

# Sylvia Cohen Religious School

## NEWSLETTER

February 16, 2017

*"Why, yes! Love IS our middle name!"*  
Gloucester MA

Temple Ahavat Achim,

# K,1,2

**This week we asked "How do we celebrate Tu B'Shvat?"**

First, we read "Sammy Spider's First Tu BiShvat" then we looked at pictures of trees and other things that grow in Israel and what could be on a Tu B'Shvat seder plate. Next, we created our own Tu B'Shvat trees out of food, then ate them as an extra snack. Finally, we continued our Hebrew letter learning.

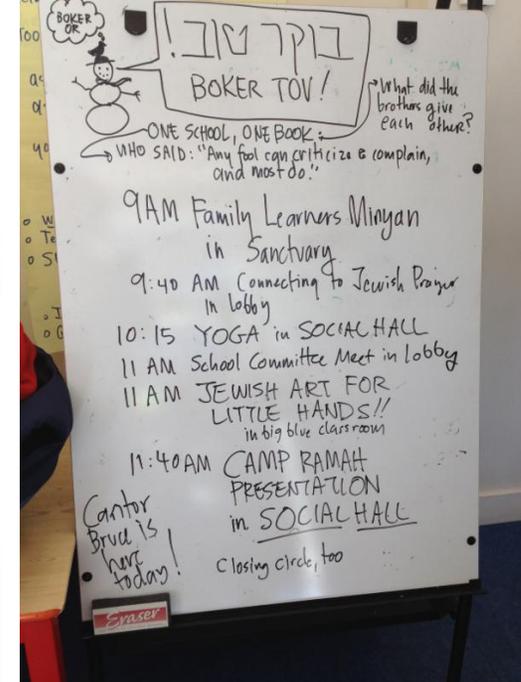
**Morah Stephanie knew the students were learning when** she saw them give examples of things trees provide and why they are important.

**Next up:** Continue making our Passover story movie and delve deeper into the Shema.

*Jewish Art for Little Hands\* breaks attendance records! 19 folks, Little and Big, fill room to learn about Tu B'shevat, sing songs, and make Tree Art!*



*Thanks to Larry and Maxine (above) for providing baby care to the really small fry.  
\*co-sponsored by the Lappin Foundation*



*-Just your garden variety Sunday School schedule in snowy February*

# Tzedakah

This week in Tzedakah, the 3&4 graders asked: Where is a good place to put a box for a food drive?

We finished our boxes and put them around the temple. Then we prepared for an announcement.



*respect yourself  
respect each other  
respect this place*

Cavod moments compiled by  
Madison, Rebecca, August and  
Tovah

Noah gave up his instrument who  
gave it to Tyler who gave it to  
Eli. Matthew gave his instrument to  
Soli but also stayed to talk to him.

Students and parents showed  
shema (focused listening) (which  
coincidentally was the topic of the  
minyan) with their answers to what  
is seen, heard and felt in the shema  
and v'ahavta.



MUSICAL INSTRUMENT PETTING  
ZOO!

In honor of Song of the Sea from  
last week's parashah, Cantor Bruce  
brought in a river of instruments  
from Israel, Madagascar and other  
countries for us to try out. A lyre,  
hammer dulcimer, ukelele, a  
psaltery (?) a....

After, we got to read two stories  
about Hershel of Ostropol, including  
an uneventful tale about  
POTATOES!

**PLEASE FILL UP OUR  
FOOD DRIVE BOXES BY  
APRIL 1ST!**

**Next up:**

Work on a final presentation about  
our project.

In the 5-7 class we asked: what do  
we need tell TAA about our project?

In 5-7th, we started by answering a  
check-in question. Everyone was  
excited about their snow days. Then  
we worked in small groups to  
accomplish a range of tasks related  
to our tzedakah project. We're  
moving forward quickly! We chose a  
font and started finalizing some of  
the art pieces of our presentation.

Morah Casey knew the students  
were learning when she saw them  
expressing what they had learned in  
writing.

**Next up:** pulling together the



This week we got to know JACK!



(Amazing notes by Tovah)  
FAVORITES  
color: blue  
Jewish food: hamentashen



Matthew gets to try the Hammer Dulcimer.

עברית  
Hebrew

different elements of our project.

**In 5/7 Tzedakah we asked: What do we want to share with the TAA community?**

After a check-in question about our highs and lows of the week (and what anime show **Eleyna** would like to be in), we began working independently on different branches of our project. **Ethan** researched videos, **Eleyna** researched organizations, and **Treely** worked on an art design. Then we sent in our different pieces to **Morah Casey**.

**Next up: Submitting their final pieces of the project.**

mealtime: breakfast  
books: Percy Jackson  
team: Pats

thing to do: play tennis  
He is looking forward to traveling to Florida. If he could go back in time he would find Hitler's family (when he was little) and give them money to send him to the school he wanted to go to so he would not need to create the Holocaust.

