



מה חדש Ma Chadash?

A newsletter from Talmud Torah to the parents & students

May 17
5 Sivan

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Just Do It: Be Jewish

This year's *Gimel* Living Museum was entitled: "Just Do It: Be Jewish."

A wide array of artifacts was exhibited in the Sabes JCC Tychman Gallery, the week of April 26.

The 5th graders brought in artifacts, learned about them from family members, shared the history of the artifact with their class, and wrote down their stories which became their artifact labels in the museum.

Two grand opening receptions were held for family and friends on April 26 and April 27. The response to the exhibit was fantastic! Many guests recorded their comments and impressions in our guest book.

Each and every artifact was significant in some way to the participants. Of special interest were a beautiful illustrated Bible, a wedding tower ring, a Sandy Kolfax baseball card, a *matzah* cover made from hospital bed sheets and a set of candlesticks from Poland which were cut down by their owner so they could be transported to the United States, about 75 years ago.

This project, The Living Museum, is done in conjunction with the Museum Of Jewish Heritage in New York and will be featured on their website.

We wish to thank the Minnesota Jewish Historical Society for its help and support, all the parents who generously provided the food for our receptions as well as helping with the set up, and, most importantly, our *Gimel* students who worked hard to share a special part of their lives with others.

The *Gimel* teachers, Mary Baumgarten and Carmella Chazin loved doing this project with their students and look forward to working on the Gimle Living Museum again next year.

We'd like to thank Avi Zadaka, our technology guru.

For further information, feel free to visit the Museum of Jewish Heritage website at www.living-museum.org



Spirited *Lag BaOmer* Celebration

The students and teachers enjoyed a fun-filled *Lag BaOmer* all-school celebration.

Niza Schear, faculty member, planned the event and made sure of every last detail. Students and teachers were divided into color teams; black, purple, yellow, red and blue. Each team consisted of the youngest to the oldest students in the elementary classes.

The teams wrote an original slogan, incorporating Hebrew and aspects of *Lag BaOmer* which they had studied in their respective classes. The children participated in a variety of relays including hula hoops, cave study and more. The winning teams were judged on skill, cooperation, spirit and respect. To conclude this exciting day of *Lag BaOmer*, everyone ate popsicles, a long-time *Talmud Torah* tradition.



Magen Tzedek, Kashrut, Justice. Judaism. Be a Part of the Conversation... Dalet Students Were!!!

In our final theme of the year, the Dalet students have been working on an in-depth study of *Kashrut*. Students studied the primary and secondary reasons why we keep kosher, and have learned the connections between the Jewish sources and origins of *kashrut* and modern Jewish Life. Students also learned how to identify kosher products by the different *hechsherim* (symbols). Recently, Rabbi Morris Allen, founder of the *Hechsher Tzedek Movement*, spoke to our students to further expand their knowledge of *kashrut*.

The *hechsher* is a mark used to certify that a food is kosher. Rabbi Allen believes that the *hechsher* mark doesn't guarantee the food's making is fully in accordance with Jewish laws and ethics. Born out of distress at the reported working conditions at a meat packing plant, *Hechsher Tzedek* is intended to be a way to ensure that the foods Jews eat are both ritually and ethically kosher.

Rabbi Allen emphasized, "We need to be in a world where we can say that keeping kosher is the way in which I demonstrate not only a concern for my relationship to God and Torah but the Jewish concern for our relationship to the world in which we live."



A Life Altering Experience

It's hard to envision a group of 7th graders sitting absolutely still and quietly for one and a half hours without anyone stirring.

This is indeed what happened when Holocaust survivor, Reva Kibort, recently came to speak to the *Hey* students at the *Talmud Torah* of Minneapolis.

Reva's story was tragic: the loss of her parents and a sister, an orphanage, concentration camps, and starvation. This was certainly more than a six year old should have seen and been subjected to.

And yet, Reva is an optimistic person, one who is grateful for what she has, one who loves America and one who cherishes life.

Reva's message to the students was loud and clear: "Never give up, don't take things for granted and by all means, continue your Jewish education. Many things can be taken away from you, but no one can take away your education."



Questions or comments regarding the **Ma Chadash**? Email them to schalom@talmudtorahmpls.org

Talmud Torah is a beneficiary agency of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation

