



HIWP Youth Department Newsletter

Torah Tots Program

Torah Tots, the new Shabbat group for our youngest children, has gotten off to a great start! Designed for children through age 3, the program features singing and stories, followed by a small healthy snack, and is led by a parent with the assistance of Milissa Greenstein and the program is held during group time (starting at 10:15) in conjunction with and in the same room as the normally scheduled babysitting with the assistance of our weekly babysitter, Balinda. We are very excited about this new program and think it will be a wonderful way to introduce our babies and toddlers to Shabbat songs and prayers in a familiar and warm environment.

The parental commitment would be minimal (one Shabbat every 2-3 months) and all hand-outs for the songs are provided. Please contact Kara Olson, olsonk1111@gmail.com, with any questions or interests in becoming a volunteer. The first volunteer schedule has not yet been put together, so there is still time to get on the roster (of course, it is never too late, and all are welcome regardless!) We look forward to seeing you there!

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Youth Leader Shabbaton

Back in November, the first ever Youth Leader Shabbaton took place with our Youth Directors, Rabbi Moshe Goodman and Rachel Spinner. The teens started their evening with a quick ice breaker called, "give me a song". The teens were asked to think of a song that contains the "buzz" word provided by Rachel or Moshe. Ask any participant, they'll say it was the highlight of the evening. After a delicious dinner catered by Eden Wok, the teens broke up into two groups (divided by boys and girls). Each had a 20 minute session with Rachel and then swapped to have a 20 minute session with Moshe. These sessions, both Friday night and Saturday touched upon important things to keep in mind when leading a Shabbat group. Topics ranged from *t'filah* to how to lead a game. The teens were also given an opportunity to voice their concerns and ask any questions about their experiences so far as group leaders. We are excited to hear what Rabbi Moshe and Rachel have in store for our teens as the year progresses.

Meet Our Teen Leaders...

So teen leaders, tell us who you are...where you go to school... and something special you'd like us to know about you!



Sam Davidowitz-Neu

Grade 11 at Westchester Hebrew High school

"I have a sister who works at Google in California and I like to bike"

(Boys group grades 1-5)



Ari Marder

Grade 10 at Westchester Hebrew High School

"I enjoy memorizing the periodic table and reciting it forwards and backwards in under 2 minutes"

(Boys group grades 1-5)



Sarah Dunn

Grade 7 at Solomon Schechter

"I love to play tennis"

(3-5 year-old group)



Shira Marder

Grade 11 at Maayanot

"I can stand on my hand and snap my fingers"

(3-5 year-old group)



Zach Ganzarski

Grade 11 at Westchester Hebrew High School

"I am an avid paint-baller and video-gamer and hockey player"

(Boys group grade 6)

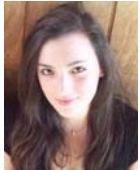


Daniel Orentlicher

Grade 10 at Solomon Schechter High School

"I like to make short films and learn animation and graphic design"

(Boys group grades 1-5)



Lexy Grant

Grade 10 at Solomon Schechter High School

"My favorite animal is a cow"

(Girls group grade 3-5)



Jeremy Reich

Grade 10 at Solomon Schechter High School

I am a certified Scuba-diver, sailor, and lifeguard

(Boys group grades 1-5)



Tori Grant

Grade 9 at Solomon Schechter High School

"I love to collect candles"

(Girls group grade 6)



Rebecca Rimsky

Grade 9 at Solomon Schechter High School

"I love dipping oreos in peanut butter."

(Girls group grade 6)



Sydney Grant

Grade 7 at Solomon Schechter

"I like to scrapbook"

(3-5 year-old group)



Jessica Schwartz

Grade 9 at Scarsdale High School

"My favorite food is French fries"

(Girls group grade 3-5)



Melissa Greenstein

Grade 10 at Solomon Schechter High School

"I love acting!"

(Torah Tot group)



Lucy Schwartz

Grade 11 at White Plains High School

"I love journalism, acting, and my group!"

(Girls group grade 1-2)



Samantha Greenstein

Grade 12 at Solomon Schechter High School

"I love my group!"

(3-5 year-old group)



Zachary Unger

Grade 9 at SAR High School

"I like playing sports and I can play them all day."

(Boys group grades 1-5)



Rani Kubersky

Grade 8 at SAR Academy

"I enjoy singing, acting, and dancing."

