

Lech Lecha 5778 - candle lighting 5:46 p.m.

This week's Hilights is sponsored by:

- *Joanne O'Connor in honor Mordechai and Rachel Mishory - wishing them much hatzlacha in their new home!*
- *Hillel Academy - L'ilui nishmas Avraham Moshe ben Yehuda Leib, z"l*

Hillel Hilights



Views from Hillel Academy

Hillel Academy students marked the yahrzeit of Mr. Bud Glassman this morning. The middle school boys said tehillim after davening l'ilui nishmas Avraham Moshe ben Yehuda Leib, z"l. Later on they enjoyed a pre-Shabbos oneg with cholent and kept Mr. Glassman in mind when they said the brocha over the cholent. Mr. Glassman's legacy lives on in the many institutions and programs funded by the MB Glassman Foundation, and Hillel Academy is tremendously grateful to be a recipient of that generosity.





The girls' Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan activities included creating rainbow collages, delicious treats sponsored by the Shraiber family and a skit performed by the 6th grade girls. The skit was a modern day story of a girl who gave up something special that she wanted to have just like Rachel Imeinu did regarding her right to marry Yaakov first. The skit was in honor of Rachel Imeinu's yahrzeit which is this month.



Last week, in honor of Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan, the 8th grade girls held their first "senior snack shop" sale! The theme of the month being rain and rainbows, the girls sold colorful fruit smoothies to the 4th through 8th grades. Proceeds from their sale will go toward their senior trip at the end of the year.



Continuing with the theme of the mabul (Flood) and rainbows, our preschoolers made rainbows from colorful cereal and experienced their own "flood."



After having finished learning about the laws of tzitzis, the 3rd grade boys put their knowledge to use, and made their own "real" tzitzis.



Our preschoolers are beginning their journey through the alef-bais. This week they concentrated on the letter alef and learned a number of words beginning with this letter. Pictured above is their "Amein" party, making brachos over foods beginning with the letter alef.

Spotlight on our Teachers

Rabbi Avi Wilen - 5th grade boys Kodesh

At the beginning of the year the class focuses on refining skills pertaining to Chumash, Rashi and Mishnah. Our typical week involves a vocabulary list of about ten Chumash and Mishnah words. The boys receive several puzzles during the week to help them focus on the words and the week usually culminates with a game and test. We learn Chumash and Rashi in Sefer Shemos, deepening our understanding of Yetzias Mitzrayim and many fundamentals of Emunah. Our Mishnah studies lay the groundwork for the Gemara the boys will encounter later in the year. We learn several Halachos of Shema each day, to complement the Mishnayos that the class learned in third grade. The last piece of our curriculum is the study of Sefer Shoftim. The academic efforts of the year are punctuated with projects and activities such as Rosh Chodesh, scavenger hunts and pre-Pesach dioramas.

All these elements come together to provide an exciting and growth filled year for our fifth grade boys.



SAVE THE DATE!!

Hillel Academy PTA Chinese Auction - Dec. 10, 2017

@ EDOS

Preparations for the 2017 Hillel Academy PTA Chinese Auction are underway! Proceeds from this annual event go towards the tuition assistance program and other vital school projects, and the success of the auction depends on YOU!! There are many ways to help, either by volunteering or donating products or services, and all are appreciated!

Opportunities to help include:

- Donating or sponsoring a prize
- Prize solicitation
- Flyer distribution
- Soliciting orders
- Decor
- Room set up
- Help at the event

(Chinese Auction continued)

Of course, all donations are tax-deductible and **volunteer hours may be used towards Give or Get**. If you have a business, sponsoring a prize and having it advertised on our website and brochure is a great way to get the word out. Please be in touch with Mrs. Naomi Zuckerman at 720-445-2360 or nczuckerman@gmail.com if you would like to get involved.

Counselor's Corner

Continuation of helpful ideas in how to help your anxious child:

- Build your child's personal strengths.
- Help your child organize their school material for the next day the night before.
- Allow and encourage your child to do things on his/her own.
- Try not to pass your own fears on to your child.
- Work together as a team (family members, teachers, child, day-care providers etc.)

