



Stellar Education for Every Jewish Child

V'ahavta... ואהבת

April 12, 2019 7 Nisan, 5779

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*This week's V'ahavta is sponsored by
Mr. & Mrs. David Winston*

RTA-JCC

14th Annual Inter-Generational Model Seder

It is an event that has become its very own tradition in Richmond: Our 7th and 8th grade students were magnificent in leading the Inter-Generational Model Seder at the WJCC this past Monday. A packed house of almost 200 people benefitted from this memorable event.

Everyone was enthralled with the students, whose poise and confidence were a centerpiece of the great success of this event. Their words of Torah, singing, helping with the fine details, and just being themselves shmoozing with the seniors all made this a wonderful experience for everyone. RTA could not ask for finer ambassadors in the Jewish community, and we are very proud of all of you.



This year's Seder was the fourth one conducted in partnership with the Enrich Program, a joint initiative of Jewish Family Services and the Weinstein JCC. Many seniors from Beth Sholom also participated, helping to make this a perfect example of inter-agency cooperation - and a Community Event in the truest sense of the word.



Our many thanks for the Model Seder go to:
Maya Barnett, Mr. Kenny Bendheim, Mrs. Adrienne Epstein, Mrs. Gail Grandis, Mrs. Amy Beth Lehman, Mrs. Shari Menlowe-Barck, Mrs. Ilene Paley, Mrs. Sorah Plotnick, Mrs. Sandy Sisisky & Mr. Brian Strauss.

Thanks also to our parent drivers; Mrs. Hilary Bender, Mrs. Ziva Eichelberg and Mr. Keith & Sarah Rakofsky.

(more photos on page 2 . . .)



Candle Lighting

Friday, April 12
7:24 p.m.

Saturday, April 13
Shabbat ends
8:28 p.m.



Monday, April 15
Art Club
3:40 - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17
8th Grade Flower Sale
(Please see flyer on p. 8)

**Thursday, April 18 -
Friday, April 26**
Pesach Break
No Classes

Monday, April 29
Classes Resume

RTA-JCC 14th Annual Inter-Generational Model Seder

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RTA-JCC 14th Annual Inter-Generational Model Seder

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RTA-JCC 14th Annual Inter-Generational Model Seder

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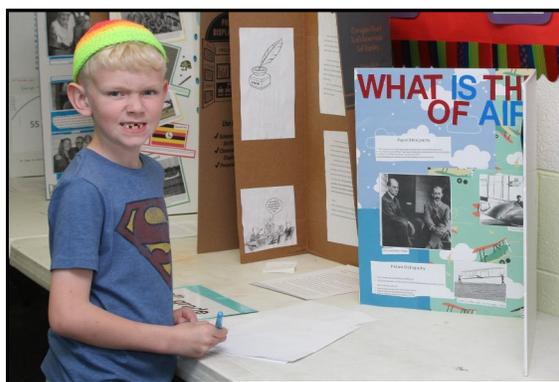


School Fair

This year's RTA School Fair has just concluded, displaying an impressive combination of academics and talent. Our 5th-8th grade students produced a wide variety of fascinating and colorful projects on numerous areas of study – astronomy, history, medicine, and numerous Jewish studies topics. All projects were accompanied by a rigorous research paper on which the students have been working since February.

The incredibly diverse range of topics included: Operation Entebbe, the Northern Lights, the Hindenburg, Free Will, and Vaccines, plus many more!

