



## BOSTON-AREA JEWISH EDUCATION PROGRAM

### *The Eton*

The BJEP Newsletter

January 29, 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 31:** Tu BiShvat at BJEP

[4th Grade Parent Program](#) (make siddur covers..remember to bring special items!)  
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! It is so nice to see all your children back at BJEP. The classes are buzzing with action! I am happy to announce that your children immensely enjoyed our new music teacher, Aaron Taylor (who is filling in for our regular music teacher, Jon Muchink, who is abroad this semester). Like Jon, Aaron is energetic, warm and comes with a great repertoire of Jewish songs. We are lucky to have been able to make such a seamless transition.

I want to remind you that we have a new Special Education Consultant, Laurie Tobey-Freedman. She spends her Sunday mornings visiting classrooms and supporting teachers in working with children with varying learning styles and needs. Please feel free to contact her directly at [laurie@freedman.com](mailto:laurie@freedman.com) or 781-444-7462.

**Tonight (Friday night, January 29) is Tu Bishvat, the Jewish Birthday of the Trees. Please look in your child's folder for**

Check out these links for more information about fun ways to celebrate Tu BiShvat in your home. The one-day holiday begins 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.

#### **Sunday Morning Adult Learning at BJEP**

Adult Torah (Bible) Study  
with Evan Hershenson  
10:00-11:45 am  
Golding 107  
All are welcome!

#### **BJEP CAFE**

Come to the  
BJEP CAFE  
in the Lown Lounge  
Lown Building (on the  
Quad)  
to enjoy coffee and nosh  
and meet other BJEP  
parents.  
Open when BJEP in  
session  
\*Food set-up occurs 9:30-  
9:45.

**a short Tu Bishvat Seder that your family can use as part of Friday night dinner this week (it is also available by clicking the link to the left). It is short and a lot of fun!**

This Sunday, we will be have special programming for Tu Bishvat at BJEP. While all grades will have special activities in their classrooms, the older grades (4-7) will be meeting Yoni Stadlin, an accomplished Jewish environmentalist, who is opening a "green" Jewish sleepaway camp this summer. At 11:45 am in Golding Lobby, Yoni will be available for parents who want to find out more this camp. Read below for more info. **Also, on the occasion of Tu Bishvat, we invite you to buy trees to be planted in Israel (see below for details).** Of course, thank you to all the parents involved in bringing in fruit for this special day!

**Fourth Grade Parents**--Please remember to come this Sunday to make siddur (prayerbook) covers for your children (*Shhh...your children don't know!*). You are encouraged to bring in any items that you would like to incorporate into the cover! See below for more details.

**Second and Sixth Grade Parents**--Read below for information about our special programs involving you or your children on February 7.

**All Parents**--read below to find out ways to help out at our Purim Silent Auction. This is a great way to help BJEP keep costs down! In our trying economic times, this is more important than ever. Thank you in advance for your help.

Don't forget--you are always welcome to join adult learning on Sunday morning or stop by the Lown Lounge for coffee and morning nosh. See left for more details.

Shabbat Shalom, Dena

### **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](mailto:bgorin@rcn.com).

### **The Silent Auction is Coming!!!**

We will be holding the Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser  
to raise funds for BJEP  
during the Purim Carnival on February 28th.

#### **So, what can YOU do to help?**

You can:

- Solicit donations from family, friends and local businesses--be creative, any donation is a good donation. [Click here to download letter that you can customize to request goods and services from vendors.](#)
- Donate an item or a service yourself--handmade items, sports memorabilia, sporting event or theatre tickets, a weekend at a vacation home, instruction in your area of expertise--the sky's the limit, use your imagination!
- Volunteer to work on the Silent Auction Committee--we need people to solicit donations through letters and phone calls, organize donations, set up the tables and work during the Auction.
- Put the date on your calendar and make sure to come and bid on items!

If you have any questions, would like to volunteer your time or have donations to offer, please contact Dana Ravech at [md.ravech@verizon.net](mailto:md.ravech@verizon.net) or (508) 359-1946.

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

This year, BJEP is fortunate enough to welcome Yoni Stadlin, founder of Eden Village Camp--the first "green" Jewish sleepaway camp (grades 3-12), 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](http://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](mailto: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**

**(Come after drop-off for coffee and schmoozing,  
actual program starts at 9:45)**

*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.**

(Younger siblings are welcome but let us know first so we have enough supplies! Also, bring toys to entertain your children for last 1/2 an hour when 2nd graders return to their classrooms and parents partake in an adult discussion.)

(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](http://jccgb.org/shabbat31) or contact 617-558-6442 or [northofboston@jccgb.org](mailto: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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