



**T H E U H I B U L L E T I N**

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, USA

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Over the last few weeks I have been sharing with you my thoughts on training children to be responsible. I have already noted that a child will feel more ownership of a task or mission if he appreciates its importance. However, a child is still immature to some degree and despite his intellectual awareness may fail to attend to his mission.

When a child does not live up to expectations, which responses will enhance a child's development and maturation and which reactions will hinder those advances? If a child is punished, resentment builds (which is not catastrophic), but it may also send a message that doing what he should is an efficient method to avoid retribution. The child may very well be processing, "I do what I am instructed to avoid penalty," rather than to fulfill a sense of mission. If that is the case, it will make the transition to self-direction much more difficult.

In some cases, parents wish for a child to avoid all pitfalls and failures. Parents monitor every nuance of a child's activity to ensure success. While it is beyond the scope of this bulletin to discuss why parents are so overly invested in their children's perfection, the net result is that children are not taking the initiative nor shouldering the burden for achievement. One example that comes to mind is homework. The school emails the assignments to the parents so they can follow up and ensure that the assignments are complete. There are some students who are truly challenged to bring home all that they require and need the parents' intervention. For most, the parents are compensating for the child's shortcoming.

While no parent wants a child to do poorly in school, how can that responsibility be shifted to the child where it truly belongs? My strictly anecdotal observation is that the more that is expected of a child with the consequences that naturally follow – good and bad – the more the child accepts.

There was an agreement, an underlying pact that children earned all their privileges and there were few rights to which a child was entitled. I am certainly not advocating parents implement harsh or draconian measures. Rather, I am advocating that parents shift the expectations that children have and what they "deserve" to what they could earn as members of the family in good standing. In addition, children can use the experience of failure to learn valuable lessons.

There is a saying I have come across often. Good judgment comes from experience. Experience comes from using bad judgment. While this is not always true and we would like our children to gain their experience by using good judgment, within limited parameters, those episodes that are unsuccessful build not only character but judgment too.

While this topic is far from exhausted, I plan on adding one final article to this series.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky

**UHI Students Receive Awards  
 in the Patriot's Pen Contest**

Mr. C. Roberts Tilghman, Post Commander of VFW Post 283, notified Bailey Fendler and Lauren Greenberg that they had placed in this year's Patriot's Pen contest. According to Mr. Tilghman, students in grades six through eight were eligible to compete and wrote their essays responding to the question, "Does patriotism still matter?"

The first place winner on not only the post level but also the district level is Bailey Fendler, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Fendler. Bailey is a seventh grade student at the UHI. She received a medal, certificate, savings bond, and a backpack at the Kingston VFW Post 283 award ceremony recently. Lauren Greenberg, also a seventh grade student at UHI, is the daughter of Ms. Nanette Greenberg and Mr. Julius Greenberg. She placed second on the post level of the competition and received a medal and a certificate. Pictured in the first row, is C. Roberts Tilghman, Post Commander, Post 283. Second row from the left are Al Kircher, Sr. Vice Commander, Post 283; Martin Flannery, Jr. Vice Commander, Post 283; Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky, Principal, UHI; Marie Siles-Fendler; Bailey Fendler; Bruce Fendler; Lauren Greenberg; Julius Greenberg; and Barbara Welch, Teacher, UHI.



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Apr. 3 Putting the Pieces Back Together—  
 Remembering the Holocaust at JCC 10:00 AM
- Apr. 14 Passover Workshop 4—5:30 JCC
- Apr. 18—Apr. 25 NO CLASSES  
 PASSOVER VACATION

# UHI Learning Fair March 30, 2011