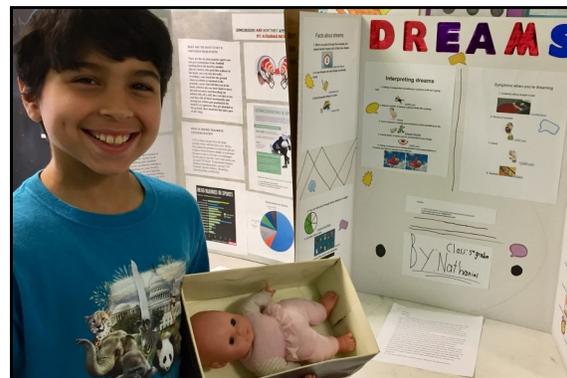
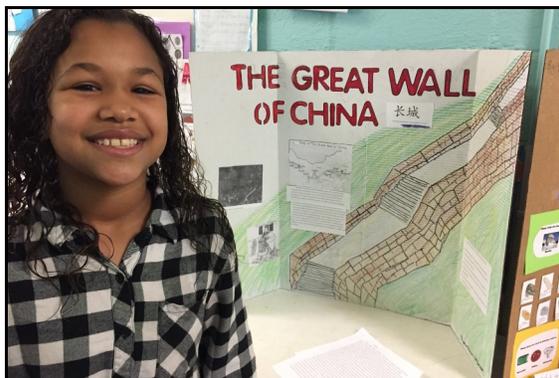
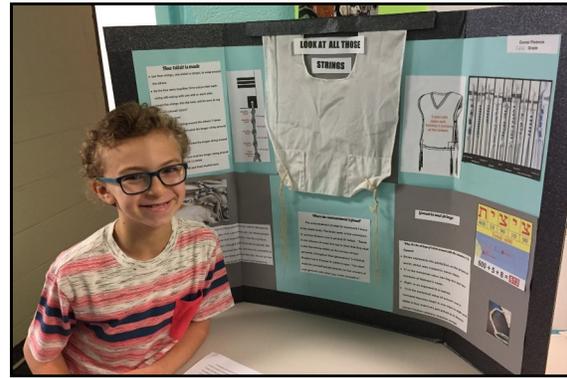
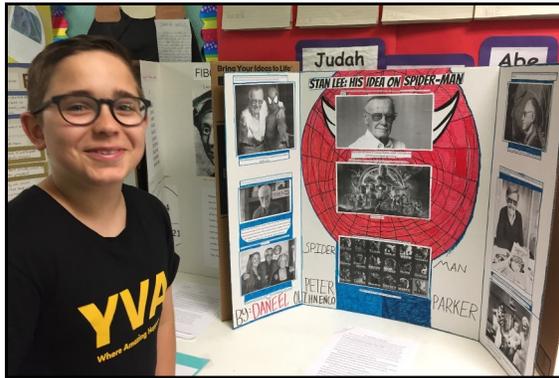
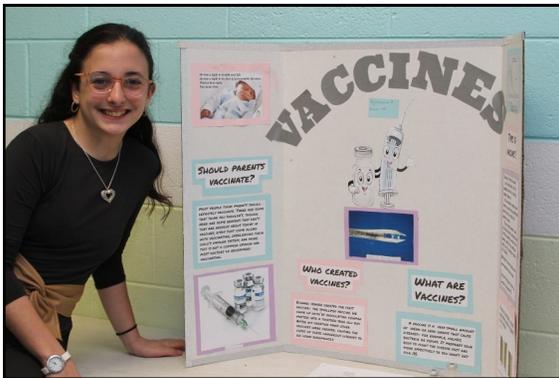
Special thanks to Mrs. Marlena Cantor, Dr. Bradford and Mrs. Schaefer for their dedication and hard work on School Fair, and kudos to all the students for their months of work, creating an impressive array of projects!



(more photos on next page. . .)

School Fair

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Box Tops for Education Program

Congratulations to the Salomonsky family for bringing in the most box tops during the month of March and winning an Amazon gift card.

Thank you to all of those who sent in box tops! They all add up!

Please remember to send in your box tops in a Ziploc bag labeled with your family's name and put it in the Box Tops for Education box located in the hallway.



8th Grade

**Pre-
Pesach
Flower
Sale**



**A beautiful bouquet for your
Pesach table
\$5 - \$15**

Wednesday, April 17th

Parsha Points

Each week we feature an article on the weekly Torah portion.

Metzora (Leviticus 14-15) Shabbat Hagadol

Cutting to the Core

Following on from last week's portion, this week continues with the consequences of negative speech, loshon hara.

"Sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never hurt me." Whoever made that one up is either naïve or really hard of hearing. (Many of us recall what our very own Rabbi Sherman had to say about this expression!) While we might tell our children not to be bothered, the reality is that words hurt a great deal more than sticks and stones. The pain caused by sticks and stones is temporary; the pain caused by words can be eternal.

When someone hits you, it is a very crude and superficial expression of contempt for your humanity. What he is saying, in effect, is that you are an object, not a person. There is a sense of violation. Words, however, can express that contempt infinitely more eloquently and thus penetrate much deeper. When you talk badly about another person, it can be much more personal and biting, and cut to the core of his individuality. Ouch.

Beyond this, the Sages say that whoever speaks loshon hara denies G-d Himself. It is, to be sure, an indefensible action to talk badly about a fellow human being, but to say that one who does so denies G-d seems a little harsh. Here is an explanation that I once heard from one of my students.

Every human being is made in the image of the G-d. No one of us is inherently any more or less G-dly than anyone else. We are G-dly no matter what we do. The question is only whether we will act in a G-dly fashion or not. The Jewish concept is that although a person may 'do' bad, his or her essence 'is' still good. When one recognizes this, one is able to appreciate the goodness, the greatness and almost unlimited potential of those around us.

At the same time, all of us G-dly human beings make mistakes. Yes, we are G-dly, but we are not G-d. And only G-d is perfect.

When one speaks loshon hara, one is focusing on the bad that people do. G-d created a world of G-dly and elevated souls and we, in our minds and with our words, turn it into a world of small and petty people. We are looking at G-d's most precious creation, a human being, created in his image, and not even noticing that goodness.

If we wish to see G-d in those around us, He is always there to be seen. But equally, if we want to ignore G-d, we will see the bad and end up speaking loshon hara.

When one puts it into that perspective, it becomes obvious why there are few things in Judaism that are considered worse than talking badly about another person. Next time you are tempted to do so, take a moment to consider how unbecoming it is for a dignified soul to stoop to such depths. It simply doesn't pay.

Adapted with permission from the award winning website, www.aish.com.