

The Gan Shalom Gazette



Gan Shalom Early Childhood Program

Volume 4, Issue 4
February/March, 2004

Director's Corner

Dear Parents

Time is flying and we are now well into 2004. The Hanukkah "Gifts Galore" Bazaar was a great success. Thanks to all of those who helped make it such a success, and especially to Debra Booker who was in charge of organizing the event. We raised almost \$900!!

Thanks also for making the Hanukkah Party such a festive event. I hope you enjoyed the food and Cambo the Clown (and thanks to the Rudders' for sponsoring Cambo).

As you know Early Registration is almost over. If you have friends who might be interested, they can now enter into the early registration period as well. The sooner we get registrations in, the easier it will be for us to plan for the Summer and Fall.

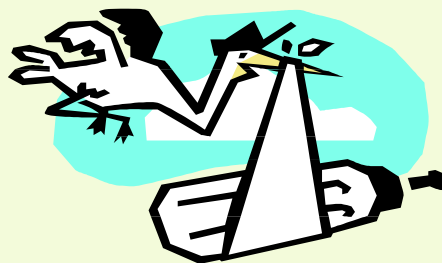
We also bid farewell to Susan Caldwell, the lead teacher for the afternoon program. Susan had long planned to enter into the antique business with a partner and had anticipated this would take a while. An opportunity came up much sooner and she had to move fast. We wish her the best of luck. Our new Lead

Teacher for the Afternoon Program, Eileen Eagle, has already taught for a couple of weeks here, and has developed some wonderful new content for the curriculum. Eileen's extensive lead teacher experience is really showing, and we feel very fortunate that she found us.

Last, but not least, the website has been updated with new information for this year and next, including new weather closing information. Please visit and let us know what else you would like us to put up there.

Ziggy Rivkin-Fish

Congratulations



to the Kash family on their son's birth. Judah Samuel was born Saturday February the 7th.



יום הולדת
שנתי!

Important Dates in February:

Ms. Kelly 4

Important Dates in March:

Mr. Ziggy 7

Sayuri 11
2 years

Kiley 21
3 years

Charlotte 27
2 years

Remember!

Monday March 8th is Dress-up day. Have your children come in their favorite costume.

"I feel happy in my heart when Sophie isn't sick"
Itai on "What is Love?"



It has been awhile since our last newsletter and we have sure done a lot during that time.

During December we enjoyed 2 weeks of Chanukah fun! We made dreidels, menorahs and Chanukah frames. We also played 2 games where we hid the gelt and a jar of oil and the kids had a wonderful time trying to find them. One of my favorite Chanukah projects we did was make a dreidel out of a Hershey Kiss and a toothpick (they really work). We also made a hand game in which we all learned how to flip the latkes. Rabbi Cohen was very impressed with how much the children had learned about the story of Chanukah. We had

Preschool Room News

many fun songs to share at the Chanukah Party. "The Maccabees, S'Vee Von, and many more"

When we returned from our winter break we began a 2 week unit on Winter. We made many snowmen, snowwomen, and snowflakes. The children really enjoyed having a snowball fight in the classroom. (Balls made from T.P.) We did a science experiment to see which would make the ice melt fastest...Salt or Water.

We also had a special snack of shaved ice and snowballs (powdered donuts)

I also froze toys into a large block of ice and put it in the sensory table. The children put on their smocks and began chipping away at the ice to get the toys out.

We were lucky enough to have snow during this time and we were able to go outside and make a snowman,

which we topped with a Kippah.

Our next unit was on Feelings. I was able to find many good books about how we feel. We discussed how important it is to think about other people's feelings and how our actions make them feel.

Tu B' Shvat came at the beginning of February. We made Palm trees, and planted parsley in a face cup, which we are watering and waiting for to begin growing. Hopefully, we can use some of the parsley for Passover.

Rabbi Cohen taught us a new song called TU BI - SH'VAT HEE GEE-A.

During President's Day week we also learned about George Washington and Abe Lincoln. We have tried our hands at coin rubbings. We will also be making log cabins and talking about how important it is to tell the truth. We will be making a 6'4 Abe Lincoln so we can see how tall he was compared to us.

We will also be making assorted crafts with hearts. We have spoken about what Love is and what it means to each of us. We had so many nice answers. What GREAT kids we have!!

