



# Milwaukee Jewish Day School Newsletter

*"Building our future ... one child at a time."*

Friday, Dec. 4, 2009

17 Kislev, 5770

*Shabbat candle lighting Friday, Dec. 4: 3:59 p.m. — Havdallah 4:59 p.m.*

ימים השנה  
30 ימים  
של  
חג  
חנוכה

## Upcoming Events:

### MIDDLE SCHOOL HUMANITIES NIGHT

Wednesday, Dec. 9

7-8:30 p.m.

**6th GRADE** — Students read a variety of autobiographies in literature class, and they will "become" the characters they learned about. Come to the library to meet Elvis Presley, Harry Houdini, Lou Gehrig, Amelia Earhart, Daniel Boone, President Nixon...

**7th GRADE** — Our 7th graders will share what they're learning about child welfare issues in Asia and about our Voice of the Children charity. Watch a documentary film featuring our students, and see reports created by the 7th graders.

**8th GRADE** — Our lunchroom will be transformed into a 1950s coffee-house for our annual 8th grade poetry night. In conjunction with their study of poetry in literature class, the 8th graders will recite poetry. Beatnik attire optional. Sessions run 7-7:40 p.m., and 7:50-8:30 p.m.

### MJDS ALL-SCHOOL FAMILY SHABBAT SING

Friday, Dec. 11

8:30 a.m., in the Miriam Peck Gymnasium

*EVERYONE is welcome — Bring grandparents, siblings, neighbors, aunts, uncles, friends!*

### MJDS 4th/5th GRADE CHOIR CHANUKAH PERFORMANCES

- ♦ **Sunday, Dec. 6, 4:45 p.m.** - Chanukah program at Bayshore rotunda.
- ♦ **Monday, Dec. 7, 6:45 p.m.** - Community-wide Chanukah celebration at the JCC.
- ♦ **Tuesday, Dec. 8, 9-11:30 a.m.** -- Performances for seniors at Chai Point, Jewish Home and Care Center, Laurel Oaks Retirement Center, and Sara Chudnow Campus.

Max and Mary Kohl Education Building, 6401 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53217  
(414) 964-1499, [www.mjds.org](http://www.mjds.org)

Judy Miller — Head of School  
Diane Wolfson — Middle School Principal  
Charlie Sherman — Jewish Studies Principal

*Doris Shneidman, Ph.D. — Founding Director  
Eileen A. Perlson Kindergarten*

# From the Desk of Judy Miller



MJDS has always been committed to educating the whole child. It is important to us that children have well-rounded experiences at school that address academic, social, emotional, physical and spiritual growth. To do this, we continue to expose students to a wide variety of choices in arts education. This week, our music department is thrilled to showcase the vocal talents of our students.

The MJDS 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir will perform in concert several times over the next week. The children have been rehearsing for weeks, and they (along with their talented music teachers, Gev. Cohen and Gev. Lambert) look forward to exciting presentations. We hope you can join us at any or all of the performances:

**Sunday, Dec. 6, 4:45 p.m.** – Chanukah program at BayShore rotunda.

**Monday, Dec. 7, 6:45 p.m.** – Community-wide Chanukah celebration at the JCC.

**Tuesday, Dec. 8, 9-11:30 a.m.** -- Performances for seniors at Chai Point, Jewish Home and Care Center, Laurel Oaks Retirement Center, and Sara Chudnow Campus.

We are very proud of the dedication of our children and staff, and we look forward to *kveling* at these wonderful performances!

*Shabbat Shalom,*  
Judy Miller, Head of School



## Jewish Life and Learning

Students are gearing up for Chanukah, which is one of their favorite Jewish holidays. At its core, Chanukah makes a strong statement against assimilation. In ancient days, the Greek empire attempted to force Jews to observe Greek customs and religious beliefs. However, two years after the Macabees rescued the *Beit Hamikdash* (Holy Temple) from destruction, a wiser Greek emperor restored to the Jews all the rituals that had been taken from them.

We observe Chanukah by lighting the *chanukiah* (menorah) and by adding the *Al Hanisim* and *Hallel* to our prayers. When we bless the candles in the *chanukiah*, we include the words, “*who made miracles in those days as in our times.*” We always pray for G-d’s continued miracles. The parties, gift giving, Chanukah *gelt* and potato latkes are extra, added attractions. Chanukah is a step toward the more harmonious world we all desire.

