

# Youth Visions

## Hebrew High Eighth Grade Retreat Brings Israel Closer to Home

The 8th grade retreat took place on Shalom Park on February 10 and 11. The theme of the weekend was The Culture of Israel and students were asked to create art, music and even short films that expressed what Israel meant to them.

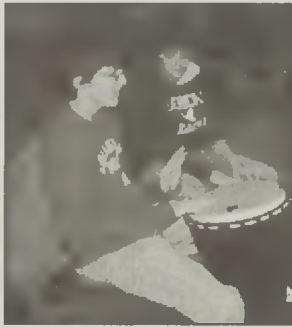
There were six movies created in which Borat made not one, but two, appearances. He was a contestant in "Jewpardy" and a reluctant visitor to Israel. Also visiting Israel, was "Billy Bob," who discovered lots of things that were different in Israel than in the US. Students also ate falafels all across the Israeli map (while getting fat) and presented an Israeli version of "American Idol" (Kochav Nolad).

Beautiful artwork was created in the Images of Israel class as well as in the Gematria class.

Writing muscles were flexed in the slam poetry class and the songwriting seminar. Here the students expressed their connection to Israel through poems and songs that they wrote themselves (songs were written with the help of post-confirmation students Jason Stier and Jared Morse). ☆



Brynne Claypoole and Sasha Freger working on their Gematria art.



Andrew Gitlitz and Will Goldberg in the drumming class.

### Dead Sea Song

by Lindsay Rosenbaum, Adrienne Kaplan, Kimberly Gould, Sasha Freger, Brynne Claypoole

Floating on a wave at the bottom of the world  
Healing water around my feet, I watch it swirl  
(Chorus:) Where has the day gone floating on the sea so long?

Lying in the Middle East where world voices meet  
I don't know what they mean  
But I know their face and this is what it seems  
(they're saying)  
(chorus)

Their faces are a rainbow cause no two are the same  
I see all the people but I don't exactly know their name  
I hear children laughing a sweet tune in the land  
I slide into the water, my toes sinking in the sand  
(chorus)  
Floating on the Dead Sea



Akiva the Believer



Opening night Havdalah service.

### Poem by Jeffrey Lipack and Asher Bernstein

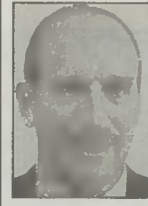
Friends at first then at war (death)  
Conditions were bad, too many were poor (hate)  
It got bad, no more smiles (war)  
Little did they know, it would last a while (murder)  
The kids no longer went out to play (kill)  
The army worked hard to keep bombs away (bombs)  
Now together we live in fear (suicide)  
It's out of our hands, what we hold dear (hope)  
Maybe soon we will be safe here (God)

### People in Israel by Maddie Frumkin, Rachel Maskin, and Jessica Totten

We're just like you  
We have families too  
Everyday we work and play  
Why do we have to say?  
(Chorus:) Let us live in peace  
Feel safe in our home  
Let our children free  
All we want is Shalom  
We live in cities  
On kibbutzim and farms  
In bigger towns and small  
Why must we take up arms?  
(chorus)  
Here in the land of Israel  
The homeland of the Jews  
We're just ordinary people  
And peace is what we choose  
(chorus)

### Fallen Angel by Rebecca Strunin, Leah Hindel, Hannah Weinstein, Derek Gainsboro

A little girl sits at home all alone  
Parents gone, and no brother to hold  
Her close and mutter words of comfort  
As the darkness encloses her  
In its deep black deep abyss  
She has much to miss  
She whispers through her tears to the God above.  
(Chorus:) Cushion their fall,  
Help Israel, help us all  
Rise to the occasion  
Through this tragic invasion  
Wake up your weary head  
Think of him instead  
Fighting in a war  
What are we fighting for?  
Where is my fallen angel?  
Years later time and again  
She looks up at the sky,  
Whispering her prayers  
She looks at her homeland,  
Holding herself proud  
(chorus)



Larry Horowitz, CLU, ChFC

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