



# THE UHI BULLETIN

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Rabbi R. J. Nemetsky

For the last week and a half, talk of the flood dominated much of the conversation. I didn't think I could add more to what has already been said. However, two events transpired today that inspired me to view the aftermath of the flood from a new perspective. I have asked permission from both people to share the following with you.

First, an introduction. As parents, you strive to inculcate good values and practices in your children. As much as UHI tries to stress midot, good character traits, children will learn the most from what they observe and experience at home. One example is to say please and thank you. It would be rude to ask for something without prefacing the request with please. One would be ungrateful if he/she did not respond with a thank you after having a request fulfilled.

As Jews, we know that everything belongs to G-d and he shares his bounty with us. For some items such as food we must make a *brachah*, a blessing, before partaking. We are certainly aware that we ask for many things during our prayer services. This is particularly true for the High Holy Days when we ask for a new year filled with health, safety, wealth, and happiness.

There is even less of a ritual mandate to say thank you. While many use the expression *baruch hashem* or Thank G-d easily, it often on autopilot rather than a thoughtful statement. However, I was moved by two instances of people in our community saying thank you. I believe there is a strong lesson to be learned from each instance.

Mrs. Himelstein showed me a card from Mrs. Connie Stern that came with a check for the school. "This donation is in gratitude for this past flood not hurting my home and not losing electric power. I came home to everything as I left it." Connie thanked G-d by giving tzedaka to UHI. This wonderful deed was followed by a gift I received from Mrs. Caroline Mertz. She handed me a bag of

delicious, ripe tomatoes and said that she was sharing her bounty in gratitude for Hashem leaving her tomato vines intact. Caroline thanked G-d by sharing her good fortune. (Caroline did mention that she was aware that I was neither a Cohen nor a Levi and these were not ritually mandated gifts.)

I was impressed that these two members of our community saw the Hand of G-d, the Divine Providence, during the flood and wanted to thank Him for His kindness. The recognition and acceptance that all that happens is from G-d is a powerful lesson, especially as we ready ourselves for Rosh Hashanah and its impending judgment.

We teach our children to say please and thank you to other people. We should also teach them to say please and thank you to G-d.

May we merit G-d's mercy to have a sweet New Year.

Shabbat Shalom  
Rabbi Nemetsky



Shabbat party for children  
will be held  
at 4:00 PM at the home of  
Mr. & Mrs. Shimon Zarad,

Our condolences to Steve Arnovitz on the  
passing of his beloved mother, Helen.

FROM THE UHI FAMILY

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 28 1/2 Day Dismissal 11:45
- Sept. 29—30 NO CLASSES Rosh Hashanah
- Oct. 1 Fast of Gedaliah
- Oct. 7 1/2 Day Dismissal 11:45  
Erev Yom Kippur

## Celebrating Our Grandparents Barbara Welch

The second through sixth grade students wrote letters to their grandparents expressing how grateful they are for the very special relationship they have with them. In this fast-paced world it is important to pause and take the time to reflect on the loving care and support these special people so generously give to the younger generation.

Some of our second grade students wrote about how they enjoyed visiting with and spending the holidays with their grandparents. Others wrote about how grateful they are for the presents they were given such as clothes and jewelry. The fourth through sixth graders reflected on special times spent together as well as how their grandparents took the time to visit them on birthdays, accompanied them on day trips and vacations, and even treated them to dinner out.

Writing is an integral part of the curriculum at UHI, and it is important to practice this skill along with instilling in our students the importance of being grateful. So many people feel entitled to what the world has to offer, but we as adults know that love shared, kindness remembered, and gratitude expressed are important lessons, and as the UHI motto states, "Lessons That Last a Lifetime."



## Back to School Night Sandy Himmelstein

Parents gathered in the UHI library along with faculty for the annual Back to School Night. Plans and goals for the coming year as well as daily procedures were discussed by Rabbi Nemetsky.

The parents then joined the faculty in the classrooms to hear about the plans for each class. Books were on display and a written information sheet was presented to the parents. It was a wonderful opportunity to get acquainted or reacquainted.



## IT WAS WHAT IT WAS

Geveret Pernikoff, Teacher

School started on time, as scheduled. The students enjoyed seeing their friends. They enjoyed meeting and greeting old and new Rabbis and teachers. Everyone happily attended their new classes with smiling faces. Everything was going well for a few days, and then suddenly it all stopped.

The *River* was rising. The flood waters were coming. Shabbos was approaching. We were told to leave...evacuate. School stopped. We all left. It was very difficult.

Now we are back, Baruch Hashem. We are safe. We are dry, and we are off to a fresh start. It was not easy, but we are ready to get going.....again. C'mon!

**Let's go!**



THANKS  
FOR  
YOUR  
HELP.

We really appreciate the contribution of almost \$100.00 which we received because members of the UHI family have used their special **TARGET** cards which designate the United Hebrew Institute as the school which receives the rewards which result from their purchases. If you don't already have a card, you can sign up when you visit the Target store or on line.



## **PARENTS**

### **PLEASE NOTE**

When you come to the JCC to pick up your children at dismissal time, please be aware that JCC members also need to use the driveway.

It is very important that the driveway be kept clear for traffic.

At drop-off in the morning, the driveway must also be kept clear.