☆ For more details on Chanukah, visit: [http://www.mjds.org/jewish\\_life/chanukah.cfm](http://www.mjds.org/jewish_life/chanukah.cfm), or <http://www.behrmanhouse.com/educators/in-the-classroom/family-hanukkah>

Torah narratives are action-packed at this time of the year. This week’s *parashah*, *Vayishlach*, focuses on Ya'akov receiving his new name (Yisrael) and on Ya'akov and Esav reconciling after many years apart.

☆ For adult study of the Torah portion, visit:

[http://www.myjewishlearning.com/texts/Bible/Weekly\\_Torah\\_Portion/vayishlach\\_index.shtml](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/texts/Bible/Weekly_Torah_Portion/vayishlach_index.shtml)

☆ For a family discussion of the Torah portion, visit:

[http://www.jewishcurrentevents.com/carpool\\_curriculum/parashat\\_va-yishlach](http://www.jewishcurrentevents.com/carpool_curriculum/parashat_va-yishlach)

שָׁבַת שְׁלוֹם

Charlie Sherman, Jewish Studies Principal

MJDS is revising its advertising strategies, and we need your help!  
In order to reach prospective parents, we want to know which  
publications, websites, blogs, e-blasts and radio stations  
you frequent. Give us your feedback!  
Please go to [www.mjds.org](http://www.mjds.org) and click on the survey on the home page.

## PTO Updates

**Lunch Helpers** — Thank you to the following volunteers at Wednesday's Pasta Bar lunch: Linda Bader, Sandy Cayle, Marge Eiseman, Barbara Glazer, Dana Heffez, Julie Rosenfeld, Dawn Veytsman, Lisa Waisbren, Susan Wichman, and Peggy Yee.

- We need volunteers on Tuesday, Dec. 15, to prepare latkes (8 a.m.-2 p.m.)
- We need volunteers to serve on Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Please contact Peggy Yee if you can help for any amount of time on either day.

**E-mail Lists** — PTO is working hard to improve communication within our school family. Please e-mail [Linda Bader](mailto:Linda.Bader@mjds.org), giving permission for PTO to use your e-mail address. Having e-mails will make it easier for PTO to send you forms and to contact you when special programs are coming up. Your e-mail will never be used for solicitation purposes.

**Healthy Snacks** — MJDS moms Ali Ruvin and Melina Marcus are chairing a pilot program to provide healthy snacks for grades 3-5. If you would like to volunteer or to learn more about this project, please contact Ali or Melina.

**Volunteer of the Week** — Marge Eiseman has been volunteering at MJDS for 15 years. She has helped in so many ways: Special Interest Day, Writing Day, Flower Sale, FAN, teaching songs to the choir, and PTO lunches. Marge travels the world teaching and performing as a singer, songwriter, Storah-telling maven and award-winning Jewish educator. She also volunteers at CJL and Congregation Sinai, and she teaches at Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun. Marge is the proud mother of 8th grader Zach, and 20-year-old MJDS alumni Jacob and Jona. Her son Baki (of blessed memory) died 5 years ago.

*Shabbat Shalom,*  
Linda Bader, PTO President

**NOTE: ALL FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE PTO PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE:**

<http://www.mjds.org/pto.cfm>

## Middle School News

**8th Grade Info** — Eighth graders who will attend Nicolet High School received registration materials this week. Parents should complete the forms and return them **TO NICOLET** by Tuesday, Dec. 8.



**Gift Sale** — MJDS parent Mindy Palay will hold a card and jewelry sale on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 7:30-9 a.m., and 2-4 p.m., in the front lobby. Proceeds will benefit PTO programming. Cash and checks only, please.

**Love and Logic Training** — MJDS counselors Gev. Borkin and Gev. Sirkis will teach a course on “Becoming a Love and Logic Parent”. The free class is scheduled for six Tuesday mornings (8-10 a.m.):

January 12, 19, 26

February 2, 16, 23

Class size is limited to the first 12 applicants. To register, e-mail [tsirkis@mjds.org](mailto:tsirkis@mjds.org), or use the [form](#) on the MJDS website.

**Student Council Project** — Student Council is collecting toys for children whose parents are on military duty overseas. Please donate new or gently used toys in boxes by the office. The toy drive runs through-Friday, Dec. 11.

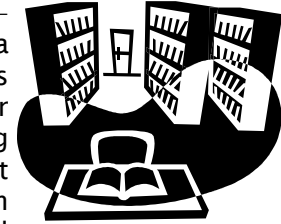
**Items Needed** — First grade teacher Gev. Lutsky is asking for donations of playing cards (full decks not required) and a used CD player. You can e-mail her: [blutsky@mjds.org](mailto:blutsky@mjds.org).