Wilma Jean, the Worry machine, Cook, Julia. 2012

D'var Torah

This week's Parsha begins with one of Avraham's ten famous tests: HaShem appears to Avram and instructs him to close up shop and leave his land and birthplace to travel off for parts unknown. Avram heeds the call and passes the test with flying colors. The journey that he undertakes leads him to the land of Canaan and his rendezvous with destiny.

Many meforshim discuss the exact nature of this trial. After all, not only did HaShem, Himself, issue the marching orders, He also offered Avraham a number of very significant and meaningful incentives: fame, fortune, nationhood and an heir – all that he needed to perpetuate his legacy. With that much at stake, why is Avraham so extolled for his decision to get up and go?

One approach to answer this question has been to focus the spotlight of our attention on Avraham's enthusiasm in heeding HaShem's call more than to shine it on his actually heeding the call. It was his attitude about leaving that set Avraham apart and that gave HaShem cause to celebrate his voyage for eternity.

In accord with the above, I would like to focus on one more aspect of this trial: At the age of seventy-five, when this test was sent his way, Avraham was already a very successful person. From his headquarters in Charan, he had inspired a tremendous following of people who thronged about him, eager to learn all the implications of his great breakthrough, the belief in

one, all-powerful, G-d. Great and enduring accomplishments of the magnitude of those produced by Avraham are generally the outgrowth of vision, foresight and planning, not the unintended results of lucky coincidence and chance. Thus, it is reasonable to presume that Avraham, in his quest to teach the world about HaShem, would regularly set for himself both short and long term goals and would have had a well-organized schedule in which each moment of his time was fully accounted for as well as a strategic plan that went well into the future. His was most certainly a life lived by design, not default.

Thus, when the “call” came, Avraham was forced to make some major adjustments. In the blink of an eye, Avraham had to cancel his immediate plans and put his many projects and enterprises in Charan on hold for an indefinite period of time. No matter how time sensitive and urgent the matter was, Avraham had to abandon it immediately and refocus his attention on permanent relocation. For many, this would have been a great hurdle; for Avraham, a man inspired with a singular devotion to HaShem, it was insignificant. All that mattered was his absolute fidelity to the Word of HaShem, and for that he is to be justifiably praised!

The next time we meet up with a challenge that requires us to be flexible or to make some readjustments in our life, our choice can be to curse our fate or to accept with serenity the new reality that HaShem has presented us. The spiritual “genetics” that Avraham has bequeathed to the Jewish Nation enables us to follow his example by rising above ourselves to relish, as our father Avraham did, each new test that HaShem sends our way, as an opportunity to demonstrate to Him the extent of our devotion!

Rabbi Yisroel Goldbaum

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Parents,

This week was another week full of learning and activity at Hillel Academy. In addition to regular classroom study, students have also begun their biannual MAP testing. MAP, or the Measure of Academic Progress, is a computerized adaptive test which helps teachers, parents, and administrators improve learning for all students and make informed decisions to promote a child's academic growth. MAP testing will continue over the next two weeks and we look forward to sharing the results with you at our November parent-teacher conferences.

On the subject of parent-teacher conferences, this year we will be using a new tool for scheduling the conferences. In the near future, you will be emailed an invitation to sign up for conferences via SignUpGenius, an online signup app. Upon receiving your email you will click on the link provided and be directed to an online signup sheet. To sign up you merely click a checkbox next to the timeslot you desire and then click the submit button at the bottom of the screen. After filling out the information on the next screen and confirming, you will receive an email confirmation with a link that will allow you (and only you) to make changes to your original signup. We anticipate that this tool will streamline our scheduling and make it easier for all.

Today is the yahrzeit of Avraham Moshe ben Yehuda Leib, z”l, Mr. M.B. Glassman. As grateful beneficiaries of the MB Glassman Foundation, Hillel Academy middle school students recited

Tehillim in memory of Mr. Glassman and participated in a Erev Shabbos Oneg sponsored by Hillel Academy. The many brachos that were said and the beautiful Shabbos zemiros will serve as an eternal zechus for this special man who established a legacy of Torah and Chased through his generous bequeathal.

