

# KOL KADIMA

The Voice of the Memphis Jewish High School

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Parsha: Vayakhel

24 Adar 1, 5768  
Candle Lighting 5:37 p.m.

Feb 29, 2008  
Havdalah 6:38 p.m.

## Schedule of Events

Sunday, March 2 GPAC Concert, “**L’Chaim! To Life!**” With the **Three Cantors**, @ 3:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for MJHS families and faculty to enjoy an afternoon of special music together. Following the concert, MJHS will host a reception to meet-and-greet the Three Cantors.

Monday, March 3 @ 7:30pm at the school. **Parents meeting** with the Teamtrek representative to hear more about the program the students are going on and answer some questions.

March 9 – 12 **Teamtrek** program for all the students at Heber-Springs, Arkansas. It will be awesome. Two student committees are planning the menu and night activities for these 4 days.

Friday, March 14 End of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and **parent conferences** starting 10:45am at the school.

Friday, March 21 8:00am – 10:00am Special Purim Program at the Memphis Jewish Home.

## D’var torah for Parshat Vayakhel

We often hear the expression “the ends justifies the means”. What is implied is that sometimes it is legitimate to act in a wrong and even immoral manner as long as we do so for a justifiable purpose. This is strongly denied in our Parsha, and in accordance to the interpretation the Rabbis give it.

Moshe conveys to the Israelites the command he received from G-D to build a Mishkan (tabernacle). Before he explains to the people what is expected of them, he first emphasizes that

the Mitzvah of Shabbat must be kept. It is not permitted to desecrate Shabbat even to build a Mishkan. It seems that building a Mishkan is such a significant task that one may build even on Shabbat.

This is exactly what Moshe wants to avoid. He makes clear that although constructing a Mishkan carries with it a high priority and must be pursued without delay, building it does not allow one to tread upon other Mitzvot. In other words, the end does not justify the means.

We often overlook some of our understanding of right and wrong and feel that we are justified in doing so because we are aiming to fulfill a worthwhile task. This is exactly what the Torah through Moshe demonstrates that it is wrong. We must never step over the line of what is right.

Shabbat Shalom

## Charity Committee Announcement

The student charity committee is organizing **two** very special campaigns towards Purim. One of the obligations of the Purim Holiday is charity, kindness and responsibility towards our fellow Jews.

The first campaign is delivering Shalach-Manot on the day of Purim to the children of Sderot, Israel. These children are suffering from daily missile attacks, and have been living for the past 6 years in fear. Anything we could do to cheer them up will be great. Many Jewish people around the world are participating in this Shalach-Manot dedication to these children and our students decided to donate the charity box proceeds to this important purpose. The Bat-Ami

girls at the MHA will organize the delivery of the Shalach-Manot to Sderot.

The second campaign will be a fundraiser for [Ezer-Mizion](#) one of the largest charity organizations in Israel. We will fundraise for a specific target such as a summer camp scholarship for a young cancer patient or some toys for kids who are going through Chemotherapy.

The students will sell Shalach-Manot postcards, which can be sent out to your friends instead of a regular eatable Shalach-Manot. All the money will go directly to Ezer-Mizion on the day of Purim (March 21), so anyone who donates will also fulfill the obligation of giving charity on Purim day.

### **Mazal Tov !!!**

- To Binyamin Besser on his 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday.
- To the Besser Family for joining MJHS family.

### **Behatzlach – Good Luck !!!**

- To Monte Eiseman and Kevin Wender on their basketball tournament down in Miami this weekend.
- To Shahar Pe'er, the No.1 Israeli Tennis player and No. 18 in the world, who already made it to the semi-finals of the Memphis tournament. We wish her Behatzlacha and we hope she comes in first!

### **Condolences**

We would like to send our condolences to Gary Malkin and his family on the recent passing of his aunt, Celia Burson. A”H.

## **Educational Corner by Ms. Deforest / Art**

On Wednesday morning, I attended the memorial service for a dear artist friend who was the mother of one of my former studio co-workers. During the service, three people spoke about her life and her art. One person was a religious leader, one a retired professor of history, and the last, an art history professor at the same college where my friend had taught. Each had very wise words to say about art, death and the meaning of life.

The religious leader said he thought that an artist's work-painting, sculpture, music, dance or theater-was their version of a prayer. Each artist tries to make the world more beautiful and more meaningful to others and himself by creating art and putting those creations out for all to enjoy. He thought that the meaning of life was to love others and to show compassion and love in our daily life.

The history teacher told of the artist's place in the context of our culture...how she used her art in all aspects of her life. Her garden, her cooking and her actual works of art showed her love of order, color, beauty and friends. She made wonderful Southern meals that were beautiful on a plate and crafted with the same care she used in her paintings. She used colorful plants in her garden in the same way she used colors of paint in her art. She made all welcome in her home with her wonderful gift of embracing all types of people like she embraced unusual materials in her work.

The art history professor told how deeply this woman cared about her students and the quality of their work and the quality of her teaching. He made references to her gift of inspiring others to strive for high quality in their artwork and in their lives.

As I listened to these speakers, I thought how honored I am to be an artist, if these are the definitions of an artist. And I hoped, so very much, that I would be able to pass along to our students some of this woman's legacy of compassion, beauty and excellence.