



מה חדש Ma Chadash?

A newsletter from Talmud Torah to the parents & students

March 23
8 Nisam

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HaZamir Festival and Concert

HaZamir festival and concert was the culmination of months of practice and hard work for our *Talmud Torah* chapter of *HaZamir* that meets weekly on Sunday mornings for two hours of rehearsals and musical training with the musical director, Ross Fishman. This year's group, Morissa Chez-Shaw, Amy Kuller and Asher Pink, traveled with Ross Fishman and Susie Chalom to the Hudson Valley Resort in Kerhonkson NY for the Festival and then to Manhattan's West Side to the *Rodeph Shalom* Synagogue for the gala concert on Sunday evening.

The festival was attended by 250 students who arrived by bus, van, plane and train from all over the USA, Canada and Israel. All year, the students learned and practiced the same repertoire of songs in their individual chapters and then, finally on March 12, they came together to rehearse over the weekend in preparation for Sunday's concert.

One of the most unique aspects of *HaZamir* is the coming together of Jews from all the movements and affiliations. The participants filled the lobby on Friday afternoon as the sun set to welcome *Shabbat* by singing "*Shalom Aleichem*." After that, *HaZamirniks* had the choice of three different Friday night services in which they could participate: Traditional Service with a "*michitza*" (division between men and women), Egalitarian Conservative Service, or Progressive/Liberal Service. This is the essence of *HaZamir*—the coming together around that which unites us, while respecting the different ways our traditions are celebrated.

For many of the Israelis, this was their first *Shabbat* that embraces the different ways to be Jewish. Throughout the Festival, encounters between the Americans and the Israelis added to the harmony that filled the rehearsal rooms. The teens not only sing together, they sing for each other—at each meal throughout *Shabbat*—different chapters performed a piece of music that they prepared specifically for their friends.

Sunday night, the sanctuary at *Rodeph Shalom* was packed with *Hazamir* alumni, friends and family members who watched in awe as a stage full of passionate *HaZamirniks* brought meaning to music. The ninety minute concert was beautiful with works from Salamone Rossi to Robbie Solomon, an alumni performance and a surprise piece from Lior Ben Shlush and the *Hazamir Yisrael* Chorus. Thunderous applause and a standing ovation filled the sanctuary.

Next year's concert will be at Lincoln Center in New York and promises to be even more spectacular!

Participation in *HaZamir* is open to any Jewish teen in the Twin Cities—whether or not they are a *Talmud Torah* student.





Celebrating Passover at Talmud Torah

Pesach is coming! The hallways and classrooms of *Talmud Torah* are filled with the singing of holiday songs and beautiful artwork adorns the walls. Everyone is excited about the preparations for this holiday.

This year, the students will participate in a *Passover Extravaganza* on March 24 and March 25. At the *Passover Extravaganza*, students will be rotating among various stations: playing *Passover Jeopardy*, making *charoset*, doing *seder* plate and ten plague activities, acting out parts of the *Pesach* story, and making a mural incorporating the four Hebrew names of Passover. Students will come away with a greater understanding of Passover, how this holiday relates to their lives and better prepared to participate in their home *sedarim*.



Mekhina Bet Yom HaSiddur

On Sunday, March 14, the *Mekhina Bet* students culminated their prayer studies with a very special ceremony, *Yom HaSiddur*. Rabbi Sadoff gave a meaningful *d'var Torah* and blessed the children. The students chanted several prayers, sang songs, (*z'mirot*), for *Shabbat*, read an original class prayer to God, and explained the basic meanings of the prayers through vignettes. Joel Lavintman, *Talmud Torah* President, and Terry Krider Kleinbaum, principal, presented each student with his/her own personalized *Siddur Sim Shalom* prayer book. Shira Lavintman, music teacher, accompanied the children with guitar and drums which added to the spirit of the ceremony. Following the program, the students and their families socialized and ate a delicious cake.

This was a celebration to remember.



Alexis Fishman with Michael Engel, Holocaust Survivor, of blessed memory

Adopt A Survivor Program

The inaugural year of the Adopt A Survivor class continues to provide our students and their survivor-partners with many new and wonderful opportunities to enrich their friendships and connections. As well as regularly monthly meetings, the entire group met to make *Mishloach Manot* for one another and to decorate photo frames for group photos that were taken. The students are also currently creating storyboards which will reflect their survivor-partner's life experiences.

The 2010 *Yom Hashoah* Commemoration will take place on April 11 at 7pm at the Mt Zion Temple in St Paul. The students and their partners will be honored as the key note feature of the evening. They will perform a cantata entitled *A Story of Memory*. This moving arrangement, written by Lili Chester beautifully portrays the deep connections between all the participants in the Adopt A survivor Program, and it further gives voice to the survivors' stories and the students' message - that in the future they will carry the message forward to the next generation.

Denelle Carriger - Teacher and Leslie Orenstein -Coordinator

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

Talmud Torah is a beneficiary agency of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation