

What are Kippot? Who Wears a Kippah and Why?

While kippot are recognizable outward signs of our Jewishness, our wearing them is more about custom (min-hag) than law (halakha). There are no guidelines for kippot, no specifications of dimension, fabric, style, or color. There is a Talmudic idea that we really shouldn't wander far without head covering, but other than that, the references are pretty scarce.



Nevertheless, kippot have become an expression of who we are, both as individuals and as members of a community. They are as varied, artistic, beautiful, bold, and sweet as the people who make and wear them. But regardless of their uniqueness and specificity, it cannot be denied that wearing kippot facilitates mindfulness during

prayer and worship.

This year Temple Or Olam's students are making their own kippot. In crafting kippot, the children learn to appreciate the practices that surround their Jewishness, and they also learn about having a relationship to God. Kippot do both of these things simultaneously. When a

child puts on a kippah she has made, she is reminded that God is above and around her. She has hand-made a physical reminder of the presence of God in her life. How many of us could benefit from the creation of such a space in our lives? How much differently might we approach prayer and worship if we were encased in a unique and personal space that we had ourselves created?

Children wear their kippot to services and we are able to guess at facets of their forming personalities by taking note of the designs on their head coverings. He likes baseball. She likes butterflies. If you could make your own kippah, what would it look like? More importantly, what would the space

it created mean to you? What would you imagine going on above and below it when you were wearing it? Do you suppose you would behave differently? Give it some thought.

For more information about Temple Or Olam's religious school or services, you can email

us at info@or-olam.org or call at 704-720-7577. Temple Or Olam holds services twice a month at McGill Baptist Church in Concord. Information is available on our website, www.or-olam.org, where you can also subscribe via email. ☆

Temple Emanuel Religious School Receives the Lenora Stein Fund for Community Creative Learning

By Donna deGroot, Temple Emanuel Religious School Director

Sometimes when I tell folks that I am the Religious School Director for Temple Emanuel in Gastonia, I am asked, "Are there Jews in Gastonia?" My usual response is "Yes, actually, there are and besides that, Temple Emanuel serves the Jewish community in Gastonia and beyond." We have families who come to us from Lake Norman, Rock Hill, and Lancaster. We even have a few families who live as far away as Shelby, NC.

Our school is small; most of our classes have four to ten students. Considering that many of our students are the only Jews in their class at school during the week, their two hours at Sunday school can be pretty important to them. Looking at the small

class sizes and our outdated audiovisual equipment over the past seven years, I have longed for a way to help connect these children to other Jewish children in similar circumstances. When I saw that the Lenora Stein Fund for Community Creative Learning was offering a grant for a creative

project, I began to dream of what we might be able to accomplish for the students in Gastonia if we had the opportunity.

I dreamed of being able to bring Israel to life in the classroom with internet access, of being able to video chat with students in other isolated communities. In short, I dreamed of having the chance to help Temple Emanuel students "make connections." Having internet access and a projector can make a huge difference in all of the Sunday school classrooms and will enhance the adult study classes as well.

The Lenora Stein Fund Board voted unanimously to give us this chance. Temple Emanuel and I are thrilled with this opportunity and are excited to make these dreams come true. ☆



The kids of Emanuel Religious School say "Thanks for the grant!"

Wine Dinner Benefit for Jewish Family Services

Do you love delicious food with their perfect wine pairings? Would you enjoy a rewarding evening together with fellow congregants and community members? Do you like the excitement of raffle prizes? Then you must join us for the 2010 Lake Norman Jewish Congregation Social Action Wine Dinner Fundraiser benefiting Jewish Family Services of Charlotte.

Jewish Family Services strengthens and empowers individuals and families through professional counseling, programs and services, including crisis help, a food bank, domestic violence assistance, and senior outreach; all inspired by Jewish values.

The event will take place at Dressler's Restaurant in Birkdale Village, Huntersville, NC on the evenings of November 2 and 3, at 6 PM. Dressler's will prepare four

sumptuous courses served with a wine that complements the flavors of each. Many fabulous prizes will be raffled and your favorite wines will be available for sale.

Tickets for the event are \$65 each. Please contact David Koster at davidkoster@mi-connection.com for reservations. Each evening will host only 36 guests, so reserve your seats before October 15.

We are also seeking individual, family, and business sponsorships. To find out more about sponsorships, please contact Ken Spatz at KSPatz@aol.com.

Please join us for a wonderful evening supporting a very worthy cause.

The Lake Norman Jewish Congregation Social Action Committee was formed in 2009 with the mission of supporting and benefiting the congregation and

providing charitable support to meet the constant needs of the Lake Norman community. ☆



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