

Schedule of Events

January 11 Keshet Connections is meeting at 11:30 at the school. "Fundamental Islam and Ourselves" is the topic.

January 25 Facing History and Ourselves presents "Blessed is the Match." It is the first feature documentary about Hannah Senesh, the World War II-era poet and diarist who became a paratrooper, resistance fighter, and modern-day Joan of Arc. It begins at 7 p.m.

February 1 ISEE Test Given at MJHS

D'var Torah presented by Emily Kahn

In this Parasha, Jacob dies, and is buried in Mearat-Hamachpela in Israel. His brothers, who threw him into the pit and sold him as a slave, suspect that Joseph will take the opportunity for revenge for selling him as a slave. Joseph answers, "Fear not; for am I in the place of G-d? And as for you, ye meant evil against me; but G-d meant it for good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." What does this mean? Here's a story:

"Once when Rabbi Akivah was traveling along the road, he reached a certain city, and was denied any kind of lodging. He said, 'Whatever the merciful one does, is for the best.' Then he went and slept in a field, only having a lamp, a rooster, and a donkey. Later that night, a wind swept through the field and blew out the lamp. Then a cat ate the rooster, and a lion ate the donkey. Rabbi Akivah said, 'Whatever the merciful one does, is for the best.' That same night, robbers came and attacked the city. Rabbi Akivah said, 'Whatever the Holy One, blessed is he, does is all for the good?'"

When a group of robbers came to capture the city, Rabbi Akiva was spared. But why? Because his lamp was blown out, they could not see him. Because his rooster was killed, they could not hear him. Because the donkey was killed, they could not notice him. This goes to show that G-d does everything for a reason. Even if things look bad when they happen, they could turn out to be good in the long run.

Now we can understand the answer from Joseph to his brothers. When Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave, it looked bad. But because he was sold, he had the chance to help his brothers and the people of Egypt and warn them of the famine. And during the famine, he was able to provide food for the people, and save them.

Shabbat Shalom.

Board President Andy Groveman in the Commercial Appeal - Hamas has No Interest in Peace

Israel gave up all of Gaza unilaterally more than three years ago in the hopes of peace. Nine thousand Israelis gave up their homes, places of business and worship, and schools. Every Jew left Gaza. Israel wanted a two-state solution and to live in peace. What did it get? This year alone, more than 3,000 rockets have been sent by Iran-backed terrorists in Gaza to hurt or kill Israeli civilians.

Imagine that a terrorist organization has stated to all who will listen that you have no right to exist as a people or to live in East Memphis. Now imagine that this terror organization is based in Germantown, 3 miles from where you live and from where your children and grandchildren go to school and play in parks.

When you hear a siren go off in East Memphis, your family has only 15 seconds to find a bomb shelter to avoid harm from Qassam rockets or Grad missiles that are fired from Germantown. This is exactly what occurs day in and day out in Israel.

Hamas, an internationally recognized terrorist organization, permits, encourages, funds and conducts terror attacks from Gaza against innocent Israelis.

There should be no doubt that Hamas' true vision is the extermination of Israel, and not to live peacefully side by side with Israel. Iran-backed Hamas does not even seek to restore normalcy for the sake of the people of Gaza. The world should stand up for Arab civilians who are being used as human shields by Iran-backed terrorists.

Imagine someone telling you that you have no right to protect your family or your country when someone is deliberately shooting rockets and missiles with the intent

of killing you. This would be preposterous. Israel should be supported and applauded for its actions in defending its citizens and fighting the Iran-backed terrorist organization Hamas.

Finally, imagine a world where there is peace, loving-kindness and caring for one another. This is what Israel stands for. Israel and its people are pursuers of peace -- have been and always will be.

Andy Groveman
Memphis

National Honor Society comes to MJHS!

The Memphis Jewish High School administration and faculty are very proud to announce that the National Honor Society has come to our school! Sonya Fleck will serve as the NHS Advisor and soon we will begin the process of selecting students for membership. The National Honor Society is a very prestigious organization that recognizes academic scholarship.

MJHS Athletic Program adds Tennis

All MJHS students are invited to join the first tennis team at the school. Please see Dr. Cowett if interested. Our own Julie Nahon will serve as coach. Tennis practice times and matches are to be determined.

Mark Cowett attending Yeshiva University's Model UN

Dr. Cowett, Dean of General Studies, will be attending Yeshiva University's Model UN on February 8-10 in Stamford, Connecticut. He will be observing the process in order to organize a team from MJHS next year. The Model UN is a wonderful program designed to expose high school students around the country to a simulation of the United Nations and international diplomacy.

Open Invitation Anytime!

The Memphis Jewish High School invites you to come for a tour of our school! We have been busy this past month giving tours of the school and hosting prospective students for a day of classes. Dr. Elizabeth Brock McBride, Head of School, remarked, "The students that have visited our school are very impressed with our program and our facility. I think they especially enjoy having a lap top computer for the day when they visit our classes!"

Call 901.767.4818 for a tour or a day of shadowing.

ISEE Test Site

MJHS will be hosting the ISEE on February 1. Exam check-in begins at 9:00 a.m. and the test will begin at 9:30.

The Independent School Entrance Examination (ISEE) is a three-hour admission test for entrance into grades five through twelve required by private schools. MJHS is the only school in the region that will administer the test on Sundays.

Students may register for the ISEE test online at www.erbtest.com. The ISEE may only be taken once within a six-month period, and it must be taken for admission to a school, not as a practice test.

The registration deadline for the February test is January 11th. If applicants have any questions, they may call MJHS at 767-4818.

Mazal Tov

To **Yossi and Yona Cohen** on the birth of their daughter, Roni, on December 24.

To **Courtney Thomas' sister, Atara** for her wedding this weekend!

To the **Kevin Wender** for his birthday on January 6.