

Youth Visions

Clear Blues Skies: 8th Graders Say It's Not Too Much to Ask For Eighth Grade Retreat Focuses on the Jewish View Environmental Issues

Nearly 75 eighth graders convened at Shalom Park on Saturday night, January 23 and Sunday morning, January 24, to learn and experience the Jewish values Tikkun Olam, Bal Tachshit, and Shomrei Adamah: repairing the world, refraining from waste, and protecting the land.

The retreat began with a special outdoor Havadallah circle where Rabbi Micah Streiffer sang songs and told the story of Honi the Circlemaker and the carob tree.

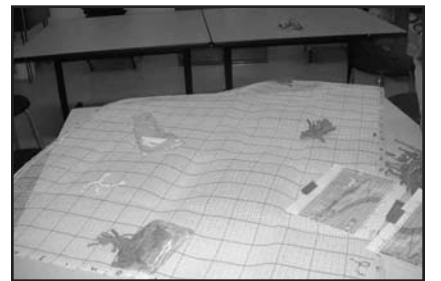
Then the class was broken into four groups where they did a text study, created a map of Israel with old T-shirts, learned about the environmental accomplishments in Israel, and created their own song/poem about the environment.

their tie-dyed T-shirts with dyes made from natural sources (fruits, vegetables, and spices) and they participated in a class where they decided on the one famous quote that would summarize the weekend. Then five teams set out all over Shalom Park and the Levine JCC building to complete a scavenger hunt.

The scavenger hunt made the students aware of just how much recycling goes in Shalom Park and what the efforts are being made to conserve and reduce our carbon footprint. But they also noticed places where some improvements could be made. In a letter to the Foundation of Shalom Park, some students suggested that the energy used on the stationary equipment in the gym be converted into electricity; one group even suggested a community garden on the roof that would eventually serve the clients of Jewish Family Services.

The quote that the group finally decided summed up their weekend was Charles Haas: "Feed a man a fish and he eats for a day; teach him how to fish and within three years he'll be dead of mercury poisoning."

Here are some examples of our talented poets:



8th graders created a map of Israel with this template and recycled T-shirts.

THE LONE WOLF'S MESSAGE

BY B.J. WEINSTEIN

*Standing in the shadows
The lone wolf fears the blaze
What once was a peaceful forest
Now is an ashpool for destruction
So heed this warning
The lone wolf stands alone
His pack is gone
Protect the earth
Or it will become
Just like the lone wolf's
Burnt down forest*

THE WORLD

BY MIRIAM ROOCHVARG

*The sound of the world,
The sound of the fire,
The sound of the night,
The sound of the stars.
Life is a person,
Life is a world,
Life is whatever you make it.
I am a person,
You are a person,
I am human,
You are human,
We are who we want to be in the world.
We are all God's creation. ☆*



Abby Cohen, Rachel Vaughn, and Foster Machicote decorate pots for seed plantings that were donated to Sunrise Assisted Living.

On Sunday morning, because the weather was uncooperative, a field trip to Park Road Park had to be cancelled and new activities were created. The students made



Sophie Bergmann teaches Hudson, her special friend, how to skate during Friendship Circle's ice skating trip.



Sami Damsky and her special friend, Joshua, participate in the Friendship Circle's recent Library Circle program.

Friendship Circle Presents: Cooking Circle

Our new Cooking Circle is designed to give kids who enjoy the kitchen a chance to roll up their sleeves and get busy. Each event will feature a hands-on culinary experience with a twist of talent. Rochel and Mushka will teach the children the art of cooking that everyone can learn. In addition to learning to bake, the children will decorate an apron and a challah

cover and also weave a placemat. Our first event will be held on Sunday, March 7 at 4:30 PM, the second class will be on Sunday, March 14 at 4:30 PM, and the third class will be on Sunday, March 21 at 4:30 PM.

For more information or to RSVP, email info@friendshipcircle.com or call 704-366 5983. ☆



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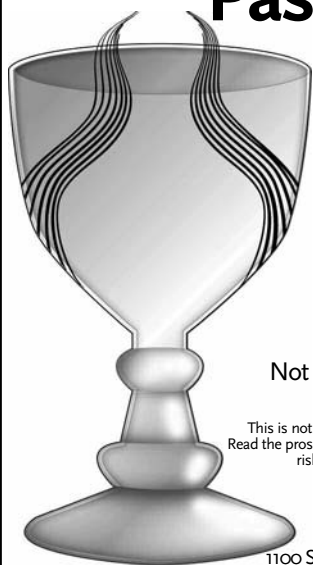
All Proceeds Go to Local Charities

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Passover 2010

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