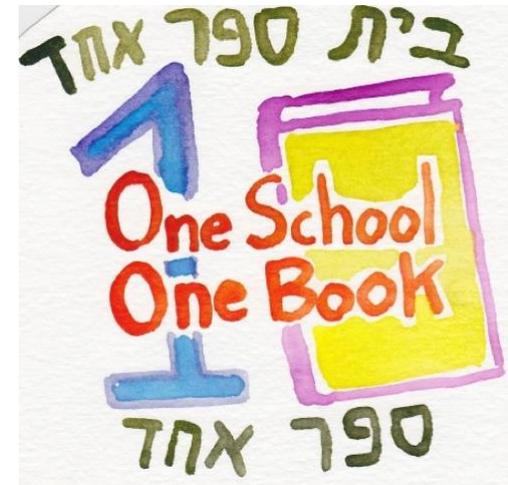
If he were an animal, he would be a human. Convenient!

### THE GREAT TAA DINE-IN

For many of us parents of younger kids, it's a rare evening that we aren't responsible for dinner. Why not take the night off AND help TAA raise money? **Join us on Saturday March 4 for the Great TAA Dine-In** - an intimate dining experience, hosted by your fellow TAA members in the comfort of their own homes. Price is \$75 per person if you want to make it a date/stag night, and just \$10 per kid if you want to bring them too. Contact Leigh Eck ([eck.leigh@gmail.com](mailto:eck.leigh@gmail.com)) for details.

### This week we asked: How do I decode Hebrew fluently?

Students worked one-on-one with madrichim and morot on their reading of Hebrew. **Eleyna** made great progress on the prayer before the haftarah, and **Ethan** remembered a lot of what he had learned last week! **Sonia** worked with **Rebecca** in the workbook. **Thurston** and **Morah Casey** chanted the WHOLE amidah and found out about some new things behind the meaning of saying that G-d can bring people back to life. Ask Thurston what "eschatology" means (pronounced ess-kah-tology).



READ

**Rabbi Harvey vs The Wisdom Kid by Steve Sheinkin**

pp 62-82 for March 5  
pp 83-131 for March 26



**This week we asked:** How do we make a Public Service Announcement using the text from Rabbi Hillel "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?"







## WORDS-2-ACTION

Empowering you to address anti-Semitic stereotypes,  
prejudice, vandalism, harassment and hate.

JOIN US MARCH 12th

Register @ [nsteeninitiative.org](http://nsteeninitiative.org)

Run by the Anti-Defamation League in collaboration with NSTI & Temple Ahavat Achim



### #BecauseEveryWordCounts!

**WHEN:** Sun March 12th, 10am-12:30pm for teens & 9:50am-11:30am for parents  
**WHERE:** Temple Ahavat Achim, 86 Middle Street, Gloucester, MA  
**WHO:** 9-12th graders and adult family members  
**HOW MUCH:** FREE! Pizza lunch included

WORDS TO ACTION is a workshop empowering students, along with adult family members, to respond to anti-Semitism by strengthening and building confidence. The adults' session will be facilitated by TAA's Rabbi Lewis and start with a reading from the Megillah followed by an anti-Semitism discussion, paralleling the teens' workshop.

**Questions?** Email [Sophie.Katzman](mailto:Sophie.Katzman) or call 781-244-554

Brought to you by:



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[Web](#) and [Email](#)

**Eleyna, Treely and Thurston** all looked for images on the internet that would illustrate each part of the text. In the meantime, Eli looked for letters of the Alef Bet hidden in the synagogue. This is a



**CHET!**

**Next up:** editing the PSA, and finding the rest of the alef bet inside the walls of the synagogue!

## TEMPLE AHAVAT ACHIM

86 Middle St.,  
Gloucester, MA 01930



Mezuzot  
ON THE MOVE!

Dear Parents,  
This semester the whole school is learning what a mezuzah is and why we use them. On the last day of SCRS, **Sunday May 7**, the whole school is going to board a bus from TAA and travel through Manchester and Gloucester to hang mezuzot of our own making at some of our families' homes. ***Your children would be hanging their mezuzot at your home.***

### TIMELINE

**February through May:** Learn the shema and v'ahavta at Family Learner's Minyan. Learn about what the mezuzah is, what the mitzvah is all about, and why we hang them.

**April 2:** Make mezuzot with ceramicist Jane Harvey during SCRS.

**April 9:** Glaze mezuzot with Jane.

### **May 9:**

After Family Learner's Minyan, board the bus and tour Manchester and Gloucester hanging our mezuzot on our homes! Return to TAA for ice cream celebration!

**That night**, present Neshama Carlebach one of our handmade mezuzot at the concert for the TAA Endowment for Family Learning that honors Rabbi Geller and Eilee