

לכבוד שבת

L'chvod Shabbat



Parsha Talk

By Rabbi Philip Pohl (a proud Hebrew Day Institute parent)

December 21, 2007

Parshat Va-Yehi

This coming Shabbat we read the final portion in the book of Genesis. Parshat “Va-Yehi – And He Lived” is an ironic name for this portion, because at the very beginning of the portion we hear how very soon, Jacob will die.

And yet, rabbinic tradition teaches us that “Ya-akov Avinu lo mayt - our patriarch Jacob never died?” How can this be? We know that not only did Jacob die – he even convinces Joseph to promise that Jacob should be buried not in Egypt, but back in the Cave of Machpaylah located in Israel.

And so there are many different attempts to explain this apparent contradiction and problem.

One explanation is that indeed, Jacob died, but let's not forget that Jacob's name was changed to Israel. Look at the beginning of this week's Torah portion and you will see that both names are used interchangeably. And so, we might say that yes, Jacob died, but not Israel. After all, even the modern state of Israel is alive, almost 60 years old and doing quite well. Our connection to the land of Israel is of course much older. It even preceded Jacob's life and continues to live after his body has died.

Jacobs's descendents, namely those of us known as “Am Yisrael - The People of Israel, Hai - live on.” (See the connection to the name of the portion – Va-Yehi). Jacob's spirit, his influence, his values, continue to be transmitted and renewed in every generation of Jews who follow the tradition established by Jacob, his parents, and grandparents.

Va-Yehi Ya-akov - the Talmud is right in stating that Jacob never dies, but instead, despite the end of his years, he lives on, over and over again.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Philip Pohl

Upcoming Dates to Remember

School Closed for Winter Break

See all of you on Wednesday, Jan. 2nd

Family Game Night

Saturday, Jan. 5th
7:30—9:30 pm

For parents and your children. Bring your friends and games for a night of fun!!

\$10/family plus pizza

For more information, contact Sharon Gruber, program coordinator for Family Game Night



Israeli Dance By Mona Goldstein (Club Ed instructor)

Hello Parents!

In the fall 2007 semester we started the after school Israeli dance chug (group) at Hebrew Day Institute. The students have been wonderfully energetic and a lot of fun to teach! They pick up the dances quite quickly and remember them very well. Over the semester, the students learned over 14 dances! The dances help familiarize students with Jewish and Israeli culture. These are the dances that we learned: circles: Od Lo Ahavti Dai, 7 Jumps, Tzaddik Katamar, Amalel Shir, Ha'ankor, Hora Habika, Hora Or, Hora Chadera, lines: Haleluya, Hineh Ma Tov, Yesh Lanu Tayish, Emet Uchova, Neshikat Turkit, Zorba, and we had fun doing the Macarena and the Chicken dance as bonus excitement! The kids have been great and I've really enjoyed dancing with them!

We will be continuing the Israeli dance chug next semester, so be sure to sign up your children! It will be held on Wednesdays from 3:45 - 4:45 pm at the school. It is never too late to start! To join the chug or for more information, please contact the school and visit my website at www.monaisraelidance.com.

Hope to see your kids on the dance floor!
Mona Goldstein

5th Grade Achievements by Naomi Kaplan

The Mid-Atlantic Jewish Expo in Baltimore held their annual art and essay contest and this year our students were asked to write about the time that they felt the closest to G-d. The following students received the following recognition:

Rena Shulman—3rd place
Elan Rubin—Honorable mention
Hadar Pohl—Honorable mention
Josh Lempert—Honorable mention
Mitchell Moran-Kaplan—Honorable mention

Congratulations to all! We are very proud of you! Parents, please take a moment to read the students essays which are displayed on the bulletin board just before entering the upper classrooms.



Birthday Buddies

During recess this Friday, December 21st, we are having the Birthday Buddies Birthday Party in the Media Center for students whose birthdays are between July 2007 and December 2007.

The following students will be celebrating with us:

**Alexander Flum
Andrew Calem
Eli Mayer
Heather Rudick
Hannah Weinstein
Isaiah Friedland
Elon Kline
Josh Lempert
Shira Torchinsky
Samara Fair**

During the party students will look at the new books purchased and select which one he or she wants to have donated in his or her name. A commemorative bookplate will be placed in that book and that student will be the first one to check out the book. There will also be snacks and fun during the party.



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Candle Lighting Time

Friday, Dec. 21 4:31 pm