

BRUCE ELDER, RABBI

ROBERT J. MARX, RABBI EMERITUS

*D'varim*

## ISRAEL IS WRONG

Brant Rosen is a wonderful rabbi; I have nothing but respect and admiration for the work he has done at the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston. He leads with compassion, wisdom, and conviction. He is thoughtful in his approach to issues and to people, he negotiates the texts of our tradition with honesty and integrity, and his commitment to effecting positive change in the world is unwavering. It is an honor to call him a colleague.

Brant takes his role as rabbi seriously, and he is not afraid to challenge us to think and act. He is, at times, provocative; not merely for the sake of provocation, but to agitate in order to motivate. A cursory look at his blog, *Shalom Rav* ([rabbibrant.com](http://rabbibrant.com)), shows that he has been outspoken on many issues of import over the years, an outspokenness that has not garnered much attention outside the extensive network of people that have chosen to read it.

And, why would it? After all, his words are merely part of the blather of opinion that has become the white noise of our current information age. We are so inundated by the rapid-fire intrusion of other people's thoughts into our everyday lives that we need to tune most of it out, it seems, just to stay sane. And, given the number of times we rabbis are called upon to comment on something, it is no wonder that most of what we say goes unnoticed ...

... unless, of course, we have the audacity to suggest:

**ISRAEL IS WRONG.**

Once again, the Jewish community has reared its ugly, defensive head.

Brant wrote an op-ed piece to the Chicago Tribune that was published during the High Holidays. In it, he calls upon us not to reject outright the findings of the Goldstone Report, which he finds compelling if not flawed. He asks Jews to understand the suffering that Palestinians have had to endure under Israeli occupation, and he suggests that lack of self-reflection about our fears and prejudices makes peace in the Middle East that much more elusive.

Unlike Brant, I have not read the Goldstone Report. And, I do not know to what extent I agree with the arguments he presents or the forum in which he chose to express them. In general, he is much farther to the Left on issues of Israel than I am.

What disappoints me about Brant's essay, however, is the response he continues to receive because of it, as sadly unsurprising as it may be. It seems that we rabbis can say just about anything without much response from people. But, G-d forbid we should have the temerity to opine that ISRAEL IS WRONG, and the fury of the Jewish community comes down upon us.

All of a sudden, Brant is a self-hating Jew. He is a turncoat and a jihadist. He disgraces the title of rabbi and is ignorant of all things Jewish. Jews who have never known anything of him feel it to be their duty to demean him.

Can it be that such vitriol of self-righteous defensiveness is somehow more authentically Jewish than the critique of a country a devoted rabbi offers? I should hope not!

You have to love our people sometimes.

Disagree with Brant all you want. We rabbis love when you do. It shows your willingness to participate in the give-and-take that allows our collective quest for truth to flourish.

Just do not belittle yourselves by belittling him. It merely suggests that, perhaps, his words contain a kernel of truth that touches too close to home.

I hope we Jews will learn that lesson some day.

Brant, by saying ISRAEL IS WRONG, you touched a nerve.

Good for you.

-Bruce Elder

## Prayer and Celebration

### Friday Night Services



The congregation is cordially invited to attend services at the Winnetka Community House (unless noted) on the following evenings:

**December 4**                      **Shabbat Vayishlach**  
**7:00 p.m.**                      Torah Portion: Genesis 32:4-36:43  
     Haftarah: Hosea 11:7-12:12

**December 11**                    **Shabbat Vayeishev**  
**8:00 p.m.**                      Torah Portion: Genesis 37:1-40:23  
     Haftarah: Zechariah 4:1-7

**Scholar-in-Residence Weekend (see page 6)**

**December 18**                    **Shabbat Mikeitz**  
**8:00 p.m.**                      Torah Portion: Genesis 41:1-44:1  
     Haftarah: I Kings 7:40-50

**Congregation Meeting**  
**Congregation Hanukkah Celebration**

**December 25**                    **Shabbat Vayigash**  
**5:00 p.m.**                      Torah Portion: Genesis 44:18-47:27  
     Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28  
**Home of Marlene and Ken Richmond (430 Cedar Lane, Wilmette)**  
**Please note earlier time and different location.**

**January 1**                        **Shabbat Va-y'-chi**  
**5:00 p.m.**                      Torah Portion: Genesis 47:28-50:26  
     Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-1237:15-28  
**Home of Janice Halpern (1120 Lake Avenue, Wilmette)**  
**Please note earlier time and different location.**

### Shabbat Morning Minyan

Please join us for our December Shabbat morning minyan on **Saturday, December 12 at 8:30 a.m.** at the **North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe). **Please note different location.**

This hour-long service and study is a wonderful opportunity to enhance your celebration of Shabbat. People of all ages are encouraged and welcome to join us.