**Scholarships Available** — The Jewish Community Foundation Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for scholarships to young people wanting to attend Jewish overnight camps and summer Israel programs. Scholarships are based on financial need. To request an application, call 414/390-5712, or go to [www.milwaukeejewish.org](http://www.milwaukeejewish.org). The application deadline is Friday, Jan. 31, 2010.

## LIBRARY NEWS

### **Jewish Book Month**

Jewish Book Month is a special time to focus on Jewish books. Our library is challenging students in different grades to read Jewish books, and prizes will be awarded for completing the program. [Forms](#) are due by Monday, Dec. 14. For further information, contact Gev. Meister, 414/967-7135 or [bmeister@mjds.org](mailto:bmeister@mjds.org).



### **Honoring Teachers and Staff**

It is tradition at Chanukah to honor those who teach and nurture our children. Books donated to the library in honor of teachers and staff are greatly appreciated. Every donation is recognized with a special bookplate listing the student’s name and the names of those honored. Teachers and staff will be notified of the honor. To donate to the library, use the [form](#) on the website.

## **Positive Parenting Workshop**

**REMINDER:** The next Positive Parenting Workshop will be held on Monday, Dec. 7, 8:30-9:45 a.m., in the conference room. To reserve your space for this free program, contact Susan Farber, [sfarber@mjds.org](mailto:sfarber@mjds.org), or 414/967-8314. The final workshop is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 11.

## **Joke of the Week**

**Q:** What is a monster’s favorite game?

**A:** Hide and Go Shriek!

*Submitted by Jr. Kindergarten student Noah Bernstein*

## ***In Our Family***

## **במשפחה שלנו**

*Please let us know when life cycle events occur in your family so that we can inform our MJDS community.*

### **Mazal Tov to:**

- MJDS students Sadie Wolfe and David Zetley, who are appearing in a play at First Stage.

### **Refuah Sh'laima (Speedy Recovery) to:**

- Gev. Wendy Cohen, who is recovering from surgery.
- David Wolfson (husband of Gev. Diane Wolfson), who is recovering from surgery.

### **Condolences to:**

- Jeff and Dan Langer (MJDS alum parents), on the death of their father Jack Langer.

*To make donations in honor/memory of any of these occasions, mail checks (payable to MJDS) to the MJDS office, 6401 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53217. Or, bring donations to the school office in a sealed, labeled envelope, Attn. Gev. Horn.*

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

*MJDS works with Jewish Family Services to find volunteers. To volunteer or to inquire about other volunteer opportunities, contact Susie Gruenberg, Director of JFS Volunteer Services, at 414/225-1390 or [sgruenberg@jfsmilw.org](mailto:sgruenberg@jfsmilw.org)*

**Chanukah bakers!** Can you spare 1 dozen cookies to share with a JFS client? This is a great project for a family, a group of friends or for an individual — and it can be done right from your home! When you bake your favorite Chanukah cookies, set aside a dozen cookies (or more if you'd like!), plate and wrap them, and drop them off at the MJDS office on Monday, Dec. 14, before noon. Be sure to include a Happy Chanukah note for the JFS client. The cookies will be picked up Monday afternoon and delivered to JFS clients. These Chanukah treats are sure to brighten the holiday for JFS clients.

## **Community Events**

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DAY/DATE/TIME</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
Holocaust survivor Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis speaks on <i>Triumph of the Spirit</i> . \$10 in advance/\$15 at the door.	Sunday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., followed by book signing. At the Helene Zelazo Center, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd.	Jewish Student Organization of UW-M. For questions, contact Rabbi Daniel Melsler, 414/331-3875, or <a href="http://milwaukee.planitjewish.com">milwaukee.planitjewish.com</a>
Community-wide Chanukah celebration.	Monday, Dec. 7, 4-7 p.m., at the JCC.	Call the JCC for details, 414/964-4444.
<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , directed by MJDS parent Jim Tasse, at UW-M Mainstage Theatre.	December 8-13	For tickets and further information, call 414/229-4309, or <a href="http://www4.uwm.edu/psoa/programs/theatre/images/docs/Theatre2009_Brochure.pdf">http://www4.uwm.edu/psoa/programs/theatre/images/docs/Theatre2009_Brochure.pdf</a>