

# Beth El - Keser Israel School Bulletin

ALEXANDER GRAUBART, Rabbi

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SEPTEMBER, 1970

## Person to Person

The Rabbis of the Talmud understood very well what Jewish Education is all about. This is what they said:

“Rabbi Elazar quoted Rabbi Hanina who said: Students increase Peace in the world, for it is written in Scripture: ‘When all your children are taught of the Lord, great shall be the peace of your children.’  
Read not banayich, your children, but bonayich, your scholars.”

Without discussing and analyzing this marvelous passage it is enough to say that the sages are teaching us that children (and youth) and Jewish learning have a lot to do with creating Peace on this planet. It is the great belief of the Jewish People throughout its history that learning and scholarship are absolutely indispensable to the achievement of the great Jewish ideals of Peace and Justice.

In our Religious School this great teaching is always before us. Our teachers and our Education Committee members are always aware of the fact that Jewish Education is no simple matter and no routine business. It is our firm belief that it is our duty to touch the lives of every one of our children and in so doing, enable them to make their contribution as committed and loyal Jews to the betterment of our world.

As you will see from reading this brochure, we do not interpret Jewish Education narrowly. We are convinced that Hebrew is basic to Jewish life and will become even more so in the future. We are committed to the teaching of the Torah - again, because Jewish life is unthinkable on any other basis. We think that Jewish history is vital, for through the study of our history, the Jew learns to identify with the triumphs and the sorrows of our people and in that way can become a more authentic human being. We teach identification with the hopes and the reality of the State of Israel because it is the land of our brothers and because it offers the rich possibility of spiritual enlargement, not only for the Jewish People but indeed for all mankind. Above all we are committed to the teaching of the concept of K'lal Yisrael - the totality of the Jewish experience, including pre-eminently its ethical and moral ideals and values.

A careful reading of this brochure will show, that much time is given to the area of Synagogue participation and Jewish living. We believe that the holidays, ceremonial rituals, Sabbath observance and Prayer, interpreted in the light of modern life can offer our children a way of life that is rich in meaning and significance.

Our program is an ambitious undertaking. The Synagogue has invested heavily in teachers, and facilities and now we ask you to join with us in making our program a reality. Parents who study Judaism and live Jewishly provide our children with the best of all possible motives to do the same.

Here's hoping that the coming year, 5731, will be a year of rich achievement for the students of the Beth El-Keser Israel School and a year of spiritual growth for us all.

Bivracha,  
Alexander Graubart, Rabbi

Dear Fellow Parents,

As the new co-chairmen of the Education Committee, we want to share with you our hopes for the new school year, some ideas and concerns.

We feel strongly that the Hebrew School is the vital center of the synagogue. We are deeply concerned about the attitudes and values communicated to our children. The Hebrew School experience should be meaningful. The staff we have assembled this year is impressive in qualifications and experience. We feel certain that the children will respond to them.

There remains another necessary ingredient. Very early in the new term, we plan to meet with parents and teachers for an exchange of ideas. Hopefully, this will provide the basis for a working involvement of all who share our concern. We plan to invite you to form an advisory council with representation from each class so that continuous communication with the Education Committee can be maintained.

This we believe will strengthen our school and create a warm, positive climate for our children.

Mrs. Hope Bell  
Mrs. Shulamith Chernoff  
Education Committee Co-Chairmen

## A Partnership

It was not long ago that the rash of criticism of American Education, from men like Flesch, Conant, Mayer and Rickover, reflected not merely a sense of dissatisfaction with the status quo, but a profound conviction that the key to all national and civic improvement lies with education and learning.

Surely, the young people who "sat in" protesting at last year's convention of the Jewish Welfare Federations in Boston, demanding much more emphasis on Jewish Education, brought about an overwhelming realization that the Jewish School is the number one factor in meaningful Jewish survival.

There are, however limitations to what the schools can accomplish by themselves. The general public now turns to the schools and demands that they save the community. In the inner city, the community at large expects instant results from the public schools. Likewise the Jewish public asks the Jewish school to "make" positive Jews.