(Girls group grades 1-2)



Aaron Wagner

Grade 10 at SAR High School

"I like hanging out with my friends"

(Boys group grades 1-5)



Akiva Marder

Grade 8 at Westchester Day School

"I have a lifelong dream of meeting Condoleeza Rice and I enjoy playing basketball with my friends"

(Boys group grades 1-5)

If you'd like to learn more about our teen leaders, just find them in *shul*. They are quite friendly and don't bite!

HIWP Teens Give to Others With Project Embrace

Several times this winter, HIWP teens have come to the Hebrew Institute to pack food, coffee and clothing and pile into cars to drive to the subway line in the Bronx. Led by Rabbi Moshe and joined by congregants, parents and middle schoolers, they helped to feed and clothe needy people on the subways. .

It has been a beautiful learning and bonding experience for all. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Project Embrace such a success.

Thanks also to those who donated clothing and other items and those who helped pack. Stay tuned for details on our next Project Embrace opportunity!



We Only Ask of You...PLEASE READ!!!

Groups begin at 10:30 and end at 11:45 (or when Anim Zmirot begin). As a courtesy to those who arrive at shul earlier, children are welcome to come to the Youth lounge for some pre-group organized play.

Children who participate in the 3-5 year old groups must be ESCORDED to groups by their parents. Parents should NOT linger in the classrooms when groups are in session. It can be distracting to the leaders, and to the children who are participating in the program.

If children are not in groups, they MUST be in the sanctuary with their parents. It is dangerous for them to be roaming around the building unattended. Any child found in the hallways will be brought to their parents.

Movie Night Mishmar With Rabbi Moshe

On Saturday night November 13th our 6-8th graders were treated to HIWP's first ever Movie Night *Mishmar* program. We watched Liar, Liar starring Jim Carrey and had donuts, popcorn, hot chocolate and pizza. After the movie we had a learning session discussing some of the Torah themes in the movie like honesty. Kids walked away with a different outlook on truth vs. fiction. One kid said "I've

seen 'Liar Liar' a million times and never thought I could learn some [torah] from it! Stay tuned for details on our next movie *mishmar!*



HIWP YouthDepartment

20 Greenridge Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
Rachel Spinner, Youth Director
Rabbi Moshe Goodman, Teen Coordinator
Judy Grant, Youth Chair

Bowling Night was a Big Hit!

Rabbi Moshe led a successful bowling night extravaganza at White Plains Lanes motzei shabbat, February 7th. Strikes were celebrated and gutterballs were mourned. But all in all it was a great turn out and a special thankyou to Lisa and Terrence Schwartz for their fabulous chaperoning abilities! Looking forward to another opportunity to see Moshe's "turkey dance"! No children were hurt in the process!

Things to Look Forward to...

Girls Pajama Party and Spa Night...

When: March 14th at 8:15pm

What: Grades 4-6 will have a night of pampering. We'll have face masks, try out some new hair do's (no scissors, we promise), and watch a movie. But most of all we'll have a great time just hanging out.

HIWP Family Purim Carnival

When: March 9th, following *Megillah* reading

What: Face painting, moon walk, and much much more! Come and have some family fun for all to enjoy! **Be there or be square!**

PLUS! A special prize for the best and most creative costume!

Our New Bat Mitzvah Group With Sara Kranzler

A Bat-Mitzvah group for girls preparing and celebrating their Bat-Mitzvah with HIWP will be meeting once a month at the shul. The girls will spend an hour talking about interesting topics related to becoming a Bat-Mitzvah, doing fun activities together, and hanging out with shul friends. "It was a good first meeting, and I am hoping that it will really help the girls gel," said Ms. Kranzler.

Some of the topics that will be discussed include Jewish and Personal perspectives on: Kibbud Av Ve'em/sharing, privacy, and problem solving; Being A Jewish Women: Ideas Behind the Jewish Legal System, and Laws that apply to women/Jewish Feminism; Jewish Perspectives on Being a Part of a Community/Group Dynamics, delegation, self-assessment; Nurturing Ourselves/Personal Risk taking, and Body Image; Purim Role Models of Esther and Vashti/persuasion and self-defense and the power to say what you mean without being mean; Jewish Attitudes towards Tikkun Olam; Environmental Issues.

To learn more about the Bat Mitzvah group, please contact Sara via email at sdkranz@gmail.com

A special tzeitchem l' shalom to Jeremy Reich and Samantha Greenstein on spending a semester abroad in the Holy Land. The kids will miss them dearly and look we forward to their safe return!

SEE YOU IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!!!
