

# SCHOOLS

## Jewish Identity Explored at the Barbara and Jerry Levin Jewish Middle School

The middle school students at The Barbara and Jerry Levin Jewish Middle School expressed their Judaism and their reaction to the Holocaust through their poems. We would like to share a few of them with our CJN readers:

### Lonely

*By Debby Farber*  
Small,  
Alone.  
Doesn't anyone want  
To be my friend?  
Minority.  
Why?  
Why must they stereotype?  
I wish they would see me  
For who I truly am.  
Sometimes  
I wonder,  
Wonder what it's like  
To be like them.  
I feel  
Like a caged bird.  
The urge to fly is getting  
Stronger and stronger,  
But the door  
Is locked.  
How long must I sit here,  
Waiting  
For someone to rescue me,  
Me and my loneliness?

### For Eight Days

*By Alexander Shporer*  
For eight days  
The sukkah stands.  
For eight days  
The lulav shakes.  
For eight days  
We don't put  
On Tefillin.  
For eight days  
We say the  
Brachah l'hashave ba'sukkah.  
For eight days  
Is the holiday of Sukkot.

### The Holocaust

*By Matt Laxer*  
The Holocaust, one of the worst  
times in history.  
People were murdered,  
Killed,  
Beat up on the street.  
I bet most people in the world,  
If they could,  
Would go back in time and erase  
it.  
Think about what that would do,  
If the Holocaust was erased.  
Think about all the people that  
would be alive,  
All the families that wouldn't be  
torn apart,  
All the things it would save.  
Think about how it would change  
the entire world  
If the Holocaust was erased.  
Would the world have learned a  
very valuable lesson  
That it was probably supposed to  
learn?  
A lesson it needed to learn?  
People always try to learn from  
their mistakes.  
But what if all the mistakes were  
forgotten?  
How would people learn?  
That is what the Holocaust is.  
A mistake we needed to learn  
from.  
The Holocaust, one of the worst  
times in history.

But if someone had the power to  
erase it,  
Should it be erased?

### Israel

*By Sharon Eshet*  
A land of  
Hope,  
Religion.  
A land for  
Jews  
To unite.  
A land where  
The Western  
Wall stands.  
A land for  
Me,  
You.

### The Dove

*By Kaitlin Laxer*  
I fly away,  
Until I see the people  
Hitting other people  
And causing death.  
Babies are dying  
And mothers are crying.  
Why?  
I don't understand.  
Why can't they be like us?  
Free to fly.  
To be ourselves.  
We are all friends,  
No matter what.  
Why can't they be like the dove?  
We represent peace...  
Don't we?

### Why Do They Try?

*By Andrew Tavin*  
Egypt tried to enslave us.  
They were destroyed so that the  
other nations could see.  
This did not stop them.  
They fought us and lost.  
They should have stopped then.  
We took the land that was right-  
fully ours.  
Nations tried to exile us.  
Only one really succeeded.  
They, too, were destroyed.  
Many have tried to stop us in  
exile.  
Europe tried to change us, but we  
remain.  
Hitler came.  
He tried to finish what the others  
couldn't.  
We outlasted him.  
Now, when nations try to take  
Israel,  
What do they think they'll do?  
We have outlasted greater than  
them.

### Miracles

*By Rachel Slotkis*  
The sea did split,  
To save the Jewish people.  
God created Moses,  
To save the Jewish people.  
People fought to stay alive,  
To save the Jewish people.  
Haman was destroyed,  
To save the Jewish people.  
Hashem makes miracles,  
To save the Jewish people.

### Faith

*By Rebecca Raffler*  
Faith  
When Hashem was going to  
drown the world  
Faith  
When we were put into slavery



**Faith**  
When the Jews were in the ghettos  
**Faith**  
When we were in concentration camps  
**Faith**  
Through all these years we've had faith,  
And Hashem has guided us through,  
Everything

### Shabbat Candles

*By Bracha Weiss*  
The Shabbat candles  
Shine so bright,  
As much as my pride  
Shines through my heart.  
I am  
Jewish.  
I am  
My Shabbat  
Candles.

### When I Visit Israel

*By David Gleiberman*  
When I visit Israel, I want to see  
the Western Wall.  
When I get to the Western Wall,  
I will go close to the Holy of  
Holies.

When I visit Israel, I want to see  
the cave of Machpelah.  
When I get to the cave of  
Machpelah,  
I will see the forefathers' and  
their wives' graves.

When I visit Israel, I want to see  
the kibbutz where my teacher  
used to live.  
When I get to the kibbutz where  
my teacher used to live,  
I will understand the lifestyle  
there.

When I visit Israel, I want to see  
my pen pal who lives in a village  
near Jerusalem.  
When I get to see my pen pal,  
I will learn more about him.

With all these exciting things to  
look forward to,  
I can't wait to visit Israel.

### He's Here

*By Rachel Spangenthal*  
People ask me why I'm down,  
And I say through the frown  
That I'm lonely, can't you see?  
My world consists of only me.

Where is God?  
When you need Him, He isn't  
there.  
Where is God?  
I'm sure of me He doesn't care.

As I walk and I cry,  
As a tear falls from my eye,

I wonder if my time is up.  
Maybe I should just give up.

Where is God?  
In a world of killing, a child  
cries.  
Where is God?  
Oh, my boy, open your eyes.

Suddenly, I awake  
For a feeling that makes me  
quake.  
Did a dream occur, or a sight  
Of my spirit taking a plight?

And I wonder ...

Where is God?  
To make me suffer uprightly &  
Where is God?  
Don't ask, because no one knows.

A woman appears beside my bed,

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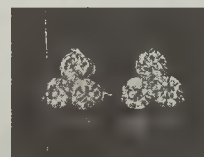


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