Ms. Amy

Afternoon Program News

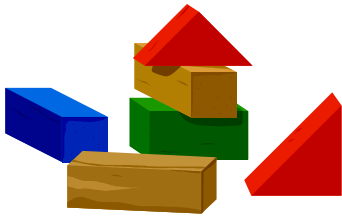
Last week we spent some time getting to know each other. The children were very excited to learn a new song "Tiny Tim" (a.k.a. the turtle song). So this week, we all have agreed that we would learn more about Turtles. We will be doing different crafts with turtles and learn some fun facts about them also. Ms. Amy visited the library and found some great books on Turtles, and

Ms. Eileen will be bringing in a Turtle on Thursday. In addition to turtles we will be talking about frogs and crocodiles. We will also be making heart crafts during the week.

Ms. Eileen

"My mom put gasoline on my lips today because they are sore..."

Veronica (we assume she meant Vaseline!)



Hello!

I hope everyone has had a wonderful start to a great year! I know your children have. They have grown and matured so much since last August! It is hard to believe some of the changes we have seen in them as they learn to explore their world. We have done so much in the past few months. First we started with Thanksgiving where we made items that Native Americans and Pilgrims would have had and made LOTS of turkeys. We then went to a unit on music where we marched in a parade, made maracas and a Kazoo, and learned to ribbon dance.

TODDLER ROOM NEWS

We started learning all about Hanukkah next. The children are still asking for the Hanukkah songs we learned. They love them! WE made so many fun crafts during Hanukkah. We made some for our Hanukkah Party, some to hang and some to take home. We made dreidels and menorahs, sponge painted, made cards for our family and made a star of David. I hope everyone had a great time at our Hanukkah party!

Next we learned all about Winter. We now know what you should wear during winter so you won't get cold. We also heard lots of stories about animals that like the ice and snow and of course about snowmen and sledding! We made lots of snow men and snowflakes during this unit. We made icicles and even painted with col-

ored ice cubes.

We went on to learn about space. The children really enjoyed looking and learning about the planets, stars, the moon, and sun, and most of all - rocket ships!

We also completed our unit on Tu B'Shvat where we learned all about the trees. We counted trees, painted trees, and made some trees with playdough. We also rubbed crayons on pine needles covered with paper for a special print and pine smell. All the children enjoyed their "tree" smell. The children also enjoyed their "tree" crayon.

I look forward to having lots of fun with all the children as we explore and learn.

Susan Elliott

Tu B'Shvat

Tu B'Shvat means the 15th of the month of Shvat. It is not mentioned as a holiday in the Tanakh (old testament), and is mentioned instead in the commentaries as a day of for calculating planting season for fruit trees. The reason for this lies in the commandment that a tithing of fruit from trees be collected as tax for the priests. Since only fruit from the same calendar year could be collected it was important to establish the New Year of the (fruit) trees. The holiday really came into existence, as a holiday, after the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492. Some of the Jews resettled in Tsfat [Safed]. Tsfat became a center of Jewish mysticism (Kabala) and the rabbis "rediscovered" the holiday as a holiday of spiritual connection with nature. With the establishment of Israel it became a holiday that reconnected the Jewish people with living on and of the land. Today it is also considered an environmental holiday, advocating the importance of preserving our trees and the natural environment in general. The holiday is celebrated with planting of trees and eating fruit from the trees.



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Dates to Remember

- ◆ February 27 —
Last Day for early registration
- ◆ March 5 —
Professional Day (G.S. Closed)
- ◆ March 8 —
Purim Dress-up Day

Purim

Purim is considered a rabbinic holiday, i.e. not mentioned in the Tanakh, since the events it commemorates took place after the Tanakh was written. Purim (from the word Pur—lot). The holiday commemorates the courage and wisdom of Esther and Mordechai who delivered the Jews of the Persian empire from death after Haman (King Ahashverosh's (Xerxes) chief advisor) had instigated a plot to have them killed on a day picked by having the King draw lots in the presence of Haman. Mordechai, Esther's uncle, had her introduced to the King and convinced her to marry him, so that she could eventually plead on the Jews' behalf and expose Haman's plot.

The holiday is quite festive and has a carnival-like atmosphere. The story of Purim, as recounted in the scroll of Esther, is recited as children (dressed up) and adults boo and make noise with noisemakers. every time Haman's name is mentioned.



Wish List

- Small Blankets
- Musical Instruments
- Stories on tape
- Dress-up clothes
(such as shoes, purses,
dresses, shirts)



- ◆ *Marie & David Rudder* for sponsoring Cambo
- ◆ *Beth Maldinger & Greg Power* for donating the wonderful fire truck in the social hall