

TBS Winter Gazette

Feb/Mar 2021—Issue 1

Shevat-Nisan 5781



Inside this issue:

Experiential Learning with TBS Gan-Kindergarten & Aleph Class	2
Kita Gimel—Creating a New Way to Teach	3
<i>ACTIV8! Actively Creating Community</i>	4
Witness Theater: The Story of Holocaust Survivors Through Art	5
Shabbat Services: Pandemic Edition	6
PURIM 2 U Schedule of Events	7
MACCABEATS Concert Information	8
2021 Arts and Essay Contest Information	9

Dear TBS Families and Friends,

This has been a year so different, something we have never experienced before. At TBS, we had to shift the vision and mission of the schools (Religious School and Makom High School) to a more holistic approach and to create a sense of pure joy in learning. Our focus has been on community, about processing and making meaning to the lessons being taught. Through this Hebrew learning has been conducted individually & in small groups and students are making vast strides. Teachers have developed a personal relationship with the students via Zoom and students have been empowered and feel connected to their Judaism during this time. From afar, we are prioritizing bringing our community into your homes.

To highlight some of what we have been up to, our biweekly Mishpacha Shabbat family services have high attendance biweekly and encourage and welcome the entire community to join us via Zoom. In order to create excitement around services, each service has a theme. For example, in February, we hosted a Superbowl themed Mishpacha Family Service Shabbat, and at the end of this month we will be celebrating and dressing up for Purim during the service. The most important aspect of our services is allowing families to lead and take part in the service, instilling the sense and empowerment for children to be leaders in our community. We emphasize encouraging 5th, 6th, and 7th grade student leaders to take the initiative to lead prayers biweekly but we welcome our younger learners who have gained competency in their prayer skills to be the leaders of the prayers as well. Our Mishpacha Family Service leaders, Rabbi Cara Weinstein Rosenthal and Mr. Joseph Soffer, are continuously innovating and coming up with fun games and activities to keep kids and families engaged from home.

For the Mini Minyan services with our ECC students, Julie Gittlin, Kim Weinberg, and Jen Schiffer have been doing a beautiful job to bring hands-on interactive learning for this group. There is a lot of planning that happens behind the scenes to make each event we hold viable.

This winter newsletter could not have been possible without the help and assistance of our Editor Intern, Ella Bruck, a senior at Muhlenberg College who has helped to write and compile many of the articles we send to you. It involved her sitting in on many classes and interviewing our staff to get a full impression of our school. This newspaper features highlights from our classes, our Shabbat services, and shows what's been happening in our classrooms, and dives into the many programs that our TBS students are involved with. We have articles encompassing highlights from our youngest learners all the way to our oldest students to give you a taste of our wonderful programs and experiences. A huge Todah Rabbah (thank you) to Janet Jeddah, our administrator extraordinaire, who helped to create this publication in its beautiful format.

Wishing you all a Happy Month of Adar and a joyous Purim

Sincerely,
Sharon Solomon

Experiential Learning

with TBS Gan-Kindergarten & Aleph Class

As the school year continues, and teachers are looking forward to the upcoming holidays of Purim and Passover, teachers are using every modality accessible to be mindful and keep students engaged in a new era of teaching. Each lesson encompasses multiple components to accommodate for virtual learning. To assist with each lesson, teachers utilize the power of storytelling, art projects, music, dance, and digital tools to deeply immerse students into the curriculum. Creating while learning is essential to the Kindergarten experience at TBS. Prior to COVID, we have been focused on applying knowledge to students and through interactive lessons. This learning process involves a creative hands-on experience for students, by reflecting on the experience as the lesson is being taught.

With half of the Gan (kindergarten) and Kita Aleph (first grade) class remote due

to the pandemic, experiential learning has been more important than ever. Teachers are taking this method to an entirely new level this academic year. "The only way I know how to teach is through a hands-on and creative approach," says Morah Hanna.

"I believe that when students are working hands-on, they are not only learning, but are able to absorb concepts much better."

This process is very transformative for students as they learn through doing. Prior to the start of the semester, teachers sent home packages to students with materials required for the curriculum. Because of this, students are able to learn and reflect on Jewish lessons through movement, song, dance, and understand that through the learning process they are constructing meaning

through creativity.

