



BOSTON-AREA JEWISH EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Eton

The BJEP Newsletter

January 22, 2010

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In case of snow...

Three ways to find out if BJEP is canceled due to snow emergency:

- Email notification.
- Message on BJEP phone line: 617 734-4997
- WBZ TV listing

As always, use your discretion in driving to Brandeis. We will understand if the driving is too treacherous from where you live!

Celebrate Tu BiShvat, the Jewish Arbor Day

Upcoming Dates at BJEP

January 24: Classes resume this Sunday!
Board Meeting

(No 6th Grade Family Education Program)

January 31: Tu BiShvat at BJEP
4th Grade Parent Program (make siddur covers)
Eden Village Camp (the first "green" Jewish sleepover camp) Parent Information Session

February 7: 2nd Grade Family Program
6th Grade Field Trip to Mayyim Hayyim

February 14- 21: No School-February Vacation

February 28: School Resumes (Purim)

REMEMBER: CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:30. PLEASE BE SURE TO BRING YOUR CHILD ON TIME. LATE ARRIVALS ARE UNFAIR TO YOUR CHILD AND DISRUPTIVE TO THE GROUP AS A WHOLE.

Update from Director

Dear BJEP community,

Shalom! I look forward to seeing all your children this Sunday, January 24. Please be sure to have your children bring in their completed Intersession packets. As always, don't hesitate to contact your teachers or myself with any questions. (See "quick links" to the left for Intersession packets.)

I am pleased to welcome our new Special Education Consultant, Laurie Tobey-Freedman. She comes with years of experience in working with teachers to support children with varying learning styles and needs. We are lucky to have her! Please read her letter of greetings below (which includes information about how to be in touch with her directly).

On January 31 (a week from Sunday), we will be have special programming for Tu Bishvat, the Jewish "green" holiday that celebrates the birthday for trees. In Israel, children plant trees

Check out these links for more information about fun ways to celebrate Tu BiShvat in your home. The one-day holiday begins this on Friday night, 1/29/10

[BJEP Tu Bishvat Seder](#) - a short seder you can do with your family!

[My Jewish Learning](#) -- non-denominational

[Babaganewz](#)--cool Jewish Kids Magazine, non-denominational

[Union of Reform Judaism](#)

[Eden Village Camp](#) -- click here to find out more about a Jewish "green" sleepover camp.

on Tu B'shevat to help rejuvenate the land. At BJEP, the children have special activities and enjoy the fruits of trees.

This year, I am pleased to announce that Yoni Stadlin, Jewish environmentalist and founder/director of the first "green" Jewish sleepaway camp, will be visiting BJEP to share songs and stories with our older children on the occasion of Tu Bishvat. Parents are invited to meet Yoni and find out about this exciting new camp (called Camp Eden Village) at 11:45 am in Golding Lobby on January 31. Read below for more info.

On the occasion of Tu Bishvat (begins next Friday night, January 29), we invite you to buy trees to be planted in Israel (see below for more details). Be sure to click on the links on the left to find out more about the holiday and ways you can celebrate it with your family. Consider incorporating a Tu Bishvat Seder into your dinner this upcoming Friday night.

Stay tuned for other upcoming events! Also on January 31, parents of 4th graders will be making siddur (prayerbook) covers for their children (*Shhh...your children don't know!*). Second grade families will be participating in an amazing Shabbat family program on February 7. Last, sixth graders will be visiting Mayyim Hayyim, a Jewish ritual bath on February 7. Read below to find out more details about these events.

Shabbat Shalom, Dena

Greetings from Laurie Tobey-Freedman, New Special Education Consultant for BJEP

Dear BJEP parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new BJEP Special Education Coordinator. My name is Laurie Tobey-Freedman, and I am thrilled to be stepping into this role within your exciting community. As a licensed clinical social worker, I have worked in many different educational settings where my focus has been on working with teachers to support the success of all kinds of students with varying learning styles and needs. For six of those years, I had the role of Special Needs Resource Coordinator at the Newton JCC preschool, and my own family participated in a "once-a-week" Jewish education program for over 10 years, so I know I will feel right at home at the BJEP program.

I will be working closely with Dena Glasgow and the teachers to get to know all of the students with special needs. In preparation for my first Sunday, I have been reviewing the information that we already have on your children and acquainting myself with the support systems already in place. **I invite you to contact me directly with any questions or concerns that you would like to bring to my attention.** You can most easily reach me through email at "laurie@freedman.com." You can also reach me by phone at 781-444-7462.

Looking forward to getting started this Sunday!

Sincerely,
Laurie Tobey-Freedman

Help BJEP Plant 100 trees in Israel this Tu BiShvat

This year, we are participating in the Jewish National Fund's Tu BiShvat in the Schools program.

This wonderful program allows students to plant one or more trees in Israel with a small donation. The students receive a personalized certificate from JNF and a prize for planting two or more trees. This year we're hoping that BJEP can reach a goal of 100 trees! Please look for a tree packet to come home with your child on January 24. If you have questions, contact Brian Gorin at bgorin@rcn.com.

**Swing by Golding Lobby To Meet Director of
Eden Village Camp
(the first "green" Jewish sleepaway camp)
11:45 am on January 31**

This year, BJEP is fortunate enough to welcome Yoni Stadlin, founder of Eden Village Camp--the first "green" Jewish sleepaway camp (grades 3-10), opening this summer in New York State. (The Eden Village experience includes organic farming, wilderness adventure, natural science, a zero-waste goal, arts, sports, pool & lake, amazing staff... Scholarships available.)