Please contact Rabbi Elder (847-266-8854 or [rabbi@hakafa.org](mailto:rabbi@hakafa.org)) with questions.

### Share Your Holidays

On occasion, there are Hakafa members who would like to share holidays with fellow congregants and do not have the opportunity to do so. If you would like to host a fellow congregant for a holiday meal, or if you need or want a place to go for the holidays, please contact Sylvia Dresser (847-945-6095).

### Oneg Hosts Needed

Hosting a Friday evening oneg is a wonderful way to help support Hakafa and is also a nice way to celebrate a bar/bat mitzvah, birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion with the congregation. Many people have traditionally honored the memory of a loved one on his/her *yahrzeit* by hosting an oneg.

Contact **Lynn Sanders** (847-501-2768 or [lynnb0608@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnb0608@yahoo.com)) to reserve a date.



### Congregational Hanukkah Celebration

Please join us at our Shabbat service on **Friday evening, December 18 at 8:00 p.m.** at the **Winnetka Community House** (620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka) for a beautiful Hakafa tradition as we celebrate Hanukkah and Shabbat. Bring your *chanukiot* (Hanukkah menorahs), candles, and matches, and help us celebrate Hanukkah as a community.

**A special Hanukkah oneg will follow.**



# HANUKKAH



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 11**. 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 *Chanukiah* 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.

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

*Ba-rooch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-noo me-lech ha-o-lam, a-sheer keed-sha-noo b'meetz-vo-tav v'tzee-va-noo l'had-leek nayr shel chanoo-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 אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים  
לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ, בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזֵמַן הַזֶּה.

*Ba-rooch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-noo me-lech ha-o-lam, she-a-saw nee-seem la-a-vo-tay-noo ba-ya-meem ha-hem baz-man ha-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 אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֵחֵינּוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ  
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֵמַן הַזֶּה.

*Ba-rooch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-noo me-lech ha-o-lam, she-he-che-ya-noo, v'kee-y-ma-noo, v'hee-gee-a-noo, laz-man ha-zeh.*

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

## Prayer and Celebration

### Family Potluck Shabbat Dinner

Families with children up through 6<sup>th</sup> grade (including older siblings, too) are invited to join us for our second Hakafa Family Potluck Shabbat Dinner on **Friday, December 4 at 5:30 p.m.** at the **Winnetka Community House (620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka)**! Our November dinner was a huge success, and we are hoping this will become a monthly tradition of playing, socializing, and dinner on the first Friday night of each month before the Family Service. There will be activities for the kids and socializing and dining for all ages. Ideas for this new monthly Family Shabbat Dinner are welcome. **Please RSVP to Peggy Salamon and David Snyder (312-286-4055 or PeggySalamon@comcast.net) and let them know what you'd like to bring to share for dinner (non-dairy please).**

### Family Shabbat Service

**Appropriate for ALL AGES, but also Preschool-through-6<sup>th</sup>-Grade-friendly!**

Please join us for our December Family Shabbat Service on **Friday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m.** at the **Winnetka Community House (620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka)**. Our Family Service is shorter than our regular services and is an hour earlier so that children can attend. It is geared toward families with children up through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, but is also appropriate for adults. People of all ages are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please contact Rabbi Elder (rabbi@hakafa.org or 847-266-8854) with any questions.

## Member News

### Congregation Directory

The 2009-2010 Congregation Hakafa Directory is in the process of being updated and will be delivered this month. Please contact Rona (847-242-0687 or admin@hakafa.org) with any changes and/or updates.