The fact is however, that formal education is simply not the major influence in the lives of our children. Home life, friends, television and the other mass media exert very powerful influences upon the child. The school generally, and the Jewish school particularly are but one of the many, often conflicting forces at work on our children. It is sometimes flattering, but always a mistake to assume that the Jewish School alone can transform our children into positive, committed Jews. Not even Jewish Day School, one of the most successful concepts in modern Jewish education can do the job by itself.

I ask you to become co-workers, partners if you will, in the perpetuation of Judaism. Do not simply relegate the task to your school. I invite you to join us in a "Matching program". If you will provide a living Jewish experience for every experience we provide in the School, I am convinced that we can go a long way together. Together the job can be done.

Leshana Tova. May we have a happy and productive year.

Moshe A. Giskan  
Educational Director

## About Our School

The Beth El-Keser Israel School adheres to the standards of the Commission on Jewish Education of the United Synagogue of American and those of the New Haven Bureau of Jewish Education. Our students in the elementary department receive six hours of instruction a week.

Our methods are continually re-examined and changed whenever necessary. We try to take advantage of all of the recent innovations in materials and techniques. We rely heavily on our library and on audio-visual aids which include films, film strips, transparencies for overhead projectors and sound recorders.

This year, in both the formal and extra-curricular activities of our School we will rely heavily on the arts. There will be music, drama, arts and crafts, puppetry, Junior Choir and a Synagogue Skills group. By means of these and other activities we hope to transform our school from a strictly academic program into a true Center for living Judaism.

## Our USY Chapter

United Synagogue Youth is the teenage organization affiliated with the United Synagogues of America. It is an international organization with activities ranging in scope from local chapter meetings to international conventions. The activities are three-fold catering to the teenager's social, cultural and religious needs.

We are now in the process of preparing an exciting program for the coming year. Among the highlights will be an interchapter weekend with the central theme, "The Jew in the Community", an Israeli dance troupe and a drama club which will present the play "Diary of Anne Frank".

We hereby invite your teenagers to join our chapter. Call Mr. Giskan for details.

The following are names of the new officers of our chapter:

Ray Nabatof	President	Lisa Tanenbaum	Third Vice President
Marshall Bauer	First Vice President	Amy Yakerson	Secretary
Marcie Yakerson	Second Vice President	Ina Nabatof	Treasurer

# CURRICULUM OUTLINE OF OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## I THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT. Ages 6 and 7 (Grades 1 and 2)

An introduction to Judaism through units on the Jewish Home and the Synagogue as well as an introduction to the Holidays and Bible Heroes. We also attempt to provide the beginnings of a comprehension of a belief in God.

Students are also given a familiarity with Hebrew expressions and Blessings.

**Prep. Class.** The principal concern is the Jewish Home. The child is taught the meaning of the Jewish ceremonial objects in the home. Our aim is to develop the attitude that participation in the ceremonies of the home is fun! The children learn about the contributions which every member of the family make towards a beautiful Jewish household. Also included in the program are 'Show 'n tell' programs which center about Bible tales and holidays.

**Primary Class.** The Synagogue is the central theme for this year. The goal is to encourage the young child to feel that the Synagogue is his home. Parents are urged to cooperate by bringing their children with them to the Synagogue often. The presentation of Bible tales through 'show 'n tell' units continues. Children are also taught about the holidays, Hebrew blessings and Hebrew expressions through imaginative use of drama and music.

Teacher: Mrs. Barbara Matzner

## **II ELEMENTARY DEPARTMENT.** Grades Aleph through Hay.

The following are our objectives: A basic introduction to Jewish historical development; a formal introduction to Hebrew language as it occurs in practice of Jewish living and for the linguistic classes, as a living tool for conversation; an elementary study of the Jewish community throughout the world with strong emphasis on Israel; the role of the Synagogue in our Jewish heritage; the study of the Torah and other parts of the Bible.

