



Congregation Kol Ami
Religious School
CHAI TIMES

Sunday, November 11, 2007

As usual, Howard and Louise put out a wonderful spread for breakfast. They are two of the most wonderful people that you will meet at temple. When everyone pitches in and helps during this time, it is greatly appreciated. Thanks to you all. Many hands make light work. Patrick and Sophia really want us all to learn some songs before the 'Night of Lights' Shabbat Service on Friday, December 7th. Judging from how everyone is singing on Sunday mornings that should not be a problem. Hopefully, you are enjoying the Mah La'asot time of learning the correct ethical response to life's dilemmas according to our Jewish laws. There was lots of talk generated about that \$100! Thanks to Lynn Kaufman for helping with our Family Meeting. She is a friend of Cantor's, a temple member, and does family counseling in her professional life. What a blessing to have her help.

There are some important things that I need to cover before you move on to see what your children learned today. First off, I am going to start putting the teacher's email addresses under each teacher's name in the section where their class summaries are. This is so that you can easily find this information. It is also in your parent handbook. I want to make this as accessible as possible so that you will let them know when your child is not coming to religious school, and if there is something you need to talk to them about. Secondly, please bring your COPP donations this coming Sunday. They would like to take these items to the old Levitt Warehouse at 2107 Central BEFORE the event on Saturday, November 24th. Your only other option would be to take your donations to the event yourself when you go to help. Also, I found out tonight that they DO NOT need any more trash bags. So, put your donation efforts into warm coats, hats, clothes, socks, blankets...Remember that Michael Boresow is still selling trash bags as a Kol Ami fundraiser and would appreciate your business. On Sunday, December 2nd, don't forget to bring your money for the Hanukkah Fair, and any Hanukkah gifts that you would like wrapped. Lastly, don't forget to come on Friday night, December 7th, for the 'Night of Lights' Celebration. Don't forget to let me know if you have electric skillets we can use. The dinner is now a catered dinner. The cost is \$8.50 for adults, \$4.50 for children 12 to 5 years of age, and it is free for children under 5. RSVP to Lorraine at the temple office at 913-642-9000. Dinner begins at 6:30pm and services begin at 7:30 pm. Don't forget your menorah, candles, and matches! ☺

ANNOUNCEMENT: If you would like to find out more about the Reform movement's new prayer book and the controversies that it has already sparked, bring your questions to a special presentation on this topic with Barry Speert next Sunday (11/18) at 10:00am in the conference room. Materials will be provided.



'Family' Debra Cullom, Kellen Naster, Milan Naster, and Al Faraldi raring to start the meeting! ☺



Lynn Kaufman



Kellen Naster

MUSIC WITH *PATRICK BUCKLEY AND SOPHIA LASTER
[*Pdb6138@yahoo.com](mailto:Pdb6138@yahoo.com)

During Family Learning Time we reviewed the words of *Mi Chamocha*, and sang those words to the tune of *Rock of Ages*. We then learned and sang *Chanukah*, adding clapping once we sang it a couple of times.

In K-3 we reviewed and led the students in singing *Chanukah*. We then reviewed all of the words to the song and sang the song with an abbreviated text while clapping. We then talked about and sang the *Sh'ma*. We discussed the tradition of singing the word "echad" with a loud "D" at the end and reasons why some people cover their eyes when they sing the *Sh'ma*.

In 4 & 5 we reviewed the words to *Mi Chamocha* and then sang the song together with the *Rock of Ages* tune for Chanukah. We then sang the abbreviated version and added clapping as well as spinning around like a dreidel when the song says "sov". Next, we learned and sang *Mi Y'maleil?* in English. We ended by splitting the students between boys and girls and had Sophia lead the girls while Patrick lead the boys in singing *Mi Y'maleil* in a round.

K-1 with Stan Strauss and Milan Naster
sstrauss@everestkc.net

Well, once again, we had a fun filled morning together. Ashlyn, Jonathan, Micah, and Talia worked very hard. We missed you Sammy. Hopefully we will all be together next week. Last week and this week, Milan Naster spent time with us. The kids and I really enjoy having him help us. He just adds so much!

Patrick and Sophia started us out this morning with song. We have been working on saying the Shema and today we sang it. We also learned a Chanukah song. When Patrick and Sophia moved on, the music didn't stop. We moved to the sanctuary where Diane Wubbenhorst was waiting for us to teach us a new dance. The kids learned very well, in spite of the 'ladybug' diversion. ☺ We learned the entire dance! The next couple of Sundays will be spent practicing to get it just right. The kids will perform their dance on The Night of Lights Shabbat Celebration.

When we returned, we started a review of the Torah stories that we have learned so far. We reviewed the story of creation and the kids illustrated their interpretation of the story. I am keeping all of their pictures. This project will run for two years and end with the making of our own illustrated Torah. Talia is my only first grader, so she I and will work together to get her Torah completed this year.

Everyone remembered what "Mitzvot" and "Tzedakah" meant! I had sent them home last week to do good deeds on the behalf of others. They did just that! They were more than eager to share what they had done. From their comments you have some very caring children. We made Mitzvah Trees using paper sacks. I wrote their mitzvah on a picture of a dove and the children placed

their dove on their Mitzvah Tree. They are to continue to demonstrate caring through doing Mitzvot. Next week they will select one to write on a dove and place on their tree. They will eventually fill every branch with good deeds. Even the very young can do great deeds for the people in their life. Remember, you can teach them to care for others by donating to C.O.P.P. One person can make a difference, and it can begin with you! ☺ Have a great week. Shalom.



You should be dancing, yeah!