### Chesed

*Chesed is our congregation's way of reaching out to one another.*

If you know of anyone in our congregation who is in crisis from an illness, death in the family, or personal stress, who could benefit from support, such as a visit, delivery and/or preparation of meals, or a ride to a health care appointment, please contact Rabbi Elder (847-266-8854 or rabbi@hakafa.org).

### Chevre Kadisha

Jewish traditions surrounding death stress the importance of kevod hamet, honoring the body of the deceased. Traditionally, the body is not left alone from the time of death until the time of burial. The practice of sitting with the body during this time is *shemira*, "watching", done by shomrim. Traditional communities may have persons designated to perform this mitzvah, but this service may also be provided by funeral homes, who hire people to act as shomrim. More liberal congregations that have a chevre kadisha sometimes also organize members of the chevre or the congregation for *shemira*, often by dividing the 24 hour period into shorter segments.

Traditionally, people read from the Psalms during this time, but other spiritual books may also be used. It is a meaningful way to honor the dead and to comfort the mourners, as well as to focus the shomer's thoughts about the person who has died. It is also a time to reflect on the larger questions about the meaning of both life and death. Any member of the Hakafa community who would be interested in adding in this way to the work of our chevre should contact Deborah Brown (847-421-3985 or dmb9476@gmail.com).

### Hakafa Teen Corner High School Juniors and Seniors

Rabbi Elder will be at **Borders** at the Edens Plaza in Wilmette the last Wednesday of every month from **8:00-10:00 p.m.** **This month we will meet on Wednesday, December 16.** Bring your homework, a book, a game, or nothing at all. Drinks and snacks are on him! Please contact Rabbi Elder (847-266-8854 or rabbi@hakafa.org) with questions.

## Member News

### Finance Committee Meeting

The next finance meeting is on **Sunday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of **Beth and Mark Kaufmann** (1874 Garland Avenue, Highland Park). All Hakafa members are invited.

### Congregation Meeting

The next congregation meeting will take place on **Friday, December 18 at 6:45 p.m.** at the Winnetka Community House. All Hakafa members are invited. Please stay for Shabbat services following the meeting.

## Reaching Out in these Challenging Economic Times

### Congregation Member Services and Skills Resource Guide

We have a very talented congregation. Often, members have a need for services and do not know where to turn. Perhaps, from time to time, congregants might need to contact other congregants to network. To that end, the congregation has decided to assemble a resource guide of members' services and skills in order to support one another. *This is a completely voluntary endeavor.* If you:

- 1) are willing to be a networking contact in your profession;
- 2) have a professional skill about which you would like other members of the congregation to know in case they have a need for such services; or,
- 3) have expertise in a particular field and want others to be aware of it (e.g. You are a quilter who can be contracted to make a quilt or to teach how to quilt, a cook or baker who caters or who loves to teach cooking classes, a computer whiz, or someone who has experience with children with special needs or a disability who can provide support to others);

please contact Betsy Hersher (847-272-4050 or [HersherB@hersher.com](mailto:HersherB@hersher.com)) to let her know.

### Services Already in Effect

**Hakafa Emergency Fund:** Through a few generous contributions, we have been able to set aside a small amount of money for any congregants who, during this trying economic time, might need financial assistance or a small loan to pay a bill or help with basic necessities.

**Career Counseling:** Betsy Hersher, long-time Hakafa member and career counselor, is offering her services *at no cost* to Hakafa members who are currently unemployed. She can be reached at 847-272-4050 or [HersherB@hersher.com](mailto:HersherB@hersher.com).

**Support Gatherings:** Hakafa members in job transition will meet at **Borders Books** (corner of Waukegan Road and Lake Cook Road, Deerfield) on **December 1 at 2:00 p.m.** to discuss networking, informational, and support opportunities.

### Partnerships with Community Employment Support Systems:

- **Jewish Employment Network (JEN)**– 847-568-5154 or [www.jvschicago.org](http://www.jvschicago.org)
- **Career Resource Center (CRC)**– 847-295-5626 or [www.careerresourcecenter.org](http://www.careerresourcecenter.org)
- [parnossahworkschicago.org](http://parnossahworkschicago.org)

If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please contact either Betsy or Rabbi Elder.

