



Congregation Kol Ami
Religious School
CHAI TIMES

January 30, 2011

Chai Family Time



Chai Family Time began with Hamotsi led by Patrick so that we could eat the wonderful bagels and delicious items Debbie Speert and Sheryl Sands prepared for us. Later, we learned of many opportunities in our community to get involved through the Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Center. Everyone was encouraged to log onto their website to take advantage of these opportunities. Lisa Greenwald shared that she has participated in the PJ Library program with both Jonathan and Leah and has received many wonderful Jewish books. So, check it out!

We discussed the current Israeli Emissary, Lilach Nissim, visiting us on Sunday, February 27th and the following Sunday, March 6th to talk to us about her experience in the Israeli army and to share her knowledge of life in Israel. I heard back from her this week, and she is having to cancel the dates that she was to come. On Sunday we will discuss the possibility of other dates.

Elissa Bamberger, a student of Linda and Steve Sackin, shared her thoughts on the topics her class is currently studying by reading what she had written. She very eloquently read what she considers 'sacred'. We all very much enjoyed her thoughts. Mazel Tov!

Elizabeth Rosin shared the following Harvesters updates:

> FEBRUARY'S THEME IS 'PERSONAL CARE'. This would include toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper, etc. However, you can bring food, too. We just want to KEEP FILLING THE BARRELS!

> Mark your calendars for SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH from 2-4pm for CHAI SCHOOL VOLUNTEER DAY AT HARVESTERS! We will sign up this Sunday during Chai Family Time and space is limited to 20 people. Adults and kids 6 years old and up are welcome. So, check your calendars now.

Steve Sackin shared with us that it won't be long before we will need to be preparing God's Garden for spring planting and asked for ideas of what to plant. Previously, he has asked us to consider the future of God's Garden in the continuing history of Kol Ami. We all decided that what really mattered was what we were doing now. He reminded everyone to bring in their compost, and Jerry Weinbaum shared with us how she uses a plastic coffee container to collect her compost each week and then washes it before she begins her collection again for the next week. The snap-on lid is a plus in combating the odor! ☺

We ended with Patrick leading us in song, dancing around the room while singing, and holding hands in our circle while saying our closing prayers before everyone went off to learn their story.

I think we are very, very fortunate to have such wonderful people who enjoy being together on Sunday mornings. You won't find that just anywhere, and that's a fact! Shalom.

K-1 with Stan Strauss

We had a very full morning in the K-1 class. We began with our prayer for giving Tzedakah and opened our box and placed our contributions in it. The class has decided they would like to give to Wayside Waifs. One of our commanded mitzvahs is to care for animals and this is one way the kids decided to meet that goal. We reviewed our celebration of Tu B' Shevat as we introduced the mitzvah *bal tash 'chit*, meaning "Do not destroy." We talked about it and then played a game with ways to help the environment. A copy of the game went home with the kids.

Our Torah story continued the story of Moses. We learned how his mother and sister in Pharaoh's palace raised him for the first three years. At three years of age, he was introduced to Pharaoh, who at first liked the idea of having a Jew as his grandson. He changed his mind, however, and Moses was raised as a prince of Egypt. We then learned how Moses discovered his true identity and later took pity on a slave being mistreated by an Egyptian taskmaster. Moses ended up killing the taskmaster and fled Egypt. This is where we will pick up next week.

The kids went to Hebrew with Patrick. They are simply amazing! I am so impressed with their retention rate and how fast they are learning. Patrick then came to the room for songs and merriment.

Stay warm and enjoy the snow. You might think about throwing out breadcrumbs or birdseed so the birds don't have to dig so deep for food. Shalom, and see you on Sunday!



2-3 with Annette Carlson



5-8 with Steve and Linda Sackin

After Hebrew with Patrick, we continued exploring our penchant for seeking the sacred. What constitutes the sacred? We considered the pious Islamic believer whose attempt to dedicate his action to his God as well as to engage in an activity honored by, at least some of his people, that leads to suicide murder. Are intentions sufficient in seeking the sacred? In addition, how can we know what we believe to be sacred actually is? We talked about how what we believe can profoundly shape society. We considered the Adam and Eve story and how Eve's role was used for so long as a rationale to subordinate women. We ended the discussion noting Judaism's tact of following the mitzvot as a guide toward what is sacred.

Jumping into the mosaic project, we spent the next section of class breaking plates into the pieces we would use. Lastly, we went briefly outside to check out status of the garden, recycle food wastes, and check evidence for hobos living in the woods east of the garden.



Music with Patrick Buckley

Hebrew with Patrick Buckley



Confirmation with Cantor Silbersher



Adult Education with Barry Speert

The following article based on the scholarly work of Rabbi Joseph Telushkin is one that adult education participants may wish to return to from time to time. While the article has only six paragraphs, each paragraph is deftly written and capable of sparking a worthwhile discussion. The paragraph the group will be focusing on for its 2/6 session is the one that relates to wisdom.

EXCERPT: a wise person is not necessarily the one who is always teaching people, but the one who is always open to learning. Because if you're always just trying to teach, at a certain point you're just going to be recycling your own material. You're not acquiring new material, broader understanding. A person who is open to learning from every encounter, that's the one who is really going to become a person of great wisdom.

[Click here: Telushkinism: Words to live by in 2011](http://www.jewishjournal.com/articles/print/telushkinism_words_to_live_by_in_2011_20110111/)

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Discussants will have the opportunity to react to this paragraph, offer their own definitions of wisdom and give examples of individuals they have known who personify wisdom. For more information on this topic and to suggest future articles for group consideration, contact Barry Speert.

Below are the adults that have chosen to lead their own discussion for adult education in the absence of Barry due to his speaking engagements. What a beautiful sight! Mazel Tov!



Further Things of Importance:

>Does anyone have a toaster that they would donate to Kol Ami? We use them on Sunday mornings to toast bagels, and currently we have just one 4-slice toaster that only 2 of the slices work! Can you help?

>Who would be willing to teach us something during Chai Family Time? It can be of your choosing, as long as it benefits us all as Jews. I need volunteers to step forward and share with us something that you consider important. Our children have done it, now it is your turn. I'll be waiting! ☺ Sign-up will begin Sunday. Thanks!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13 **POTLUCK BREAKFAST!******

****SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20 ****BUSY BUDDIES******

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27 **POTLUCK BREAKFAST!******

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

MONDAY, MARCH 21PURIM

*****SPRING BREAK-NO SCHOOL 13TH & 20TH – BACK ON SUNDAY, MARCH 27TH!!!!*****

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

SUNDAY, APRIL 3 **POTLUCK BREAKFAST!******

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

****SUNDAY, APRIL 17....PASSOVER CELEBRATION!!! ****BUSY BUDDIES******

MONDAY, APRIL 18....PASSOVER BEGINS AT SUNDOWN

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

TUESDAY, APRIL 26....LAST NIGHT OF PASSOVER

SUNDAY, MAY 1....YOM HA'SHOAH (HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY) *POTLUCK!*****