



A Note from Cantor Greenfeld

Welcome the month of Shvat which hosts the Festival of Trees, Tu B'shvat Blessings are directed to the life-force flowing through the sap after the cold winter. In the Jewish tradition, the Torah is known as the "Tree of Life." Partaking in the study of Torah is encouraged because our sages teach that God plants seeds within each person. But the seed must be nurtured with our mitzvot and awareness of how precious a gift we contain. Committing to study takes discipline but the seed is already there, we are merely watering and awakening the life force that exists. To further illuminate the concept of Our Creator planting seeds of Torah is the prayer after the chanting of Torah. It reads:

Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu,	Blessed is our Creator,
Melech ha'Olam	
Asher natan lanu Torat emet,	Who has given Torah
V'chayeh olam natah b'tocheynu,	Who has implanted
Baruch Atah Adonai,	within us the
noteyn hatorah.	Wisdom of Torah

Two years ago, on the evening of Tu B'shvat, as our Torah study group finished reciting this exact prayer, one of the women, enthusiastically shared this insight. She said, "I never realized that the blessing after Torah reading is different from the blessing before the Torah reading." The second blessing as seen above adds the words "who has implanted within us the wisdom of Torah." The Hebrew word for plant is Natah which is the same verb used for planting a tree. And now, by fulfilling the mitzvah of reading Torah, she understood that she had planted the most important seed of all. May you all plant a seed of Torah this year and in return receive its gifts of perceiving the world in a new way.

Important Dates

Sunday

January 20, 2008

We are participating in a community wide event to observe **Tu B'Shvat**. We are going to partner with the **Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life of Southern California** who does the event with Tree People and the City of Los Angeles. This is our first step towards going green.

The planting will be in a park in Encino and the event begins at 9:30 am and goes until 12:30 pm. Participants must stay for the entire time period. We are encouraging everyone to attend Rsvp immediately at Malips3@aol.com for exact location. (Community Service Hours will be provided)

Monday

Jan. 28, 2008

7:00 Board meeting

Feb 2- Don't Miss!

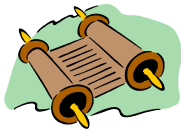
"Spiritual Accounting"

Selwyn Gerber, CPA, Managing Partner- Gerber & Co. Graduate of Wexner Heritage Foundation and serves as Board of Trustees on Jewish Community Board.

Torah School Update

Our fourth grade Tuesday Torah School is well on it's way to a new year. Our talented group is not only learning to read and write Hebrew ; but they are learning to sing and understand the Shabbat morning prayers. To take the learning deeper they are making their own prayer books that have individual interpretations of each prayer. This week they learned the Shma and V'ahavta and made their own mezuzah's to put on their bedroom doors. Rabbinic Intern Steve Finley co- teaches the class with Cantor Judy Greenfeld.

Upcoming Bar and Bat Mitzvahs



Hannah Frankl **May 3, 2008**
Kedoshim

Jason Gelfat **June 14th 08**
B'ha'alotecha

Parker Adelson **August 2, 08**
Ma'asei

Dylan Richards
Amanda Pollack

Upcoming Weddings:
Ian Leong and Lirona Kadosh

Welcome to our new 4th grade Torah school class!!!!

We are just beginning our New Year and we are so happy that you have joined us.

Our New Evening Torah Study Begins:

Thursday, January 24, 2008
Where: Cantor Judy Greenfeld's home

Time: 7:30 –9:00
Call to sign up:818-789-7314

If you have an Artscroll Tanach Please bring it. We will have some available for purchase.

**Special thanks to Laurie P. for getting the newsletter up and running.*

Nachshon Nachas (celebrations)

Please send us you birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, graduations,Conversions, births etc. We would like to celebrate with you.

Happy birthday!

Stuart Lipsett Jan 31

Jackie Chapkis January 28

Nachshon Misheberach (prayers for healing)

Debbie Spitzberg mother of Linda and Steven Levine Sophie's grandma

Alan Greenfeld