The class is currently learning about winter, so in order to make the curriculum interactive, Morah Hanna brings in articles of clothing to class to make a game and song out of the lesson. Students will sing a song in Hebrew, play dress up with the clothes, laugh and learn with one another. "They really don't realize they're learning," says Morah Hanna. "It's so much fun for them, it's all about games and creativity to advance their understanding."

In early January, the Kindergarten class led by Morah Fran eagerly met in-person and virtually for an interactive story time, to learn about the holiday of Tu b'Shevat. Through song and dance, students displayed the story of Tu b'Shevat with performative emotion. Students also participated in a planting activity to learn about the symbolism of Tu b'Shevat. While planting, Morah Fran explained that at sundown on January 27th, the holiday begins. Jews consider this day as a way to remind themselves of their duty to care for the environment. Today, Jews around the world plant trees or donate money to Israel for
Continued on page 7

Shabbat Mishpacha Family Service
Saturday February 27th at 10 am

Happy Purim!

LET'S LEARN

About Purim and what values we learn from the story

What each of the main characters teaches us

Led by Rabbi Weinstein Rosenthal, Sharon Solomon and Daphne Solomon

ZoomMeeting
ID: 507 582 8493
Password: 22522

© museyushaya - Fotolia.com

Kita Gimel - Creating a New Way to Teach

By Ella Bruck, TBS Religious School Editor Intern

This year creative learning gained a reputation of its own. The third grade, currently virtual only, is being engaged through new forms of multimedia to increase student engagement and a community between students. Morah Susan Daniels and Morah Galit Kaffash collaborate with one another to make class special and exciting for their students, beginning with a special pajama party roll call, checking in with students, and allowing students to chat with one another and connect. Once students share their check-in and connect both socially and emotionally, class begins with their routine of learning Hebrew, Torah journaling, sharing new Torah stories, and the showing of videos to enhance learning.

Morah Susan and Morah Galit work together to align their lesson plans with the Torah portion of the class lessons. The prayer section of class is not only about learning the skills and words, but also integrating into the other subjects. While students learn Torah, they keep a journal to help keep track of stories as well as create an interactive and personal connection to the stories by illustrating the events of the Parsha stories.

"What we have learned is to teach in a way where we put all subjects together in one classroom so that each teacher is aligned and each curriculum plays off one another. When Morah Galit teaches Hebrew, she connects it to stories from the Torah," says Morah Susan.

For the Tefillah portion of class, the students' Zoom video is required to be on for students to be engaged with each

other and learn new Hebrew words. Prayer begins with the Shema prayer and students cover their eyes to say the prayer together.

Morah Galit then reviews the history and symbolism of the mezuzah, which students learned in prior classes. One student raises a hand and shares, "you're supposed to tap it or kiss it as you go by." Students are reminded that a mezuzah should be by each door, the front door, back door, and inside doors.

Sarah is that God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his son, to learn the lesson of trust. God needed to see that Abraham would trust him, because if Abraham did not, no one would. One student adds, "God needed Abraham to trust him to make him into a great nation." We learn that Abraham sacrificed a lamb instead of Isaac and that God ultimately told Abraham to find new land to live in and pass down for generations. Abraham, the seed of the land, planted his seed for thousands of generations to exist and endure after him.



Morah Susan asks students, "who are the seeds of Abraham?"

All students raised their hands to indicate that they're seeds of Abraham.

"We're Jews just like Abraham," said one student.

Morah Susan shares, "When you learn something and integrate it together, the students keep it because they own it.

After the review, class makes its transition into Torah learning. The students take out their designated Torah notebooks and start by sharing their favorite stories and drawings they made from previous class sessions.

Morah Susan then begins to review the story of Abraham and Sarah and shares that lots of women are named Sarah because she was a wonderful important woman.

The lesson from the story of Abraham and

They're thinking differently, the lessons are interactive enough that they really know what's going on."

The third grade class aims to take a holistic approach to its lessons. Learning Torah stories along with Hebrew words becomes a larger lesson and life takeaway for students to discuss with their friends and families outside the classroom. Being digital has allowed teachers to instruct in innovative and new ways, reaching new forms of collaboration, and an exciting digital landscape for learning.

ACTIV8!

Actively Creating Community

by Sharon Solomon, Religious School Director & Ella Bruck, TBS-Religious School Editor Intern

The inspiring, young leaders of Temple Beth Sholom's ACTIV8! program have done mighty work for the community in just a short few months. The social action group was created in July of 2020 with the founding goal to act with lovingkindness. Members of ACTIV8! are committed to the responsibility of making the world a better place by participating in monthly service-learning projects in the community to turn their core value into action.

