

Schedule of Events

January 18 Stand with Israel Rally at the JCC at 2:00

January 18 The 42nd annual Belz-Parker Artists Ascending Concert Series Presents Jourdan Urback at the Baron Hirsch in the Belz Sanctuary. The 16-year old concert violinist has been compared to a young Paganini by New York critics. Admission is free.

January 19 School closed for Martin Luther King, Jr.

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 Elana Malkin

The Parashah Shemot begins with the slavery of the Jews in Egypt, and immediately tells us of the birth of Moshe, the one who would ultimately free them of that slavery. The Torah tells us of Moshe's parents by simply relating (2:1) that a man from Levi went and married the daughter of Levi. The Talmud explains this strange language (Sotah 1:2) - Moshe's parents had his sister Miriam (and Aaron), but after the Egyptian decree to kill all the Jewish males, they decided not to have any more children. Miriam, who was 5 at the time, rebuked them, claiming that while Pharaoh looked to prevent the males from living, they were preventing the females from living too, since all the Jews followed their example! It was because of her argument that they got back together, and had Moshe a year later. Which brings us to a fascinating thought ...

Pharaoh had all the Jewish males killed because he was told that a Jewish leader would be male and that the leader would have something to do with water. Not only was Moshe male and Jewish, but he was saved from the water by Pharaoh's own daughter, ended up being raised in the royal palace, and was even named Moshe (which Batya named him because she "drew him from the water")!! Was Pharaoh so blind that he didn't

see that Moshe was the Jewish leader he was warned about? Also, why was Moshe called his whole life by the name given to him by Pharaoh's daughter, and not the one given to him by his own parents? As the Lekach Tov helps to explain, we have to know that throughout life there's a grand plan, and it will happen with or without us, so we may as well be a part of the solution. We can be the way Moshe's parents originally were, and justify doing things we know are wrong. Or we can do the right thing, despite the consequences we know might follow, and trust that things will work out. God wanted Moshe to live, so he made sure Pharaoh did not realize the obvious, despite what logic would dictate. But it only happened because Moshe's parents actively decided to do what they knew was right and let destiny happen. The very name 'Moshe' symbolizes the ultimate trust Moshe and his family had in God!

Shabbat Shalom.

Mid-Year Parent Meetings with Dr. McBride

Dr. McBride has been scheduling mid-year parent meetings this past week. Although we like to have continuous communication with parents throughout the school year, these meetings are designed to give parents a little extra personal time with the Head of School. If you have not already had a meeting or scheduled one, please call the office and set up an appointment.

Dr. Cowett is invited to Read for AP College Board

Dr. Mark Cowett has been invited to be a reader of Advanced Placement American History exams for the College Board. This will take place in Louisville, Kentucky from June 4 to June 12. This is the second year that he has been asked to serve.

Jeff Lewis comes to MJHS with Junior Achievement

This semester, MJHS is very fortunate to be taking part in Junior Achievement. Junior Achievement (JA) is a partnership between the business community, educators and volunteers - all working together to inspire young people to dream big and reach their potential. JA's programs teach the key concepts of work readiness,

entrepreneurship and financial literacy to young people all over the world. Jeff Lewis, a Financial Advisor at FedEx and a Chartered Financial Analyst, is our community volunteer. He is working with Libbee Clifford in teaching Economics to the juniors enrolled in Government/Economics.

To **Jeremy Jackson** from Balfour for bringing a poster of our first Class Rings for the school to display.

Special Class Schedule for Viewing Presidential Inauguration

The Memphis Jewish High School has altered the class schedule for the entire school on January 20 so that all students can view the Inauguration Ceremony of Barak Obama. Students will be viewing the ceremony in the library on our state of the art equipment.

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.

Toda Raba

To **Rabbi Micah Greenstein** for speaking at our Kabbalat Shabbat today!