2/3 WITH JULIE HIRSCH-BOHS

Juliehb@prodigy.net

Everyone was present again today! We even had a visitor: Camille's sister, Liza! She may be small, but she acted like a big kid with this gang! We jumped right into singing with Patrick and Sophia. We sang one song about Chanukah, with promises to teach us more Chanukah songs in the weeks to come! We also reviewed the Shema, which the children remember really well. Kudos to Oscar for knowing why some Jews choose to cover/close their eyes when saying the Shema! We then began rehearsals for a Chanukah dance we will perform with K-1 on 12/7. The routine is difficult to learn, and I really appreciate all the efforts made. Please encourage your children to participate. Everyone has different ideas of fun, and it does require some give and take. As I've heard Cantor say, "it's not that you don't know it. It's that you don't know it yet." We spent the remainder of the time helping the older kids with their outdoor and gardening project. Everyone put in a lot of MUSCLE time. Please help the kids to understand why it's important to work together as a congregational family for the better of Kol Ami. Sarah was our sole injury from this activity 🤕. I hope her finger is feeling better very soon.



Whistle while you work!

4/5 with *David Wheaton and *Desiree Atherton-Greene
[*Quadsprocket@yahoo.com](mailto:Quadsprocket@yahoo.com) [*desireeink@hotmail.com](mailto:desireeink@hotmail.com)

4/5th class today had some very special visitors from the Naster family--Howard, Louise & Debbie--in addition to 5th-grader Paris. Although parents, grandparents and other extended family are always welcome to come to class, today warranted a special invitation (and special thanks for helping out!) because we were talking about wisdom handed down by older generations--our current chapter in our "mensch" textbook encourages students to ask parents and grandparents what folk sayings or experiences they have learned from and retained. The Nasters retold several wonderful lessons: about making good choices even in difficult circumstances, about remembering that the most important person to be able to face, not cheat, etc., is one's own self, and even about funny Yiddish sayings like, "You should grow like an onion with your head in the ground!" Our text also sparked a discussion about what it's like to be a new kid in class (or new person in a community), how it's not always easy to be a mensch due to peer pressure, and what we can do (or have done) in similar situations. It sounds like we have many true leaders in our class--kids who are even willing to stand up to bullies or go against the crowd in order to do the right thing. Way to go! It was great to see how enthused everyone was about going outside later to help with the gardening project--we have a class of hard workers! We also have some great voices--we did a lot of singing today, not only with Patrick and Sophia but also with Cantor and Mrs. Greene. Don't forget to contact Patrick about children's choir if that is of interest to you. Next, week we'll be talking about Isaac, so please read the next two stories in your Torah books--and, of course, keep up with your Hebrew studies! See you next Sunday--have a great week! ☺



David Wheaton and Desiree Atherton-Greene teaching!



Nathan Atherton concentrating.



Elissa Bamberger knows the answer.



Harrison Kleiner reading .

6/7 with Steve and Linda Sackin
harryjepstein@hotmail.com

Cantor had the students work on the V'hav'ta prayer again. We further delved into the concept L'shon hara. This week we considered how this can damage someone's reputation. After discussion the students wrote about it. One student wrote this:

Reputation

*Those who light
the wildfires of rumors
slaughter the reputation
of innocent bystanders.*

*One who perceives
only what can be broken,
cannot view a
full picture.*

*The truth must be heard
yet it causes so much pain.
Then lies solve the puzzle
of gossip.*

*If this judgment
is so vital,
Why is it, then,
so breakable?*

*Those who nurture
and harness murdered souls
will never heal the hearts
they tore.*

On the garden project we were helped by the 2-3 and 4-5 classes. We continued removing asphalt. Hopefully, next week we will finish this aspect of the project. Also we built the first compost bin and constructed the first pile. Please bring us your plant waste so we can recycle it. Also, consider stopping by and lending a hand. We need your help. Besides, a little hard labor does a body good!



Milan Naster swinging the sledge hammer. Whew...how much more asphalt is left!??

ADULT EDUCATION/ KOLLEL AMI with BARRY SPEERT
Barryspeert@aol.com

Individuals attending *Rabbinic Views on the News* looked at Veterans Day from a Jewish perspective, utilizing text found in this week's Haftorah portion. The group noted how Jews in Biblical times had been attacked and threatened by the Amalekites who were named after Esau's grandson Amalek. Participants read the first few verses of Malachi in which G-d expresses hatred toward Esau and proclaims that Esau's descendants will be unsuccessful in their endeavors.

From Haman to Hitler and up through today, enemies of the Jewish people have been viewed as Amalekites that the Bible commands be wiped out. Threats like these have made it necessary for Jews and other freedom loving peoples to stand ready militarily to resist any such foe. Interestingly, while it has become fashionable to celebrate the ancient victory of the Maccabees, the Jewish community is reluctant to think of and to thank military personnel who have come to our aid more recently and in contemporary times.

Given the disproportionate number of veterans found among homeless and impoverished populations in America today, the group sited COPP as one way in which to help veterans and other needy people within our own metropolitan area. That this type of work should be approached on an interfaith basis was demonstrated by sharing the true story about four American chaplains including a Reform Rabbi who sacrificed their lives together during a World War II sea battle so that others could live.

****BUSY BUDDIES THIS SUNDAY! BREAKFAST 9:00 AND CLASS WITH MEGAN KRAUS FROM 10:00 - 12:00! COME HAVE FUN! ☺***

MENSCH ALERT! MENSCH ALERT! MENSCH ALERT! MENSCH ALERT!

Did you notice the people working to clean-up our playground? It was a group of Eagle Scouts who brought along adults and friends to beautify our grounds. They voluntarily worked until after 2:30pm raking, fixing equipment, and tidying up. How wonderful! Look!