The program began with student's first visit to Lend a Hand on August 5, 2020. Not only were ACTIV8! students there to provide support and quite literally lend a hand to those in need, but they also had the opportunity to learn and understand what food insecurity is, who it affects, and what the immediate needs of the community are. The President of Lend a Hand, Ron Jasser, spoke with students alongside Executive Director, Lisa Pollack and Case Worker, Ellen Acosta of the team to teach students that helping the community is more than putting packages together, but rather is about empowerment and being an agent of change.

"Since our first meeting back in August we have been discussing the importance of activism, its Jewish roots and finding ways to be involved in our own local community. We learned that voluntarism is a core Jewish value, and a traditional way for Jews to be engaged in their communities. The concepts of community service, tikkun olam and social justice all serve as important ways of involvement and connectivity between and amongst the local and global Jewish community," says ACTIV8! coordinator Silvia Kogan.

Along with all the projects students courageously take on, they also decided that once or twice a month they wanted to support initiatives that benefit the entire community. The emphasis of this social action group in particular is about taking care of yourself and your local community around you first. The mission of the group is for these students to understand that "not only are you learning to be a helping hand, but students are learning to develop a voice of their own." This is at the core value of what ACTIV8! is all about.

Through ACTIV8!, students are learning to reflect and affect change in the community.

Natalia Hakimi, a member of ACTIV8! and the TBS community, shared that being part of this group has allowed her to step outside her cocoon to join and help others. "It is your job to combat racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, homophobia, gender inequality, and more. Don't choose silence and take a stand. In today's world your voice is more amplified than ever through social media and the world's thirst for change. The time to change the future is now!" says Hakimi.

ACTIV8! students continued their dedicated service work through the end of the 2020 year. On August 19, 2020 members did work for the homebound in the community and continued their efforts through September 13, 2020. During this time, students provided goodie bags to elder community members, providing Shabbat and Rosh Hashanah supplies. Students felt as though seniors needed to feel connected to the community and wanted them to know that they are always being thought of.

More recently, on January 18, 2021, a group of high school students from Temple Beth Sholom in Roslyn headed to NOSH - St. Rocco's Church Food Pantry in Glen Cove. Under the leadership of Silvia Kogan, ACTIV8! Coordinator the students kicked off the Temple's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service by first meeting with Courtney Callahan, the director and founder of NOSH. After Callahan shared a brief history of the organization, the teens brought over boxes of non-perishable food, collected by all members of the Temple, Religious School and ECC, to be donated to the pantry.

This combined effort is a testament to the power of our TBS community, paying it forward to those in need is at the core of our values.

Later at the pantry, students packed bags of goods to be shared with members of the Long Island community who face food insecurity and use NOSH's services as a way to feed their families. The group of teenagers wrapped up the day with a conversation about community service, social justice, and tikkun olam (often translated as "repairing the world"). These three concepts are seen as crucial means of involvement and connectivity between and amongst the local and global Jewish community.

"During these unprecedented times people need more support, change, and unity than ever" said Hakimi.

We are proud and honored to have been able to support NOSH, Lend a Hand, Helping the Homebound, and Mid-Island Y-JCC Food Pantry to support those in need in our community.

ACTIV8! students look forward to more opportunities to further support the greater Long Island community. In February, ACTIV8! plans to put together mishloach manot baskets for homebound seniors in celebration of Purim. As we slowly make our way into spring, we hope the COVID situation improves so the social action program has new possibilities to hold outdoors events. ACTIV8! plans on holding an outdoor Passover food drive with The Lend A Hand Project as well as volunteer in soup kitchens once it is safe to do so. We look forward to updating and sharing the wonderful accomplishments of ACTIV8! as the year continues.

Witness Theater: The Story of Holocaust Survivors Through Art



TBS students Allie Levine and Jacob Aldad were selected to participate in Witness Theater. Witness Theater brings together Holocaust survivors and high school students with a shared goal to expose and memorialize the stories of Holocaust survivors. Through this program, students become witnesses to history and storytellers of the Holocaust. At TBS we encourage students to participate in alternative extracurricular programs. This program is sponsored through UJA.