Most unusual, Yoni spent several months living aloft in ancient redwood trees that were slated to be cut, as an environmental protection initiative. (They still stand!) Yoni has a natural gift for sharing his vision, leading raucous song sessions and connecting with people of all ages. Yoni will be speaking to BJEP students in grades 4-7 (in shifts!) in the Golding Auditorium from 9:40-11:40. Feel free to peek in anytime!

**Come meet Yoni and find out about Eden Village Camp (www.edenvillagecamp.org)
at 11:45 am in Golding Lobby on January 31st.**

Grade 4 Parents (only) Siddur Cover Workshop on January 31

Grade 4 Parents are invited to attend

a Siddur Cover Workshop

**Sunday, January 31, 2010
9:40-11:30 am
(or later if you need to stay)
in Golding 101**

Nancy Fried-Tanzer, our Family Educator, will meet the 4th grade parents to help you create a beautiful, personalized, siddur (prayerbook) cover which will be presented to the children on Sunday, March 14, at our Havdalah Service at 6:30 in Levin Ballroom. (Save the date!)

SHHHH! Please do not tell your child. It is a surprise!

Please come with a small photo of your child, any special paper or stickers that you may want to use to decorate the cover, and a pair of sharp scissors. We will provide the Siddur (prayer book) and materials for covering the Siddur.

Please also come with your child's Hebrew name so that you can print it on the dedication book plate of the Siddur; We will help you write it in Hebrew! If you don't know your child's Hebrew name, please contact Dena Glasgow, Director, at dglasgow.bjep@gmail.com or 617-734-4997 and she will help you find one.

If you can't come on January 31, please come the following Sunday (February 7) to the BJEP Office (Shiffman 218) to pick up your siddur and the materials to decorate it. You will have to complete the siddur cover at home and bring it to the school office on March 7 ABSOLUTE LATEST. (Please try very hard to come on January 31st).

Grade 2 Family Program on February 7, 2010

Grade 2 Families are invited to

"A Taste of Shabbat" Family Program

Sunday, February 7, 2010

9:45-11:50

Get to know each other better as part of this morning of experiential learning!

Please bring your child(ren) to their classrooms as usual and then proceed to the International Lounge where the children will meet up with you.

(To find International lounge from our BJEP buildings, walk down the Rabb steps, cross main road, go into the Usdan quad, and enter the door on left. International lounge is straight ahead.)

Would you give almost anything for a quiet moment with your family each week?

Are you beyond frustrated with the "rat race" in which we are all involved?

Don't give up! There is a remedy!

And we look forward to sharing it with you!

But BE WARNED! You could become addicted.

During this program, you will learn about parts of a traditional Friday night dinner including blessing over candles, wine, challah, and even a blessing for your children! There will be an art project, challah braiding, music and much more. You will also have an opportunity to sign up to share a Friday evening with another second grade family.

Nancy Fried-Tanzer, our family educator, will be facilitating this program.

Please do not miss it!

Grade 6 Field Trip to Mayyim Hayyim on Sunday, February 7

On February 7, the 6th graders will go to Mayyim Hayyim, a very special ritual bath located on Washington Street in Newton. This morning field trip promises to be exciting and informative. By the end, your children will be able to answer the following questions:

- What does mayyim hayyim mean and why is it important?
- What is a mikveh? What does mikveh mean?
- What are some other water rituals in Judaism? In other religions?
- "What makes a mikveh a mikveh?" - a few of the rules for building a mikveh
- What does it mean that Mayyim Hayyim is a community mikveh? How did Mayyim Hayyim come to be, and why?
- Who goes to a mikveh and why? - according to Jewish law, traditionally, & "new" reasons

The parent coordinator for this event will be in touch with you shortly in search of drivers for this field trip. Thank you in advance for all those who volunteer! In addition, if you haven't already, you will be receiving permission slips shortly. Please sign and return immediately. Your child will not be able to go without a signed permission slip. On February 7, parent drivers will leave BJEP promptly at 9:40AM. Please be sure that your child does not come late to BJEP that day. The program will end in time to have all students back on the BJEP campus in time for regular dismissal.

**Community Event: Open House for Camp Eden Village, a unique "green"
Jewish overnight camp
at home of Dena Glasgow on January 31**

Eden Village Camp is a unique environmentally-focused Jewish overnight camp where 3rd-12th graders build leadership, outdoor skills, purpose & joy, located 50 miles north of NYC on 248 gorgeous acres.

Come meet Eden Village Camp Founder/Director Yoni Stadlin
4:00 pm, Sunday, January 31
at the home of Dena and Jason Glasgow
Children are welcome too!

47 Oxford Road
Newton, MA 02459

Phone: 617 527-3107
RSVP appreciated

The Eden Village experience includes organic farming, kosher organic food, wilderness adventure, natural science, a zero-waste goal, arts, sports, pool & lake, amazing staff... all in vibrant Jewish community! Scholarships available.

Community Event: Family Program of the JCC (for families with children up to age 6)

**Discover the Magic of Shabbat
Family Program of the JCC**

**Sunday, January 31
10-11:30am**

**Arlington Heights Nursery School (rear entrance)
10 Acton Street, Arlington, MA**

Find out how Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, can be a special time for families to be together and to take a break at the end of the week.

- Experience Shabbat through music, crafts and food
- Learn new tunes and sing with Wayne Potash, Parent's Choice Music Award winner
- Create special moments and memories for your children

FREE program but please register by Wednesday, January 27. Register online at jccgb.org/shabbat31 or contact 617-558-6442 or northofboston@jccgb.org.

This program is open to all! The event is being held in Arlington and is open to families in ALL surrounding communities!

Sponsored by the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston. Interfaith families, single parents, people with disabilities & GLBT families welcome!

Dena Glasgow
Education Director
Weekdays: 617-734-4997
Sundays at Brandeis when BJEP in session: 781-736-4810

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