and explain what was taking place. When I was a teenager, we would tackle the New York Times weekend news quiz. As part of the experience, my father would explain the news with his unique insight.

I also remember my mother taking me to rallies for Soviet Jewry. I was not yet a teenager, and I recall walking in paths shoveled in the snow outside the Russian consulate in Manhattan. I was once interviewed by a news reporter and I was asked why I was marching. I responded roughly what my mother told me. The Jews in Russia are not treated well and we want them to be free. What that meant to me at that time was unclear, but the idea that Jews have to help other Jews was impressed upon me.

We now have the Occupy Wall Street demonstrations taking place across the country. How many parents have discussed the issues, both pro and con, with their children? This is an excellent time to explore the issues of personal responsibility, government safety nets, socialized medicine / housing / education / etc. vs. the independence and initiative that has been the hallmark of our country until recently.

As we approach Thanksgiving, we can also discuss American exceptionalism. President Obama said recently that he looks at the USA with the same perspective as a Greek citizen would view Greece. I beg to differ. There is no other country that has been a force for good in the world. From humanitarian aid to protecting and developing democracy throughout the world, no other nation has contributed with the money, resources, and military might as our country has and continues to provide.

Our students should take exceptional pride in our country's accomplishments. I would hope that even at a young age our students would be proud of our country, even if they do not gain personally. I am saddened that the First Lady would say that she was never proud of this country until her husband was nominated to run for president. As much as we do in school, children learn from the example their parents set. If you take an active interest in the issues and activities that affect our lives, it is more likely that your children will follow suit.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky

EARLY FRIDAY DISMISSAL

AT 2:15

BEGINS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov. 9 Picture Day
- Nov. 11 Begin Early Friday Dismissal at 2:15
- Nov. 23 1/2 Day 11:45 Dismissal
Grandparents and Family Day
- Nov. 24—Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Vacation

HOLIDAY SNAPSHOTS

MAKING SUKKOT



SUKKAH HOPPING



TRIP TO HERSHEY PARK

