

Photos by Julie Edgar



Teacher Avigayil Ishakis in front of the ark

Two By Two

Indoor ark experience brings lesson home.

Students in a nursery classroom at Yeshivat Akiva in Southfield helped to recreate the story of Noah, first by getting wet.

As Nursery 4B teachers Avigayil Ishakis and Pia Katz supplied the rain with spray bottles, the children searched for pairs of animals around the room that they placed at the mouth of an ark fashioned out of paper. Once they were safely “inside,” they pulled off their slickers, folded down their umbrellas and were read a book about Noah’s Ark. The very best part, of course, was painting rainbows on slices of pound cake topped with a cloud of whipped cream.

The sun, the children agreed, had returned.

The experiential project on Oct. 19 was followed up a week later by a tea to which parents and grandparents were invited. They and the students of Nursery 4B learned about Abraham’s great hospitality (and got to eat cake, too). □



Dalia Albert, 4, of Southfield doesn’t mind the downpour.

‘Who Knows One’ from page B1

dent of Jewish Life Network-Steinhardt Foundation.

Local interviews were with Rabbi Paul Yedwab of the Reform Temple Israel in West Bloomfield and the late Rabbi Sherwin Wine of the Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills and founder of Secular Humanistic Judaism.

Goldfein also interviewed lay people. “These were mostly my friends and family, but I also interviewed some people on the street in Jerusalem and my mom’s butcher,” she said.

A Lesson Learned

Now in her third year at Harvard Law School, Goldfein, 28, still doesn’t know who nominated her for the fellowship. She only knows it was an academic source.

Her one-year fellowship was extended to two, during which her project became a 23-part, 13-hour educational DVD series — but not without some difficulty. At one point, her video camera and 14 taped interviews were stolen and only nine interviews could be repeated.

“What will be shown on Nov. 18 is a 2-hour video covering six of the areas covered at greater length in the series, and including movie clips, music and other media intended to spice it up a bit,” she said.

Her father added, “While the subject is serious, the content is also often funny and entertaining.”

Reflecting on her interviews, Goldfein said, “It was interesting to me that even within movements there was such a wide range of perspectives on many questions. Harold Kushner and Elliot Dorff are both

Conservative rabbis, but their views differ greatly from one another in several key areas.”

She also was surprised that married couples not only had different beliefs, “but each spouse seemed quite unaware of what his or her spouse’s beliefs were,” she said.

“I learned many things from creating the video but probably the most prominent lesson for me was that it’s OK to live with the questions. I think when I started out I really wanted answers; I wanted to figure out what was true, or at least what I believed. It took a long time, but I’m finally comfortable living with uncertainty and with letting my beliefs evolve and change.

“I can’t say what I expect others to learn from viewing it, but I can say that I hope that they will learn that Judaism can encompass a broad spectrum of beliefs and that the conversation is a valuable one.” □

The 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 18, “Who Knows One” program of the Jewish Forum will take place at the Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham.

Prepaid registration is required: \$36 per person or \$60 for two. A kosher lunch will be served.

For information on the Jewish Forum or to make reservations for “Who Knows One,” call Nancy Kaplan, (248) 737-1931, e-mail programs@thejewishforum.org or visit the Jewish Forum’s Web site: www.thejewishforum.org.

On Gossip

One should not say that a person is not poor because it may keep him from receiving assistance.

Presented by Lubavitch Women’s Organization. For information on keeping kosher or lighting Shabbat candles, contact Miriam Amzalak, (248) 548-6771, amzalak@yeshivanet.com.

Addiction Support

The Temple Israel Robert Sosnick Family Life Center will host an addiction support group, facilitated by Deede Amhowitz and Joni Lipson.

Sessions are scheduled for Mondays, Nov. 12-Dec. 17, from 7:30-9 p.m. at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield.

The group will cover all types of addiction, including shopping, gambling, substance abuse, food, sexual and Internet.

Participants will experience a confidential setting and learn to stay healthy when addiction touches family.

All sessions are open to the community free of charge. Registration is necessary. Contact Elaine Bertsch, (248) 661-5700 or Elaine@temple-israel.org.



Joshua Henkin

Authors Spark Synergy

Joshua Henkin, author of the new novel *Matrimony*, will headline Adat Shalom Synagogue’s SYnergy Shabbat weekend in November. Following Shabbat services and dinner on Friday, Nov. 16, he will speak about “The Life and Times of a Jewish Novelist.”

Following Kiddush on Saturday, local author Karen Tintori will speak. Her most recent, *Unto The Daughters*, is the story of a secret guarded so fiercely for nine decades that members of Tintori’s family died without ever learning it.

Synergy activities will begin at 6 p.m. Friday with services for all ages. There will be a Shabbat Rocks Kabbalat Shabbat service. Families with children through second grade are invited to Shabbat Shaboom musical service. There will be a separate teen service. A casual Shabbat buffet supper will follow.

Childcare will begin at 7 p.m. and extend until the end of the adult program. At 7:45 p.m., children will enjoy a performance from the Leslie Science and Nature Center, “Raptors: Meet the Hunters of the Sky.”

Traditional services begin at 9 a.m. Saturday. Dan Shere will lead a Mishpacha Minyan (family service) at 10 a.m. At 10:15 a.m., there will be drop-off youth services. A Yoga & Yiddishkeit class is at 10:30 a.m.

The day’s activities will conclude with a third-grade family Havdalah program at 4:15 p.m. along with a seventh-grade Havdalah experience with residents from Farmington Hills-based JARC.

SYnergy co-chairs are Carol Weintraub Fogel of West Bloomfield and Phyllis Pilcowitz of Bloomfield Hills.

The community is welcome. Dinner reservations are required by Nov. 9. Contact the Farmington Hills synagogue, (248) 851-5100 or info@adatshalom.org.

Parenting Center

Gan Shalom Parenting Center and Preschool at Congregation Beth Shalom in Oak Park will open enrollment for January 2008.

The program includes bilingual Hebrew-English with parent workshops, Zoo-phonics reading readiness beginning with the twos, everyday math readiness, Israeli dance, Franklin Kids Sport Fitness, Computer Tots and afternoon enrichments.

Hours are 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday (Friday until 4:30 p.m.). Lunchtime is included in tuition.

For information, call Beth Shalom, (248) 547-7970.