## Adult Education

### Hakafa Adult Study

All Hakafa adults are invited to participate in Adult Study which meets on Sunday mornings during Religious School, from **10:30 a.m. to noon** in **Community Room 4** at the **Glencoe Park District's Takiff Center** (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe).

Our December Adult Study topics will be:

**December 6:** Bob Rifkin (Hakafa member) and Marlene Dodinval (ARZA-Association of Reform Zionists of America – Great Lakes Regional Director) will discuss *Reform Zionism and the Reform Movement*.

**December 13:** Scholar-in-Residence: Professor Paul Liptz will teach *Society and Culture in the Middle East*.

Please contact Judith Joseph (847-204-4043) with any questions.

### Lunch & Learn



#### 1) ...in the Loop:

Our next *Lunch & Learn in the Loop* will take place at **noon** on **Thursday, December 3** at the office of **Jeff Perelman** (1 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago).

#### 2) ...on the North Shore:

Our next session of *Lunch & Learn on the North Shore* will take place at **noon** on **Thursday, December 17** at the home of **Cookie Robertson** (211 Dennis Lane, Glencoe).

Bring your own lunch, and prepare to participate in a lively discussion! New participants are always welcome.

Please contact Rabbi Elder (847-266-8854 or [rabbi@hakafa.org](mailto:rabbi@hakafa.org)) with questions.

### Tanach Study

Come enjoy the Tanach with other Hakafa members! We meet on **Wednesdays** at the **home of Sandy Gelber** (1527 Washington Avenue, Wilmette) from **1:00 to 2:30 p.m.** Please contact Rabbi Elder (847-266-8854 or [rabbi@hakafa.org](mailto:rabbi@hakafa.org)) with questions.

**Please Note:** *Tanach Study will not meet on Wednesdays, December 23 and 30.*

### Hebrew at Hakafa

#### 1) Hebrew Circle

The next meeting of our Hebrew Circle will take place on **Tuesday, December 15 at noon** at the **office of Brad Reiff** (332 S. Michigan Avenue, 13<sup>th</sup> floor, 312-322-0290). Join us for an hour of lunch and conversation!

#### 2) Prayerbook Hebrew

Our Prayerbook Hebrew Class continues on **Fridays at 9:30 a.m.** at the **North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe). In this weekly class, we look at various prayers and their meanings, and learn to speak and chant them. This is a continuation of last year's class. New members are always welcome.

Contact Rabbi Elder (847-266-8854 or [rabbi@hakafa.org](mailto:rabbi@hakafa.org)) for details.

**Please Note:** *Class will not meet on Fridays, December 18, December 25, and January 1.*

### Hakafa Book Group

Our December book group will meet on **Thursday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m.** at the home of **Dottie Hammel** (347 Latrobe Avenue, Northfield). We will be discussing the intriguing mystery, *Murder on the Kibbutz*, by Batya Gur.

Those of you who have any experience visiting or living on a kibbutz will be a very welcome addition to our informal discussion. Coffee and dessert will be served.

Please R.S.V.P to Dottie (847-446-5266 or [dottiehammel@comcast.net](mailto:dottiehammel@comcast.net)).

## Adult Education

### **Mishneh Torah Class** *Are you interested in studying Halacha (Jewish Law)?*

Our next sessions of Mishneh Torah class will be held on **Tuesdays, December 1 and 15** at **10:00 a.m.** at the **North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe).

Please contact Rabbi Elder (847-266-8854 or [rabbi@hakafa.org](mailto:rabbi@hakafa.org)) with questions.

### **Trope Class**

Join us for Purim trope on **Friday mornings at 10:45 a.m.** at the **North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe). The class will continue throughout the year.

Please contact Rabbi Elder (847-266-8854 or [rabbi@hakafa.org](mailto:rabbi@hakafa.org)) with questions

**Please Note: Class will not meet on Fridays, December 18, December 25, and January 1.**

### **HAKAFA'S FIFTH ANNUAL ADULT RETREAT**

**February 19-21, Saugatuck, Michigan**

**The Program:** The retreat will be a chance for adult congregants (including students in high school) to study and relax together in a warm and informal atmosphere. The program will be conducted by Rabbi Marx, with assistance from Judith Joseph, in beautiful Saugatuck Michigan, where Rabbi Marx lives. The theme for the study sessions will be: *For the poor will never cease from the land; A Jewish view of income inequality.*

We all stay together at the historic Rosemont Inn, which is located on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan ([www.rosemontinn.com](http://www.rosemontinn.com)). We will have a variety of programming through Sunday morning.

**The Cost:** The Rosemont Inn has 14 rooms, with an average rate of \$155 per night, although the actual rate will vary depending upon the particular room. The room charge includes breakfast on both Saturday and Sunday. The total estimated cost is about \$285 per person for couples (about \$445 for a single, because the room price is the same), which includes the room for two nights, dinner Friday and Saturday, and breakfast on Saturday and Sunday.

**If You Want To Go:** There are only 14 rooms available, and they will be reserved on a first come first serve basis. In order to finalize arrangements, we need a commitment by **Friday, January 8.**

Please contact the Retreat organizer, Jonah Orlofsky, (312-566-0455, 847-835-3816, or [jorlofsky@yahoo.com](mailto:jorlofsky@yahoo.com)) for further information.

### **Congregation Hakafa Scholar in Residence Weekend DECEMBER 11-13, 2009**

Please join Hakafa as we welcome Professor Paul Liptz, a lecturer at both Tel Aviv University and the Jerusalem campus of the Hebrew Union College, as our Scholar-in-Residence.

Professor Liptz is a noted expert in Jewish history, Israeli society, and the politics of the Middle East. He will facilitate engaging, lively, and provocative discussions of "Islam," "Leaders and Leadership in the Middle East," and "Society and Culture in the Middle East." Professor Liptz will be speaking and teaching throughout the weekend.

We look forward to having Paul with us and hope you will be able to join us at one or all of the following events:

#### **Friday, December 11, 8:00 p.m.**

Winnetka Community House (620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka)  
Professor Liptz will speak about "Islam" during Shabbat Services.

#### **Saturday, December 12, 7:00 p.m.**

Home of Carol Anne Been and Dan Freedman (562 Oakdale Avenue, Glencoe)  
Professor Liptz will present a special program and discussion on "Leaders and Leadership in the Middle East."

#### **Sunday, December 13, 10:30 a.m. to noon**

Takiff Center (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe)  
Professor Liptz will teach the Adult Study class on "Society and Culture in the Middle East."

*The Scholar-in-Residence program is sponsored by the Hakafa Endowment Fund.*

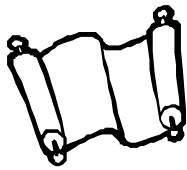
### Note from the Director of Education

As we begin the month of December, it is hard to believe we are actually almost half way through the school year already! We can be so proud of our Hakafa students! They have been working diligently this first semester of Sunday and Hebrew school!

Thank you to the parents of the kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades who organized after-school activities over the last two months for our students and their families. They were wonderful and fun opportunities for parents and kids to meet and hang out with each other.

We are looking forward to a short but packed month full of great learning opportunities for both parents and students before winter break! Enjoy!

L'shalom, Bibi



### B'nai Mitzvah Workshop

Rabbi Elder's "Walk through the Shabbat Service" b'nai mitzvah workshop series will continue on Sunday, December 13 at the North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe). **Families with morning services will meet from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m., and families with evening services will meet from 3:45 to 5:00 p.m.** This series is designed for families of students whose b'nai mitzvah celebrations will be taking place in the year after May 2010. Students and their parents should attend. All b'nai mitzvah candidates and families are welcome, even if you missed the first one. If you have any questions, please contact Rabbi Elder (847-266-8854 or [rabbi@hakafa.org](mailto:rabbi@hakafa.org)).



### Junior Choir

Calling all students in second grade and up to join the Junior Choir! We meet from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. at the Takiff Center on Sundays when there is Religious School. We are preparing to perform at the Congregational Hanukkah Celebration on Friday evening, December 18. If you would like to perform with us, please contact Sara Goodman Atar ([music@hakafa.org](mailto:music@hakafa.org) or 847-966-1825) and plan to attend rehearsals on December 6 and 13.



