



# THURSDAY NOTES

February 19, 2009

25 Shevat 5769

Mishpatim

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 5:44 p.m.



## ***The Month of Adar: A Time of Celebration***

The month of Adar, which begins next week, ushers in a time of joy and celebration for the Jewish people. It is the time of the year when we learn about the story of Purim, get dressed up in costumes, eat Hamantashen, give Mishloach Manot to our friends, and generally have a good time. Our school will be celebrating 'Nichnas Adar' – the 'ushering in of Adar' by having some special festivities next week. Please see the Student Council box on the next page for more details.

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## **PURIM TID-BITS**

1. On Purim we read from the Scroll of Esther – Megillat Esther. It is one of the 5 scrolls we read from during the year.
2. Esther's real name was Hadassah. Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization, was formed on Purim day in 1912.
3. God's name is not mentioned even once in the entire Megillah.
4. The saying, 'the whole megillah,' meaning 'the whole story' is derived from the Hebrew word for scroll – megillah.
5. The day following Purim is Shushan Purim – which is celebrated in all walled cities in Israel, such as Jerusalem.
6. Hamantashen were originally called in German 'mohn-taschen' – poppy seed pockets.
7. Some people eat Kreplach on Purim.
8. We are obliged to drink on Purim until we do not know the difference between 'blessed Mordechai and cursed Haman.'
9. The Persian word 'pur' means 'lots.'
10. Purim takes place on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Adar.
11. In Jewish leap years there are two Adars – Adar I and Adar II.
12. The names of two Persian Gods were Marduk and Ishtar (some people think that is where the names Mordechai and Esther originally came from.)
13. Gifts to the poor are given on Purim.
14. Traditionally, Jews are not supposed to wear masks – only on Purim is it allowed.

***BE HAPPY – IT'S ADAR***

## **Calendar**

### **February**

**20th**– VIP/Grandparent's Day

**21st**– Auction/School Bar Mitzvah Celebration

**25th**– Pajama Day

**26th**– Sport's Day

**27th**– Board Game Day

### **March**

**2nd**– No School– Parent-Teacher Conference

## **T-Shirts are here!!**

- T-shirts came home yesterday with your children. Please have your child wear the shirt for VIP/Grandparents Day this Friday, February 20th.



- If you did not get one and would like to, or if you want another, there are extras at the front desk available for purchase!

## Congratulations to the Sander Family on the birth of:

- Landon Darius Sander (6lbs-9oz) on February 6th



### Fly on the Wall



### If you were a fly on the wall:

This past Monday saw the 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students having a “Specials” day as their teachers worked tirelessly moving their classrooms back to the Lerner Building. The students were ably cared for by Jordan, Michal, Ofra, Brandon and Guy as they watched a movie while eating popcorn, participated in sporting events, and ate lunch with Bini, Ofra and me all the while showing the flexibility and calm of the young. By Tuesday morning the rooms were set up and the children moved seamlessly back to their regular routines and schedules.

Thanks to all who helped make this move possible but especially to our wonderful staff who, as usual, went above and beyond in an effort to ensure this smooth transition for our children.

Mary

## Student Council

**Israeli Dancing** will **not** begin this Friday. It will take place next Friday, February 27th, from 2:15pm-2:35pm.

From Wednesday, February 25th to Friday, February 27th we will be having some festivities:

- **Feb 25th:** Pajama Day. Children with PE should bring a change of clothes or shoes.
- **Feb 26th:** Sports Clothes Day
- **Feb 27th:** Game Day, bring a board game! Please do not bring any electronic games.

## PAC CORNER

**Purim Carnival:** Come and join us for the Purim Carnival on Tues. March 10th in the afternoon! We are looking for parents to help out with the booths, help the children do various crafts, hang out at the hamentaschen cafe, and help play games relating to Purim! If you're interested please email [Jsbeetham@bellsouth.net](mailto:Jsbeetham@bellsouth.net)

### VIP/Grandparents Day:

Volunteers are needed to help tomorrow, Friday, February 20th with VIP/Grandparents day. There will be two shifts that day:

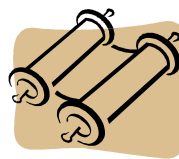
- The first is from 8:00 till noon.
- The second is from noon till 3:00.

If you would like to help with setting up and cleaning up refreshment tables or greeting the Grandparents and VIP's, please email Miriam Cohen Franzen at [mamele@gmail.com](mailto:mamele@gmail.com). If you would like to lend a portable photo printer that prints 4X6 photos or help stuff goody bags, please contact Rachel Bearman at [rbearman@mebtel.net](mailto:rbearman@mebtel.net).

**Thank you** to Anne Marie Schneider for sewing such elegant Shabbat tablecloths for the schools special events!

## Parshat Hashavua: Mishpatim

Prepared by: Nancy H. Wiener



## משפטים

This week's parshat provides an extraordinary vision of a just society—one the Israelites never knew when they were slaves—based on rules and responsibilities born of years of oppression. The laws of *Mishpatim* lay the groundwork for a society concerned with freedoms in every aspect of life. The *parashah* opens with two remarkable laws: a time limit for servitude and a recognition of the marital bonds created by slaves. These two laws address Hebrew slave owners and are limited to their treatment of fellow Hebrews. Hebrew slaves are indentured servants, to be freed after a set amount of time. In contrast, an Israelite can hold non-Israelite slaves indefinitely. All slaves must be given days of rest (in accordance with the Jewish calendar) and must be treated more humanely than the Israelites ever were by their Egyptian masters.

Each week we will choose our d'var (explanation) from one of the following websites:

From My Jewish Learning  
[www.myjewishlearning.com](http://www.myjewishlearning.com)

Torah Hayim	( Reform )	<a href="http://www.urj.org">www.urj.org</a>
Divrei Torah	( Reconstructionist )	<a href="http://www.jrf.org">www.jrf.org</a>
Torah Sparks	( Conservative )	<a href="http://www.uscj.org">www.uscj.org</a>
Orthodox Union	( Orthodox )	<a href="http://www.ou.org">www.ou.org</a>



## 2008-2009 Annual Fund—Haven't pledged yet?

Thank you to the 70% of Lerner School families who have helped us raise \$83,902 toward our goal of \$110,000 in this year's Annual Fund. Lerner has a proud tradition of 100% parent participation in the Annual Fund. We still need the support of EVERY FAMILY to make this year's Annual Fund a success.

**Every gift is important, so...  
Do your part and  
make your pledge today!**

Visit our website at [www.lernerschool.org](http://www.lernerschool.org) to donate online, or drop off a check at the front desk.

### **Lerner's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction Gala!!**

THIS Saturday, February 21 ~ 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Live Auction 9:00 p.m.

#### FINAL Auction Update

Please RSVP and turn your PROXY BID forms into Barbara at Lerner by Friday, February 20, 2009 –OR– buy tickets at the door! Bring your friends to join in the fun!!!

#### NEW Auction Items Just In!!!

- Cary Ice House birthday party!
- Decorate Your Own Cupcakes Party at the new Bliss Boutique Bakery!
- 4 Hours of Online Tutoring from TutorJam.com!
- Carolina Hurricanes with Guy!
- Strawberry Picking with Carolyn!
- Brunch at Elmo's with Carly and Francine!
- Gourmet Dinner for Six
- Jewelry Making Party for Four with Julie Harris and Helen Kalisher!
- Dinner for Two at the Washington Duke!
- Israel Through the Eyes of Kindergarteners - three beautiful framed collages designed by Smadar and drawn by students!

**Have additional items to donate?** Please contact Caitlin Pitt 294-6370, 914-844-7460 or [caitlinpitt1@gmail.com](mailto:caitlinpitt1@gmail.com) OR Tal Lewin Wittle at 484-9479, 475-3337 or [tal@wittle.net](mailto:tal@wittle.net)

#### **Need a sitter for the Auction??**

Bring your child(ren) to the **Havdalah Pajama Party** at Judea Reform Education Building! Hosted by our own DRTY teens (Durham Regional Temple Youth)! **\$25** per child, **\$35** per family— 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

#### **NEW:**

**JCC Middle School Movie Night** Saturday, February 21st @ 7pm at the Jewish Federation Community Room during the Lerner School Auction. For more information go to [www.shalomdch.org](http://www.shalomdch.org) or call Noam Bentov at 489-5335 ext. 18.

**Support our Purim Fundraiser MISHLOACH MANOT**

You can help by:

1. Ordering bags of goodies for your friends and family. Hurry deadline is Monday, February 23rd!

School-to-school greetings is a great way to wish a happy Purim to your child's classmates and teachers.

2. Helping pack bags, after school on Friday Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> and 9:30-2:00 Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>.

This is a fun way for older children (3<sup>rd</sup> graders +) and parents to work together. We create and ship or deliver hundreds of bags filled with Hamantaschen and other yummy things.

3. Delivering bags of Mishloach Manot before Purim March 9<sup>th</sup> at sunset. We will give you a mapped route and kids can help with this activity.



**A special request to parents at drop-off:** Now that we are back in the Lerner building please use the front door to drop-off your child(ren). We are no longer using the EC entrance. Thank you!