

Junior Congregation



Chatter

THE place to read all about what's going on in Junior Cong!

Volume 3 Issue 2

Junior Congregation Chatter wishes all of its readers a wonderful and sweet new year!

GHC celebrates

On **Saturday evening, October 10th at 6:15 pm**, the GHC community will join in the world-wide celebration known as Simchat Torah. What makes GHC different from the rest? We GHCers know how to celebrate with style!

Rabbi Kenter and Cantor Kanarek invite you to "**Wrap Yourself in Torah**". We unroll the entire scroll – yes, all five books of Moses – so students can "wrap" themselves in the Torah. (You can't do that with Harry Potter!) Students and parents will have the opportunity to see every letter of every word of every verse of every... well, you get the idea. Then, **on Sunday October 11th**, we honor two of GHC's outstanding citizens – Debbie Jagoda (mom of Junior Congregation leader Evvie) and Andrew Goldstein (dad of *Zayin* student Ilana and *Dalet* student Joseph). Have we got your attention yet?

To ice the cake, as per Junior Congregation policy (see page 2), **credit will be given to all our participating students**. Yep, that's correct. Each student who gets wrapped up in "The Wrap" will earn one highly desired attendance sticker. Well, that's "a wrap" – see you on the 10th!

But wait, there's more...

Emily Robin (daughter of Junior Congregation leader Eileen Robin) is GHC's new *Kadima* leader. *Kadima* is a wonderful social experience for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The first event – **an ice cream party** – will be held on **Monday, October 12th at 7:00 pm**. Since there's no public school that day, get your work done early and come join the fun.

October occasions

- 10/3 **1st day of Sukkot on Shabbat** – we can't shake our lulavs today, but we can hang out with the lovely **Ms. Eileen Robin!**
- 10/10 **Alison Kellner** is back as the leader of the day.
- 10/11 **Simchas Torah** – no scheduled Junior Congregation service – however, you may earn a sticker by dancing in the Main Sanctuary. What – dancing?!!!!
- 10/12 **Kadima Ice Cream Party** – for all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders – 7:00 pm in the Social Hall.
- 10/17 Judy and Andrew Goldstein are the leaders of the day.
- 10/24 Don't miss amazing teen leader **Chad Lazar**.
- 10/31 No tricks but lots of treats today with Judy Goldstein & friends.

News in November

- 11/7 **Family Shabbat Service** – new and improved – will be held in the Main Sanctuary at 10:15 am. Yes, you will earn a sticker.
- 11/14 **Kinnus weekend** – no scheduled Junior Congregation service. Join us in the Main Sanctuary as USY teenagers take over the service. Yes, you will earn a sticker.
- 11/21 **Alison Kellner** leads Junior Congregation in the Chapel.
- 11/28 Thanksgiving weekend – there is **no scheduled Jr Congregation** – earn a sticker by joining us in the Main Sanctuary.

“I have another question...”

You're not the only one – so, once again, here are the basics

Junior Congregation meets in the small chapel near the Broadway entrance to the synagogue. Services begin promptly at 10:30 AM. We are incredibly fortunate to have a knowledgeable and dedicated group of parents and teens who make up our volunteer corps of leaders. We are also delighted to report that our three professional leaders – Rabbi Kenter, Cantor Kanarek, and teacher Alison Bender-Kellner – will lead Junior Congregation for a combined total of 12 Saturdays throughout the school year! If you want to know which talented leader will be waiting to greet you on a particular Shabbat, please refer to the sidebar on Page 1 of every edition of *Junior Congregation Chatter*.

Children are given the opportunity to choose ahead of time the part(s) they would like to do for the upcoming Shabbat service. Every Sunday, a sign-up sheet will be available during *Tefilah* Time with Mr. Zisser. Children can volunteer to perform various parts of the service, ranging from ark opener to leading a prayer to reading from the Torah. [Mr. Zisser will guide our younger students in choosing parts.] Participation is an excellent opportunity for the students to show off what they have been learning in class, all in front of an encouraging and friendly audience. **Having the children sign up for parts ahead of time is very helpful for the leaders, and keeps the service flowing smoothly.** It would be most helpful for the children if you tell them in advance when they will be attending Junior Congregation. This avoids the problem of children signing up for parts, and then not showing up because they did not realize that they were not coming. Parts that have not been assigned prior to Saturday are given out to students in attendance that day, so that everyone has an active role.

To fulfill the basic Junior Congregation requirement, students must attend a total of twelve (12) services throughout the school year. Since the GHC Religious School curriculum emphasizes the content of the Shabbat morning service, students must attend a minimum of eight (8) Saturday morning services towards this requirement. To further encourage the enjoyment of Shabbat and other holidays, Junior Congregation credit will also be available to any student who attends and participates in a congregational service on which there is no scheduled Junior Congregation service. These times include: Kabbalat Shabbat [Friday night], Sukkot, Simchas Torah, Purim, or Pesach. Students will receive one sticker per service attended.

Every Shabbat after services, the children eat, drink, and “hang out” with their friends at their own Kiddush, held in classroom 5 (Mrs. Horowitz’s room). Please consider sponsoring a Kiddush (peanut-free, please) in honor of your child’s birthday. It is truly a meaningful way to mark the occasion by sharing it with your GHC family. And, your child gets his or her moment during the service to pick the tune for *Adon Olam*.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Judy Goldstein at andrew.goldstein@att.net. She will be more than happy to answer your questions.

Welcome to the 2009-2010 Junior Congregation experience!

♪ Just a few notes ♪

♪ Wanna Be Startin' Somethin': Junior Congregation services begin **promptly at 10:30 am** because those ninety minutes definitely fly by when you're having fun!

♪ Sometimes you feel like a Nut (Sometimes you don't): We thank you for generously sponsoring a Junior Congregation Kiddush. **Please note that all products purchased for the Kiddush must be nut-free** to keep our kids safe and healthy. We will be happy to give you suggestions to make your shopping easier.

♪ Sunrise, Sunset: Please bring all well-labeled food items for the kiddushim into the Dairy Kitchen before Shabbat begins (late Friday afternoon).

♪ Come Together: Shabbat is a time for family. We strongly encourage all parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins [once or twice removed] to join our students for this wonderful experience we call Junior Congregation.

♪ And Just Enjoy Yourself: What more needs to be said?

The Frequent Daveners Club

As parents, we know that positive reinforcement is always helpful. So, in order to encourage students to attend Junior Congregation services more frequently [and above the requirement], we offer an incentive program. Last year, we had an amazing 25 students enter our "Frequent Daveners Club". This year, the benchmarks for joining the Frequent Daveners Club are:

- Attend 16 - 19 times - students will receive a \$5 gift card to Cold Stone Creamery.
- Attend 20 - 23 times - students will receive a \$10 gift card to Barnes & Noble.
- Attend 24 times or more - students will receive a \$15 gift card to Best Buy.

HELP WANTED

Sponsors needed for Saturday morning kiddushim (the snack). Please send all inquiries to Lisa Dayan at dayan@kmm.com.

If you have enjoyed reading this edition of *Junior Congregation Chatter*, please make your email address available to us so your family doesn't miss a thing. Email helps us all to stay green!

Who will be "Class of the Month"?

The count starts... now! Each month, we will reward the class that, by percentage, attended the most Junior Congregation services. The winning class will have its name printed in this box for all *Chatter* readers to see and