



Message from Dr. Schatz, Assistant Director

As we prepare for both Thanksgiving and Hanukkah, I wanted to take a few minutes and share with you some of the programs coming up in Religious School, and suggest that you please put various dates on your calendar as they pertain to your children. We are looking forward to a winter and spring filled with Abiri Fund art projects, a series of family education programs. You will participate with your children as they receive special gifts of Jewish books from the Congregation, several Shabbat activities – some for children only, and others for families, and some Saturday night “Parent Night Out” activities where you can drop your children off for a few hours of supervised play and programming with their Har Zion friends. Please read on for details and be sure to mark calendars!

First, we wish you and your extended families a Happy Thanksgiving! Our Gimel children created beautiful cards that will be sent with food packages to those in need from the Har Zion Tikkun Olam Committee.

This year, we light the first candle of the Hanukkiah on Sunday night, November 28. Most of the JFGRS children created beautiful *Hanukkiot* on colorful tiles. Please take pictures of your family lighting candles on these original works of art and send them in to be shared!

The Gimel class has also worked with the [Gary Rosenthal Hiddur Mitzvah program](#) to create glass-fused *Hannukiot*. They have done their part, and the projects have been sent in to the studio for the company to put everything together. They will be back in a month or so, and we hope you will display them prominently in your home until using it next Hanukkah for the first time.

During the week of Hanukkah, your Har Zion family has many activities for you to do! Please plan to join us for the **Hanukkah Street Fair and outdoor candlelighting on November 30**. On **Shabbat morning of Hanukkah, December 4, Hay and Vav** students will have their second Shabbat Fun program, with a short service led by Norman Einhorn, some games and activities, and a visit to Norman’s ‘candy store’. That evening at the conclusion of Shabbat, **Gimel and Dalet families are invited to Havdalah and Hanukkah candlelighting at 5:30 PM**. After these short blessings, the children will have supervised play activities while the parents are invited to socialize with their Har Zion Community. Wait, there is still more! On **Sunday, December 5 the JFGRS will have a Hanukkah activity** during which each class will learn an aspect of Hanukkah through a game prepared by the teacher and students in each grade. Everyone will get a chance to go around to each station and do each activity, and in the end everyone will take home some yummy chocolate gelt. That same day, the **Zayin class will take a trip** back in time to see some sights of Philadelphia Jewish History.

Please see the Winter-Spring Calendar attached to this email. Below are some brief explanations of the different programs.

Many of these activities will earn your child a **Star on the Mitzvah Trail!**

Parents' Night Out**6:30-9:30 PM**

Drop your kids off for a few hours of fun programs at Har Zion! Calendar notes specific grades for each day. We will determine as it becomes clearer whether safety permits bringing all school age children to Parent Night Out at the same time.

Family Friendly Friday Nights

A short and engaging Friday night experience for families with children K-4

Shabbat Morning Fun Days for Grades 5-6**10:00 AM-12:15 PM**

Junior Congregation and more for our pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students

Family education programs are noted. Other than Shabbat programs, all take place during Religious School hours.

At each of these programs, students will demonstrate skills they have learned, and will receive a special gift of a book to add to their Judaica library from the congregation.

Abiri Arts Funded Projects

All of these projects are done during religious school hours. The purpose is for children to create high-quality Judaica that can be used and proudly displayed in your homes. Please try to be sure your child attends on these dates as noted!