

## **Family Education News by Judy Alper**

With the approach of the secular new year, it's a great time to take stock of what we have accomplished and what we can look forward to. Without a doubt, the Family Friendly Friday Night Service (FFFNS) is a jewel in the Family Education crown. Now in its sixth year, we are continually changing and modifying it to serve the growing needs of our congregation. Over the past few months Cantor Wolk has been adding some wonderful new sounds and tunes to our traditional repertoire of prayers. At every FFFNS there is communal singing, dancing and camaraderie. Instead of a sermon, stories are told and special guests have appeared. At the end is always a wonderful oneg. I could list all the delicious food and the themes, but the truth is, it is the feeling of community throughout the service and especially at the oneg that makes it so special. It is wonderful to watch the children interacting and the adults relaxing and enjoying the company of family and friends. Would you like to experience the FFFNS? Join us on Friday, January 9 at 7:00 pm. If you would like to participate as an oneg sponsorship (\$18 minimum) please call Judy Alper.

We are fortunate to be the only synagogue or Jewish school in the area to be sponsoring the program, *Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing!* Meeting once a month, these groups of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls get together to participate in activities around holidays of each particular month. The program tries to strengthen their sense of self using Jewish women as heroes and role models. This is a nationally acclaimed and award winning program that we are proud to be running. Our next meeting is Sunday, January 25th. All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls are welcome, whether or not they are members of PJC.

We are in the midst of planning a Havdalah Workshop (January 11th) with the Hebrew School, a women's Rosh Hodesh group under the auspices of Sisterhood. We are also continuing the tradition of the Lazar Lachter PJC Blood Drive (March 29th) that the Men's Club began. Our annual Shabbat Across America Dinner on Friday, March 20th. All these activities are available for you and your family to participate in, enjoy and enhance your lives.

At the time of this writing we are feeling the aftereffects of the assaults by terrorist in India. More than 100 people were murdered and the assault and death of many people was based on the fact that they were Jews. Several Rabbis have made the suggestion that the best way for us to deal with these deaths is not by committing more violence, but instead by creating more goodness in the world. We can each make a commitment to do something to help the world—giving charity, help to the disabled, etc. As mentioned previously, on March 29th we will be having our Annual Blood Drive. Please make a commitment to donate blood that day – you will be helping at least one person live a better life or perhaps saving that life. If you are unable to donate blood but want to help this great cause, please help us phone members of the congregation to ask them to donate. Volunteers will be greatly appreciated!

For more information or to make reservations for any of the above activities. Please call Judy Alper at 516-938-8610 or email at JRAIps36@aol.com.

## **Thank you to Our FFFNS Oneg Sponsors**

**The Anonymous Family** – On behalf of all the members of PJC, Mazal Tov to Cantor Dr. Wolk On Receiving his Doctorate.

**Rhonnie Diener** - Wishing everyone a Happy Chanukah.

Mazal tov to the Rosenberg and Jospa families on the naming of their granddaughter.

A big huge mazal tov to Dr. Cantor Wolk, or is it cantor Dr. Wolk?

**The Hauser Family, Carol, Alan, Marissa and Jessica** - In honor of their upcoming trip to Israel.

**Michele and Stuart Haimes** - Happy 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Sara Miller on Dec 2nd.

Happy Sweet 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Morgan Haimes Dec. 24th. Have a wonderful USY International Convention in Washington, D.C.

Happy 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Michele and Stuart on Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. Happy Chanukah to all!

**Elizabeth, Mitch, Matthew and Hallie Kessler** - Happy Chanukah to our PJC friends.

**Diane and Joe Miller** - In honor of Morgan Haimes 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Happy Birthday Grandma Ida.

In honor of our Sara's Birthday. Happy Birthday to my sister Marsha. Mazal Tov on the baby naming of Gabrielle Jospa.

Mazel Tov to Cantor Wolk on obtaining his Doctorate.

**Blayne and Leonard Peltzman** - In honor of Blayne's birthday

A special THANK YOU to the **ANONYMOUS FAMILY** for their generous donation of two new crock pots to the Family Friendly Friday Night Service. We are especially thankful for your help, friendship and always good cheer that you give to all Family Education activities. Kol Hakavod!