

Youth Visions

The 9th Grade Crew of Spaceship Earth Learns about Good Stewardship at Hebrew High Retreat

The 9th grade class of Hebrew High learned about going green at this year's retreat and how Jewish law and Jewish values compel us to become good stewards of our planet and its environment.

Three Jewish precepts dominated the weekend: *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world), *Bal Tachshit* (not wasting), and *Shomrei Adamah* (protecting the planet).

The activities began with a beautiful Havdallah service led by Rabbi Micah Streiffer where he

told the story of Honi the Circle Maker and the carob tree. There were trees here when we came into the world; it is our obligation to make sure that there are trees still here for our ancestors.

The class then broke into three groups where each visited a different station and then rotated. Asaf Shenhav told the kids about the environmental action being taken in Israel and new developments being created every day by scientists there. Judy Freger, the art



The 9th graders at the retreat.

teacher, helped them make a map of Israel out of recycled T-shirts. And Mrs. Montoni helped them create their own song, rap or poem to express their activism about environmental causes.

The evening was concluded with Facilities/Building Manager, Paul Jacobs, telling the group about the environmental efforts being made right here in Shalom Park.

On Sunday morning after a delicious breakfast, the whole 9th grade split into teams for a park-wide scavenger hunt where they sought out energy savings, environmentally friendly materials, and recycling efforts. Then the teams got together and participated in a Singdown. The game was very competitive and the kids were uber-creative in coming up with ways to incorporate the words green, tree, and fruit into songs they could sing.

The whole group then split into two groups. One group met with Sara Bryan to make T-shirts tied-dyed from environmentally friend-

ly products (spices, vegetables, fruits, etc.). The other group discussed the meaning of the weekend and attempted to select the best quote to represent what the retreat meant to them. Then the groups switched.

The quote that the entire 9th grade selected to represent their retreat was Marshal McLuhan: "There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew."

Here are some selections from our talented poets and songwriters:

EARTH

by Justin Sly

*Sittin' in temple, thinkin' of a rap,
My song's so good, gonna put me
on the map.*

*I'm singing about Earth,
and our pollution.*

*You look at the trash and pretend
it's an illusion.*

*It builds up every day, and I'm
here to say:*

*That it needs to STOP before
we die.*

*When we pick up trash, we save
Earth's life.*

*We save Mother Nature, we try
to change her*

*For good, not bad. The Earth is
getting mad,*

and God's getting sad.

*Let's save the Earth before it's
too late.*

*So let's plan a date
to decide our fate.*

HOW LONG WILL WE SURVIVE?

Lyrics by Jill Levinson,

Tune by Josh Roth

Performed by Jill, Josh, Katie
Totten and Aaron Whetstone

*Where did all our forests go?
Knocked down for the fields
we sow.*

*From these places cities grow
Throwing nature way down low.*

How long will we survive?

Where did all our oceans flee?

Slick with oil, filled with debris.

Now everywhere is the Black Sea

Bringing nature to its knees.

How long will we survive?

Where did our all creatures fly?

Disappeared with years gone by.

*The great grizzly bear and the
butterfly*

As we kiss nature good-bye.

How long will we survive? ☆

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Friendship Circle's B'nai Mitzvah Training - Round 2

Led by Mushka Weiss, the B'nai Mitzvah program is designed specifically for children entering into adulthood. Its purpose is to provide these children with a meaningful way of empowering themselves as they give to others. The program will meet once a week for five consecutive weeks. Each session builds upon the previous lessons, bringing the children closer to reaching a point of confidence and security in being with a special friend. At the completion of the program, each participant will receive a certificate documenting his/her involvement in the program. Our program will focus on several different disabilities including autism, cerebral palsy and Down syndrome.

Trainees will also learn the importance of recognizing each individual's potential in life.

Dates: Five Sundays: April 11-May 16 (excluding May 2 as this day is Lag B'Omer). Time: 6-6:50 PM.

For more information, please call 704-366-5983 or email info@friendshipcirclenc.org. ☆



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Sunday, April 25 12-3pm

CAMP MINDY
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