

Havurat Tikvah Plans for February

As February rolls around, Havurat Tikvah is preparing for an entertaining month of activities. January brought celebration as we congratulated Ethan Alexander on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Mazel tov to Ethan as well as his parents, Matthew and Elaine, and his family. We also enjoyed a showing of *Operation Grandma (Mivtza Savta)*, a comedy that follows the attempts of three brothers to bury their beloved grandmother and lovingly satirizes both the Israeli military and kibbutz life. Roni Amitai, the Israeli Emissary to Charlotte, joined us for this Israeli Movie Night and offered an insider's perspective on the film. Now, however, we are ready to move on to more fun filled adventures.

We are busy preparing for Purim, and it should prove to be a

festive occasion for everyone. To get in the spirit of the holiday, we will be making hamentashen together in mid-February. On the 24th, after the Purim Carnival at the JCC, Havurat Tikvah will be holding a Purim party and Megillah reading. This will be at 4 PM at Avondale Presbyterian Church (2821 Park Road) and will include costumes, home-baked hamentashen, and a pot luck dinner (Kosher, dairy, parve, nut-free).

Also on the agenda is our Community Shabbat service, scheduled for 10 AM on February 9. We will meet in the Aitken Classroom of Avondale Presbyterian Church. Please feel free to join us there.

The Havurat Tikvah Youth Group has also been very busy to start the 2013 year. In late January, they volunteered at Crisis As-

sistance Ministry, helping out in the free store. In addition of running the Havurat Tikvah booth at the Purim Carnival, other upcoming events include a book club meeting and a social night, as well as more service projects over the next few months.

Many of our service organizations are in full gear this month, including the Dilworth Soup Kitchen, Room at the Inn, and Project Linus. Room at the Inn is particularly active at this time of year. On February 19, Havurat Tikvah will once again partner with Avondale Presbyterian Church in efforts to bring homeless people out of the cold winter night.

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, providing a comfortable, family atmosphere where all Jews can feel welcome. If you are

interested, we invite you to visit, get to know us, and to become part of our congregation of nearly 60 households.

For more information about any of our other activities, check out our website, www.havurattikvah.org, or contact our new member chair, Brian Feinglass, either by email (membership@havurattikvah.org) or by phone (980-225-5330). You can also find Havurat Tikvah and Havurat Tikvah Teens on Facebook. ☆



Youth Visions

“Beyond,” BBYO’s Gap Year in Israel

Graduating high school seniors now have one more option for next year. BBYO has launched Beyond, a pre-college gap-year program in Israel. The program aims to provide Jewish teens with meaningful Jewish experiences, while weaving together academic study, leadership development, community service, and educational travel.



High school graduates enjoy a gap year in Israel with BBYO’s “Beyond.”



unique learning experiences of an environment that is both ancient and modern – where biblical archeology and microchip development are part of the fabric of daily life.

During the course of Beyond, there is also opportunity for a participant to travel to Europe, and develop new skills such as scuba diving and cooking. For more information about the gap year program, visit www.beyondyear.org. ☆

for campus life, and explore the many assets of the modern Israeli city. Pnina Gadai AGENCYAHU, Director of Hillel at Tel Aviv University, said “Being in Israel and Tel Aviv specifically offers the

BBYO is the leading worldwide, pluralistic Jewish youth movement, currently spanning 39 regions and reaching close to 40,000 teens annually. For nearly ninety years, BBYO has been providing opportunities for Jewish teens to develop their leadership potential and a positive Jewish identity.

“Knowing the impact of a gap-year experience in Israel, we feel compelled to leverage our expertise and experience in providing powerful Israel experiences to increase the number of young Jews engaging in long-term study in Israel,” said BBYO executive director Matthew Grossman. “Our teens have requested a gap-year experience, Israeli and North American Jewish leaders have called for more of these programs, and we feel uniquely capable of delivering something scalable and life-changing.”

Beyond is open to all Jewish students, who have not yet begun their college courses. Applicants can choose between a five-month and nine-month experience. The nine-month program includes two months of community service, in Jerusalem or Ethiopia, as well as two months of immersive Israeli experience.

“Programs like Beyond prepare students to thrive in a competitive university setting and shape their worldview in a way that gives meaningful context to their academic studies” said Larry Moneta, vice-president of student affairs at Duke University.

Tel Aviv University serves as the program’s home base, and participants have the opportunity to earn academic credit, get a taste



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