

KOL KADIMA

The Voice of the Memphis Jewish High School

Vol.2 No. 17

5 Shvat, 5768

January 11, 2008

Parsha: Bo

Candle Lighting 4:49 p.m.

Havdalah 5:51 p.m.

Schedule of Events

Jan 15-16: SACS evaluation committee will be visiting the school. This is the last and most significant step of our accreditation process. We hope it will all go well and that we will be accredited in record time.

Jan 17: Our second annual “**Tu-Bishvat Global Seder**”. Our 9th grade will participate in a world event to mark the traditional agriculture new year on the 15th of Shvat.

They will hold a Video-Conference with a school in Israel, a school in Milwaukee, and the ‘Efrat’ organization in Israel, who will plant a tree in Israel in the name of the Kadima class of 2011.

The freshmen are really working hard to prepare for this event. All parents are invited to participate as well.

Jan 18. Our sophomores will have a half **Shabbaton**, including a Friday night dinner and a (local) Tu-Bishvat Seder at the Gellmans.

Jan 27 Keshet-Konnection, session 4: “60 years of Aliya” Sunday, 11:00—12:45. We will mark this event with an ‘**Israeli food and Music Festival**’. It will be lots of fun.

Past Week Events

Getting back in the swing of things was tough for all of us, but having a weekend after only 2 days at school made it easier.

We are glad to welcome two new staff members:

1. **Dr. Scott Beebe** who was teaching the Spanish class is becoming a full time staff member. Dr. Scott Beebe is a child and adolescent psychologist. Dr. Beebe will work with students and staff several days a week. He has many years of experience working with youth. After

receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Memphis, he served as a psychologist for Shelby County Schools for eleven years. In private practice, he focuses on study coaching and psycho educational assessment. He has been providing study coaching for students in Memphis for the past fifteen years.

At Memphis Jewish High School, Dr. Beebe will work with the student body to enhance teamwork, school spirit and conflict resolution skills. He will also help students develop improved study skills and consult with staff and parents to best meet the educational needs of individual students.

Welcome and good luck.

See full story in next week’s Hebrew Watchman

2. Mrs. Mary Gattas is joining Mrs. Sarah Lewis in the office management. Starting Thursday, January 17th she will be working at the school 4 days a week, from 7:15 in the morning. Mrs. Gattas has established a track record for productivity in employment and academic work. She is very dynamic, and has the skills for dealing with all levels of professionals. She was an Office Manager in a law firm, an assistant director of a school, and an educator in Memphis, providing leadership to youth groups and programs.

Welcome to MJHS and good luck.

Todah Raba

To **Mrs. Sherry Weinblatt** who helped us so much over the past 2 months in the front office. Sherry filled in for the days that Sarah wasn’t in and came 15 minutes before the school opened to welcome the students. She also helped get us through many challenges such as the school dinner in December. We wish her good luck in her new job, and we are thankful for everything!

To Logan Belz for the nice Kabbalat Shabbat treats.

This week in Judaic studies

The Oral Torah classes of the next few weeks are dedicating to a special topic: **Modernity and Halcha** (Jewish Law).

We started with the topic of **Surrogate mothers**, and dealt with the question who is the real mother, the genetic mother or the surrogate one. There are different Halachic ramifications. What if one of the mothers in Jewish and the other is not, is the child considered Jewish or not?

Naftali Moses from Israel, who wrote his doctorate on Modernity and Halacha, lectured to us on the topic and summarized our class discussion. Ask your kids, they will tell you all about it.

The next topics will examine the Jewish point of view on **abortion, disconnecting from life support**, and **Shemita** (the sabbatical year of the land in Israel).

In Bible the sophomores finished another book (Shmuel 2). They will now start the Iyun Part of the course in the book of 'Bamidbar' – Numbers.

The freshmen are finishing up their Iyun studies in the book of kings and are starting the Bekiut Program from Joshua. Mrs. Shlomit Gellman will be their teacher for this part of the course.

D'var Torah for Parshat 'BO' by Logan Belz

Borrowing, taking with permission or stealing?

In our Parasha we read about Israel borrowing merchandise from the Egyptians right before leaving Egypt for good, with no intention to return them:

"Speak now in the ears of the people, and let them ask every man of his neighbor, and every woman of her neighbor, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold."

And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people.

And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they asked of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment.

And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. And they despoiled the Egyptians.

Moses tells the people of Israel to barrow gold and silver from the Egyptians. G-D gave them the power to take advantage of the Egyptians. The moral question is, could it be that G-D and Moses give them such a commandment to take advantage of the Egyptian, knowing that they are not coming back!?

The Midrash tells us that during the plague of darkness when the Egyptians could not see but the Jews could see all the gold and silver the Egyptians had. During those 5 days, the Jews went into the Egyptian homes they saw all the property of the Egyptians but they did not take anything because they were not thieves and they had strong morals.

When it comes time to leave Egypt if not for G-D's commandment they would never fool the Egyptians. But, they got permission from G-D to demand and take what they really deserved after 210 years of slavery. This happens to be some kind of a payback for all of the suffering in the past. It's not like they took the law in their own hands but G-D gave them a commandment to perform justice!

The proof that Israel would never do such an immoral thing is, when they got a chance to take during the plague of darkness any thing they want, but they did not touch.

The lesson we could learn from here is that we have to be very careful with others property. Especially when we thing we deserve a share, or when we think our neighbors do not mind. We are not to touch, even when they don't see, and further more, we are not to pay ourselves if it's not offered to us.
Shabbat Shalom

Mazal Toy

Kevin Wender on his birthday.