In recent years the United States has witnessed an increase in anti-Semitic incidents, according to the ADL. At the same time, a Claims Conference study found that almost half of Americans cannot name a single concentration camp or ghetto. Holocaust education is severely lacking in the U.S. and the Witness Theater aims to improve and raise awareness to this educational gap. Holocaust survivors are now reaching their 80s and 90s and it is our younger generations' responsibility to ensure these stories are

never forgotten. The public performances by participants serve as a way to educate the larger public and instill the memory of the Holocaust in the next generation.

Allie applied to the program back in May of 2020. The application required writing an essay about why the program was important to the applicant, followed by an interview with the head of the program, Jane Pashman. Allie wanted to join the program because her grandfather was a Holocaust survivor and felt as though it was important to build a connection to him.

The program is highly competitive, with only 50 spots open for applicants. Once accepted, participants can choose to share the stories of survivors through visual art or through theater performance. As participants in Witness Theater, students and survivors meet weekly in two-hour sessions throughout the academic year with a trained drama therapist and other program staff to bring stories to life.

Deciding to tell the stories of survivors through a play, Allie and four others in her group learned the story of Holocaust survivor Celia Kener. Celia shared her story starting from when she was born to how she ended up where she is today.

Celia was born in Poland and was six years old when WWII began. At the beginning of the war, her father was drafted to the Russian Army and her mother was sent to a labor camp. Her parents left her behind to live in a ghetto with her cousin, aunt, and uncle. One day the family she was staying with in the ghetto was being hid by a non-Jewish family, but the other family wouldn't take in Celia because she was too young. For a while Celia didn't hear from them, and the next she heard, they were missing. Shortly after, Celia found a Polish non-Jewish family that wanted to take Celia in and protect her. She was raised in the household Polish with Christian values. When the war was over in 1945, the family providing Celia shelter wanted to adopt her, but she was hesitant because she would no longer be Jewish.

Celia learned that the family across the street was also hiding Jews in their home, and one day was taken to the family's barn where she found her birth mother hiding. Celia and her mother had an emotional reunion in that barn and went back to their hometown and found Celia's father when it was safe to do so. A few years later after liberation, her family moved to New York City for a fresh start in the U.S. After living in New York for a handful of years, Celia's parents had a baby boy and continued to grow their family. Celia is now 86 years old and is proud to be able to be comfortable and share her story with younger generations of Jews. Allie will be performing as Celia's birth mother. Each group's play, featuring different stories of survivors, is to be filmed and streamed in the beginning of March.

TBS student, Jacob Aldad has decided to tell survivors stories through art. After listening to several Holocaust survivors share their life stories, Jacob has the idea to create an artistic design inspired by a quote from survivor Meir Usherovitz.

The quote states, "please remember what people can do to each other, stay well, happiness is the main thing. Be strong mentally and physically, don't let anything bother you."

As a third generation Holocaust survivor, Jacob found importance and had high expectations for Witness Theater.

Continued on page 6

Shabbat Services: Pandemic Edition

During the pandemic, TBS has brought to you and your families out of the box thinking in order to plan engaging and fun events for our community virtually. Something our staff and community have grown to love and look forward to every week is virtual Shabbat, both for our Mini Minyan young children service and our Family Mishpacha service.

As you all know, so much of TBS is about engaging with the community and creating room to share voices and stories with one another. During the past year, we have worked to cultivate a bi-weekly Shabbat experience that brings our strong community into your homes. We value Shabbat services as a place where we can all come together for a shared experience filled with laughter, love, and prayer.

We thought long and hard about how we can make these services more interactive and less about sitting in front of a screen. From our experience of past few months learning remotely, we understand that anything over Zoom requires being engaging and interactive. At TBS, Shabbat is about empowering children and families to lead and be together. We made sure that these values remained consistent in the virtual world.

Through many different modalities, we offer opportunities for students and families to lead the prayers in the service, especially in the Mishpacha Family Service that is geared for grades 1-7. We discuss the Torah portion through discussion, song, movement, and various hands-on activities to capture the attention of our community and create an inclusive and encouraging tradition. We want each member to feel good, to know that there are various ways to participate, and create opportunities for voices and stories to be shared.

Our bi-weekly services are also themed to keep things fresh and exciting. On Super Bowl weekend we hosted a Super Bowl themed Super Shabbat where we dressed in our favorite teams' jerseys and answered "touchdown challenge" questions for prizes.