## PARENT PROGRAM: JEWISH OVERNIGHT CAMPING

Hakafa parents are invited to come learn about the fun and exciting opportunities in Midwest Jewish overnight camping on Sunday, December 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the Community Hall at the Takiff Center (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe). Learn about the many summer Jewish camps in Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan and the financial opportunities available to give your children the gift of a great summer experience.

Jennifer Flink is the Midwest Consultant working with the Foundation for Jewish Camps and she visited eleven camps this summer. Through her experiences she has learned about the distinctions of each of the camps. She will share her insights on the camps she visited and be available to answer any questions you might have. We hope you'll join us!

December 2009

# נישדן



## Fourth Grade Family Latke and Dreidel Event

All families of fourth graders are invited to a Latke and Dreidel Party on Sunday, December 6, from 12:15-1:00 p.m. (immediately following Religious School) at the Takiff Center. This event is a great opportunity to get to know other fourth grade families, and we hope you'll be there! Please RSVP to Joli Fridman (jolifridman@sbcglobal.net or 847-509-8909) or Liz Kelly (LizKel1@att.net or 847-681-8244).



## Dates to Note...

- December 4-6 - 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat
- December 6 - Parent Program on Jewish Overnight Camping, 10:30 a.m. (TC)
  - Fourth Grade Family Event, 12:15-1:00 (TC)
- December 11 - First night of Hanukkah
- December 13 - Second B'nai Mitzvah Workshop, 2:30-3:45 p.m. **OR** 3:45-5:00 p.m. (NSUMC)
- December 18 - Congregational Hanukkah Celebration and Shabbat Service, 8:00 p.m. (WCH)
- December 20 through January 3 - No Religious School, Confirmation Class, or Hebrew School (Winter Break)
- January 5 - Hebrew School Resumes
- January 10 - Religious School Resumes

## Kitah Korner (Class Corner): Eighth Grade

The Eighth Grade class is divided into two sections, the first hour focusing on ethics and the second hour looking at Israel, Israeli history, current conflict, and an understanding of core issues. This is what the eighth graders have been doing!

### First Hour

The Eighth Grade class has embarked on an unpredictable exploration of spirituality, ethics, and religious teachings and traditions. They have created graven images and have discussed the consequences, or lack thereof, of breaking God's commandments. They have explored similarities and differences between the Taliban, Christian Iconoclasts, and Jews. They have been encouraged to talk with their friends outside of Hakafa about their religious beliefs, and to experience prayer and try having personal conversations with God. They have looked at First Amendment issues of separation of church and state. They are doing wonderfully.

- Lee Goodman

### Second Hour

In the Israeli section, over the first two months of the year our students have developed an understanding of the foundations of Zionism, Israeli Socialism, and Early Modern Israeli History. We have had frank discussions that cover all sides of interesting topics - doing our best to provide facts and then discuss how events shape current issues. In the upcoming months we will look at Israeli life, Kibbutz, Industry, Israel and the UN/ International Politics, Israel and current US politics. We will also look at some cultural fun with falafel, dance, and hopefully live conversation with youth from Tel Aviv and Hebron.

- Joe Greenberg

HAPPY HANUKKAH

## Israel with Hakafa

**Lech L'chah: An Israel Adventure**



**June 12 - 27, 2010**

**Time is running out!**

It is not too late to sign-up for the Israel trip. Please contact Rabbi Elder (847-266-8854 or rabbi@hakafa.org) for more information.

## Social Action

### **What We've Learned About Immigration Reform and Worker Justice** by Nancy Goodman

Our son was home for the weekend, but like his sister, he lives in a distant city, and we won't see him again for a while. I miss them both. It's hard to be far away from those we love so much.

I mention this because being separated from family was a recurring theme as Hakafa's social action group learned about immigration issues.

Some people come here seeking better opportunities in life, but often they must leave their families behind until they can afford to be together again. The courage it must take to follow this path and to endure that separation is hard to imagine.

Others come to the U.S. to join family members who are already here, but our immigration policies can make them wait years before they can reunite with their families. It can take five to six years for close relatives from preferred countries to immigrate and become citizens, and more than 20 years for married children and siblings from less-preferred countries. I wonder – could I be that strong for that long?