At last week's professional development session the focus was on Student Dignity. Working together in a collegial atmosphere, Hillel's faculty identified the factors that impact on student dignity and why students are so vulnerable in this area. Specific does and don'ts were also articulated, with the broad range of input from so many teachers and perspectives enlightening to all. The end result will be heightened awareness and even more vigilance in this area. Students who are treated with dignity learn to treat others with dignity. Although this is a long-process, the fruits are well worth the effort as we see our children and students growing up into the type of people we want them to be.

Rabbi Yisroel Goldbaum

Hillel Updates

- **Friday Dismissal is at 1:15 for K-8th grades from now until Friday, March 9th. Preschool is always dismissed at 1 pm.**
- MAP testing - October 23 through Nov. 10. Testing usually takes place during the afternoon. Please try to avoid scheduling any out of school appointments for your children during this time. Make sure your children get enough sleep and have a snack for the afternoon.
- Sunday, November 5 - Time change - fall back one hour. Sunday classes for boys will be at the regular start time of 8:30 am.
- Mazal tov to Rabbi and Mrs Avi Wilen upon the birth of a granddaughter and to parents, R' Aharon and Shani Wilen of Lakewood NJ

Community Events

Shabbos Parshas Lech Lecha, October 27-28 - The Shabbat Project is here! "The Great Big Shabbat Dinner" at BMH-BJ is completely SOLD OUT. Please join the "Light Up Your Week: Havdallah" at BMH-BJ on Saturday night at 7:15 PM. Featuring guest speaker Rav Gav Friedman, hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and a children's program. RSVP at TheJE.com/ShabbatProject.

Sunday, November 5 - Kehilas Bais Yisroel Hachnosas Sefer Torah - Get ready for an inspirational celebration as we welcome a new Sefer Torah on Sunday, November 5th! The festivities begin with a moving Torah Completion Ceremony followed by a lively procession through the streets with music, singing and dancing with the Sefer Torah to its new home, Kehilas Bais Yisroel, the MB Glassman Synagogue. Letter writing begins with Mincha at 2pm at the home of Larry and Cindy Halpern, 210 S. Oneida St. The procession begins from the Halpern residence at 3pm. This is an event you don't want to miss! Be a part of the Mitzvah! Dedication opportunities are still available -

www.baisyisroel.com/form/torah

Rabbanit Yemima Mizrachi video presented by the Women's Division of the Denver Community Kollel. This month's video: "Cheshvan: The Shower of Blessings and Tears"
Locations:

Sunday, November 5, Aish Denver, 9550 E. Belleview Ave

Monday, November 6, Bais Yaakov High School, 5100 W. 14th Ave.

Tuesday, November 7, Halpern Home, 210 Oneida St

Suggested donation of \$5 to help cover costs of future video presentations.

November 11-12 Kehilas Bais Yisroel and Merkaz Torah – Shabbos Shel Chizuk. Rabbi and Rebbetzin Yissochor Dov Eichenstein, Rav of Mercaz Torah U'Tefilla of Baltimore, MD, will be the special guests during Shabbos Parshas Chayei Soroh. The Shabbos will include spirited tefilos, Oneg Shabbos, and divrei Torah from Rabbi Eichenstein. For more information email info@merkaztorah.org

Going to Overnight Camp for the 1st time next summer?

PJ Library offers a \$1,000 grant to first-time overnight campers through a lottery system. Applicants will need to request a personalized PJ Goes to Camp referral code to enter the lottery. All lottery applicants must complete the on-line One Happy Camper applications with the code by November 12, 2017. For more information on the required submission data, and details on how campers qualify for a PJ Goes to Camp incentive, visit www.pjlibrary.org/pjgtc.

To request a PJ Goes to Camp access code to submit as part of the lottery application, families should visit www.pjlibrary.org/pjgtc/referralcode. Referral codes for lottery applications will only be distributed through this website form.



Do you have an occasion coming up such as a simcha, birthday, yahrzeit, etc.?

Please commemorate the occasion by sponsoring an issue of Hillel Hilights.

Please call: (303) 333-1511 or email: joconnor@haod.org

1 sponsorship - \$36, 3 sponsorships - \$100

All proceeds from sponsorships will be directed to **the Principal's Discretionary Fund**, which funds small scale programs, initiatives and projects not covered by Hillel Academy's regular budget.