

Chadashot

**Hakafa School News
December 2005**

Note from the Director of Education

It is hard to believe that our first semester of school is almost over at month's end. We had some excitement losing a Sunday of study to a power outage. We hope everyone had a wonderful family day that day and a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

One event worth mentioning as well is the most recent Congregation Meeting held on November 21. The Education committee, led by Beth McCullough, made a presentation to propose a new format for our Religious/Hebrew School. After the presentation was made, a vote resulted in its approval effective for the 2006-2007 school year. We are extremely excited about this approval and planning for this change and the coming school year will begin immediately. The change will be a continuation of our existing curriculum and provide a great opportunity to expand our program in general.

We are asking for your help in this collaborative process with curriculum development, brainstorming ideas, etc. Please look for the date of the next Education Committee meeting (TBA) and we hope that you will participate in this exciting endeavor. In the meantime, let's have a great December!

L'shalom, *Bibi*

Junior Choir and Purim Shpeil Performers



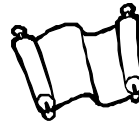
Junior Choir practice is held immediately following Sunday bagels from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. at the Glencoe Community Center when there is Religious School. Any child in second grade and up is invited to participate.

It's time to start working on this year's Purim Shpeil! If you are in 6th and up and are interested in being a performer in the Purim Shpeil at this year's carnival, please contact Sara Goodman Atar (847-507-1454 or atarsara@yahoo.com) ASAP. We will meet every Sunday when there is Religious School from 12:20 to 1:00 p.m.

Coffee Room



Please join other Hakafa parents for coffee and schmoozing at our monthly "Coffee Room" during Religious School on Sunday, December 4.



B'nai Mitzvah Workshop

Rabbi Elder's "Walk through the Shabbat Service" b'nai mitzvah workshop series will continue on Sunday, December 11 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the North Shore United Methodist Church. At that time, Rabbi Elder will break down the Sh'ma and its blessings, explaining its themes and its language. He will again provide an opportunity for families to look through various books and publications in order to continue thinking about how to personalize the service. This series is designed for families of students whose b'nai mitzvah celebrations will be taking place in the year after May 2006. By the end of the series, each family will have the tools to complete the Shabbat service for its upcoming celebration. The workshop series is geared toward students and their parents. All b'nai mitzvah candidates and families are welcome to attend, even if you missed the first one. If you have any questions, please contact Rabbi Elder (847-266-8854 or rabbi@hakafa.org).



Sunday Bagels

Todah Rabah (Thank you very much) to the 6th grade families who set-up and cleaned-up the Sunday bagels in November. The families of the Seventh Grade Class will organize the Sunday bagels in December. Seventh grade families will be receiving calls from your room parents to help out.

Dates to Note . . .



- December 2 - Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner hosted by the 1st and 2nd Grade Classes, 5:30 p.m. and Family Shabbat Service, 7:00 p.m. (WCH)
- December 11 - Second B'nai Mitzvah Workshop, 3:30-5:30 p.m. (NSUMC)
- December 14 through January 2
No Religious School, Confirmation Class or Hebrew School (Winter Break)
- December 25- First night of Hanukkah
- December 30 - Congregational Hanukkah Celebration and Shabbat Service, 7:00 p.m. (WCH)
- January 3 - Hebrew School Resumes
- January 8 - Religious School Resumes



Hanukkah Blessings



The Hanukkah Menorah (or *Chanukiah* in Hebrew) is a candlestick that holds nine candles, specifically for Hanukkah. Eight of the candles each represent one of the eight days of Hanukkah. The ninth candle is raised above the others and is called the *Shamash*, meaning helper-candle. It is used to light all the other candles.

This year, Hanukkah begins **Sunday evening, December 25**. If possible, candles should be lit immediately after sunset and should be allowed to burn completely. One family member may light the candles on behalf of the whole family, but it is fun to have each family member light his/her own *Chanukiah*.

The first candle is lit (using the *shamash*) on the first night. On the next night, two candles are lit, and one more added each night up to the eighth night. The candles are placed in the Menorah from right to left (facing you); but, when lighting them, first kindle the “new” candle added that evening (using the *shamash*) and then proceed from left to right.

On the first night, all three of the blessings below are said. On all other nights, only the first two blessings are recited.



בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הוֹי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Bah-rookch ah-tah Ah-doe-nie, Eh-low-hay-noo meh-lekch hah-oh-lahm, ah-sheer keed-shah-noo
b'meetz-voe-tahv v'tzee-vah-noo l'hahd-leek nayr shel kcha-noo-kah.

*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, Who makes us holy
with commandments, and commands us to light the Hanukkah candles.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הוֹי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים
לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ, בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזֵמַן הַזֶּה.

Bah-rookch ah-tah Ah-doe-nie, Eh-low-hay-noo meh-lekch hah-oh-lahm, sheh-ah-saw nee-seem
lah-ah-vo-tay-noo bah-yah-meem hah-hem bahz-mahn hah-zeh.

*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, Who made miracles
for our ancestors in those days, at this season.*

Only on the first night:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הוֹי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֵחֵינּוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֵמַן הַזֶּה.

Bah-rookch ah-tah Ah-doe-nie, Eh-low-hay-noo meh-lekch hah-oh-lahm, sheh-heh-chee-yah-noo,
v'kee-y-mah-noo, v'hee-gee-ah-noo, lah-z-mahn hah-zeh.

*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who gives us life and
sustains us, and brings us to this season.*