One of our speakers who had prior permission to be in the U.S. said she was held in jail and then a detention center for three months after a traffic stop, separated from her three young U.S.-born sons. She was awaiting word on whether she would be deported.

We heard about undocumented immigrants who don't dare return to their countries of origin to care for sick relatives or attend funerals, lest they lose the chance to come back to their families and jobs in the U.S. And we heard about an illegal immigrant father who was threatened with deportation and separation from his family, even as the family was coping with the loss of their son, a U.S. serviceman who was killed in the war in Iraq.

It's hard to be far away from those we love so much. I miss our children, but I know they are healthy, happy, safe, and successful in life, and I can look forward to seeing them again soon. How much more must these families miss each other, with the added burden of worry for their safety and fear of the unknown? Immigration issues are complex, but if we can look at the issues at a human level, perhaps we can find a way to reduce the suffering that families are experiencing.

At a vigil for immigration reform, we were invited to join in a song of solidarity:

*"Somos un pueblo que camina..."* – "We are a people who journey..."

As Jews, we have also been a people who journey, and from that experience, we have learned:

"When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am Adonai your God." – Leviticus 19:33-34

## Congregation Hakafa Calendar

## December 2009 – Kislev / Tevet 5770

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>TC</b> = Glencoe Park District Takiff Center (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe)</p> <p><b>WCH</b> = Winnetka Community House (620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka)</p> <p><b>NSUMC</b> = North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe)</p>		<p><b>1</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Mishneh Torah (NSUMC)</p> <p>2:00 Meeting with Betsy Hersher (Borders Books, Deerfield)</p> <p>4:15–6:00 p.m. Hebrew School (TC)</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>1:00 p.m. Tanach Study</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>12:00 p.m. Lunch &amp; Learn in the Loop</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Prayerbook Hebrew Class (NSUMC)</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Trope Class (NSUMC)</p> <p>Second 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Family Potluck Dinner (WCH)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service (WCH)</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Second 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat</p>
		<p><b>6</b> Second 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat</p> <p>9:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Religious School</p> <p>10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Adult Study (TC)</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Parent Program on Jewish Overnight Camping (TC)</p> <p>12:15-1:00 p.m. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Family Social Event</p> <p>1:00-2:00 p.m. Confirmation (NSUMC)</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>4:15–6:00 p.m. Hebrew School (TC)</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>1:00 p.m. Tanach Study</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>7:30 p.m. Book Group Discussion (Home of Dottie Hammel)</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Religious School (TC)</p> <p>10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Adult Study - Scholar (TC)</p> <p>1:00-2:00 p.m. Confirmation (NSUMC)</p> <p>2:30 -3:45 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> B'nai Mitzvah Workshop for <b>AM Services</b> (NSUMC)</p> <p>3:45-5:00 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> B'nai Mitzvah Workshop for <b>PM Services</b> (NSUMC)</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Race and Racism Discussion (NSUMC)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting (Kaufmann Home)</p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Night of Hanukkah</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Night of Hanukkah</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> Newsletter Articles Due</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Mishneh Torah (NSUMC)</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Hebrew Circle</p> <p>4:15–6:00 p.m. Hebrew School (TC)</p> <p><b>5<sup>th</sup> Night of Hanukkah</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>1:00 p.m. Tanach Study</p> <p>8:00-10:00 p.m. Rabbi Elder at Borders with High School Juniors &amp; Seniors</p> <p><b>6<sup>th</sup> Night of Hanukkah</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>12:00 p.m. Lunch &amp; Learn on the North Shore</p> <p><b>7<sup>th</sup> Night of Hanukkah</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>6:45 p.m. Congregation Meeting (WCH)</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Shabbat Service &amp; Congregational Hanukkah Celebration (WCH)</p> <p><b>Last Night of Hanukkah</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Hanukkah ends at sundown</b></p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>No Religious School (Winter Break)</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>No Hebrew School (Winter Break)</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>5:00 p.m. Shabbat Service (home of Marlene and Ken Richmond)</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>No Religious School (Winter Break)</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>No Hebrew School (Winter Break)</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>		



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**The Circle  
 December 2009**

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