We understand that the world is moving at a fast pace, but each Friday at 6pm we take a moment to slow down, to gather and enjoy our community in our weekly Kabbalat Shabbat service. If you have not yet attended our virtual services, we invite you to join us this Friday for a feel-good celebration to end the week.

Witness Theater - Continued from page 5

"I wanted to be part of something greater and have an experience to not just learn inside the classroom about the Holocaust but find a self-to-self connection and use someone else's story to further enhance my knowledge. I believe the best way to gain knowledge is through someone else," says Jacob.

Currently, scripts are being put together and art pieces are being created. We are looking forward to their final presentation and hearing about their full experience with Witness Theater.

See Witness Theater photos on page 8



JOIN OUR PURIM FESTIVITIES WITH THIS PROGRAM GEARED TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 2ND TO 5TH

Purim baking demo and Kahoot Game

Led by Morot Julie Gittlin & Kim Weinberg

Wednesday, February 24th
5:15 pm to 6:00 pm



Zoom 507 582 8493
Passcode 22522



JOIN US FOR:

PURIM A LOT



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

LED BY MOROT
KIM WEINBERG & JULIE GITTLIN



GEARED ESPECIALLY FOR
ECC, K & 1ST GRADE STUDENTS



4:00-4:30 PM
HAMMANTASHEN BAKING DEMO
BYOF- BRING YOUR OWN FILLING!



4:30-5:00 PM PURIM STORY TIME

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE COSTUME



ZOOM ID 507 582 8493
PASSCODE 22522





Tuesday, February 23rd	4:00 - 4:30 pm 4:30 - 5:00 pm	PURIM a LOT Baking Demo Story Time	Especially for ages ECC—K—1st (Led by Morah Kim Weinberg and Morah Julie Gittlin) (Led by Morah Kim Weinberg and Morah Julie Gittlin) BYF—Bring your own filling
Wednesday, February 24th	5:15 - 6:00 pm	Purim Baking Demo + KAHOOT Game	with Morah Kim Weinberg
Thursday, February 25th	7:00 pm	Erev Purim—Megillah	on Zoom
Friday, February 26th	7:30 am 9:30 am	Megillah on Zoom	ECC Costume Parade in parking lot
Shabbat, February 27th	10:00 am	Mishpacha Family Service	(led by Rabbi Cara Weinstein Rosenthal, Purim Theme Sharon Solomon and Daphne Solomon) Combined with the Mini Minyan
Sunday, February 28th	4:00 pm	Shushan Purim - Maccabeats	Zoom Concert

Experiential Learning continued from page 2

trees to be planted there.

As the school year continues, we look forward to sharing more about our experiential learning approach with our Gan (Kindergarten) and Aleph (First Grade) classes as they continue to engage in interactive sessions.



Let's Hear the Megillah! on zoom ID: 184 366 710

Erev Purim Thursday, February 25th at 7:00 pm
Purim Friday, February 26th at 7:30 am



Vav- B'nai Mitzvah Family Experience

MITZVAH FAIR

SUNDAY MARCH 7TH

9:30 AM TO 10:45 AM

Part of the B'nai Mitzvah experience at TBS is learning about Tikun Olam, Acts of Kindness and Tzedakkah. As such, each Bar/Bat Mitzvah is expected to take part in a Mitzvah Project.

The Mitzvah Fair will help you get exposed to different organizations that will hopefully inspire you to select a Bar/Bat Mitzvah project of your own.

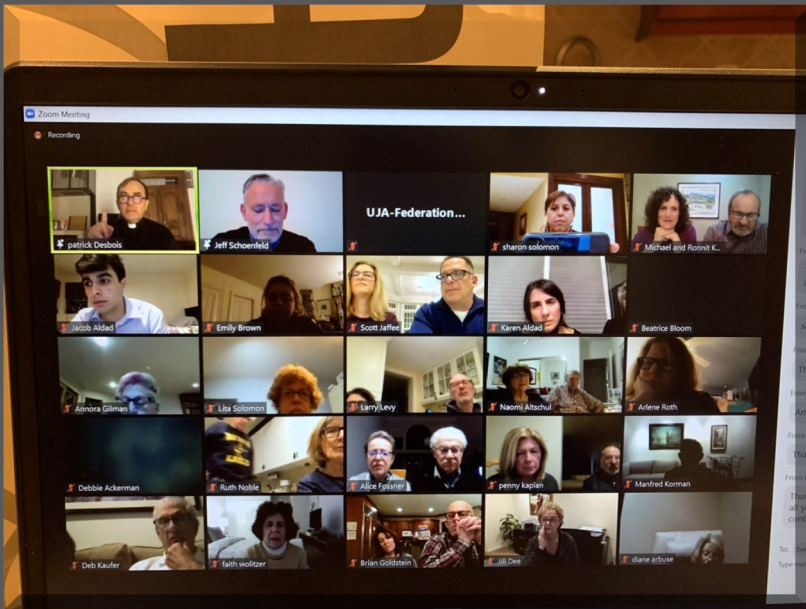
We are happy to introduce you to the following organizations:



ADOPT A SURVIVOR



ZOOM LINK 507 582 8493
Password 22522



TBS students Allie Levine and Jacob Aldad (below) were selected to participate in Witness Theater (top). Witness Theater brings together Holocaust survivors and high school students with a shared goal to expose and memorialize the stories of Holocaust survivors.



Register online for the Maccabeats concert at the TBS website to receive your email notification with the Zoom link



SOCIAL ACTION

TORAH TEACHES...

*The Power to Change the World
Uniquely Jewish Student Perspectives 2021
Arts and Essay Contest*

**Submissions Welcome from Non-TBS School Students!
Pass on to Your Children, Grandchildren and Relatives.**

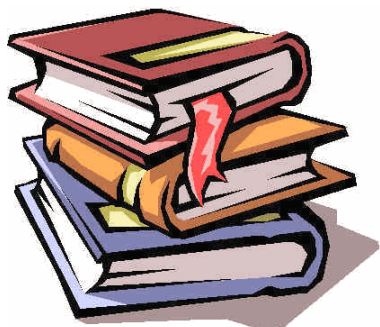
This contest is open to all 7th graders through College Students that are affiliated with members of TBS. You do not have to be a registered student in any of TBS' schools to submit an entry.

TO ENTER Share a Personal Perspective in the form of artwork, poetry, or essay (600 – 800 words) that will address the following question: How does my identity as a Jew impact my work for social and racial justice? You may interpret and approach this question in the way that feels most authentic to you. There is no “right” answer or perspective. This can be a positive or negative impact, it can be about internal or external factors, etc. We’re eager to see a wide range of interpretations and experiences.

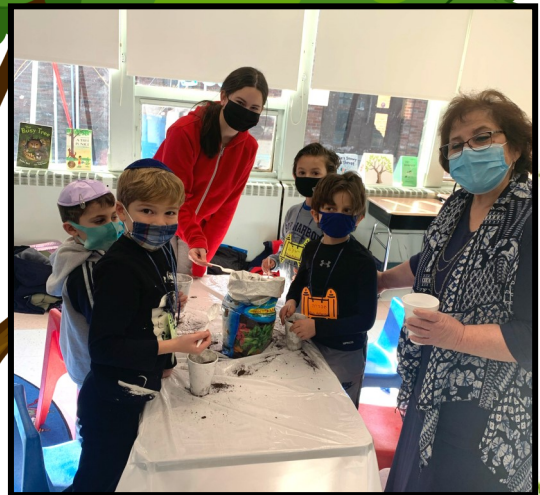
The deadline for submission is Sunday, February 28th, 2021



Kita Bet Special Book and author visit with Stephanie Sorkin, author of Am I A Unicorn? Book talk focused on the uniqueness of each individual and pride in our Jewish identification



**Gan and Aleph work together
to create a productive
Tu b'Shevat and learn about
caring for our environment**



BEHIND THE SCENES AT OUR MINI MINYAN

**Leader Kim Weinberg prepares to teach about
Tu b'Shevat to our youngest students**

Join our monthly Mini Minyan at 10 am on Zoom

**Our next Mini Minyan service will be
Saturday, February 27th**

**It will be a PURIM theme—come in costume—
and get ready for fun, song, story and more**





Morah Fran Kohn and her “hands on approach” to teaching Torah to the Gan and Aleph students.

Imagine learning about Abraham and Sarah and how they welcomed travelers to their tent to rest and refresh.

Now let’s actually all sit in a tent (with a tamarisk tree nearby for some shade), welcome some classmates to sit with us, and the meaning of hospitality comes to life.

This is what is meant by experiential learning.