**Grade Aleph:** The emphasis will be on Hebrew. The instruction will utilize the aural-oral method using no text book initially, and involving the intensive use of audio-visual aids. The students will learn a vocabulary of 350 words.

In addition to Hebrew, the students will learn basic concepts in religion, prayer and holiday observance. Their classroom work will be enhanced through music, drama and art.

**Texts: Ivrit, Teichman**

**One Upon a Jewish Holiday, Stadtler and Simon**

**Teachers:** Mrs. Georgia R. Giskan, Mrs. Marilyn Graubart, Miss Doris Dronski and Mr. Barry Fox

**Grade Bet:** God and the Story of Judaism.

The basic course deals with the ideas and concepts clustered around our faith in God; how they began and evolved. Areas of discussion cover the following: How Judaism began, What Judaism teaches us about God, What Judaism teaches about right and wrong. From the study of these areas Jewish ethics and values emerge.

In the Bet year students are divided into two divisions related to their aptitude for Hebrew language learning, the Academic and the Linguistic. **The academic classes learn the functional Hebrew of the Synagogue, which will enable them to participate completely and expertly in the Services of the Synagogue. The linguistic section will continue to learn Hebrew for conversation as well as for Synagogue participation.**

Through contributions to Keren Ami and the use of the famed World Over Magazine, students are sensitized to the total Jewish population.

**Texts: Ivrit, Teichman**

**Lashon Utfila, Persky and Scharfstein**

**God and the Story of Judaism, Kripke and Levin**

**World Over Magazine**

**Teachers:** Mrs. Dalia Sprinzak, Mrs. Marilyn Graubart, Cantor Fisher

**Grade Gimel:** The Synagogue

Grade gimel students return to the theme of the Synagogue for their year's study. Our students study the beginnings, growth and development of the great institution which has done so much for the creative growth of the Jewish people and has played such an enormous role in the survival of Israel. Our students learn about our own Synagogue and also about the practices of other Synagogues.

In grade gimel, formal Bible instruction is begun through the teaching of selections from various portions of the Torah and other books and also through the teaching of Biblical themes dealing with Peace, Justice and Brotherhood.

**Texts: Shalom Israel, Persky and Scharfstein**

**Siddur Meforash**

**Selections from the Bible, Colodner**

**Teachers:** Mrs. Hava Kimmelman, Mr. Barry Fox, Cantor Fisher, Mrs. Ernestine Sloan

**Grade Dalet:** Jewish Heritage and Fellowship

Students explore Jewish beliefs, the development of the classic source of Judaism, the Torah and the Talmud, the life of the Ghetto, Zionism and the rebirth of the State of Israel. By means of studying the past, students become equipped to begin the study of the Jewish present and to prepare for the future.

Grade Dalet Bible program utilizes the exciting new method of Bible teaching, the Melton Program, which is based on the dynamics of classroom inquiry. Students will do an intensive analysis of the profound moral and religious teachings of the Book of Genesis, in English. Also included in the Dalet year is a course in Social Action and Jewish Values.

Hebrew will be pursued in the dual track method as in earlier grades. A special course in Torah cantillation and chanting of the service will be offered to this grade by Cantor Merrill Fisher.

**Texts: B'yad Halashon, Yalon**

**The Story of the Jewish Way of Life, Kurzband and Levin**

**Genesis, Melton**

**To Do Justly, Vorspan**

**Teachers:** Mrs. Ernestine Sloan, Mrs. Hava Kimmelman, Mr. Leonard Stein, Cantor Fisher, Mr. Barry Fox

**Grade Hay:** The Joy of Jewish Living

The students will be involved in a series of discussions and readings on the Calendar of the Jewish Year and its origins. They will also explore in depth each of the Jewish holidays and the nature of public worship. These discussions will take place on Shabbat mornings which will include a Youth Service.

Israel is an important area of their program as is a review of the major events in Jewish History. The teaching of Hebrew in the dual track system continues as well.

**Texts: The Joy of Jewish Living, Spiro**

**Israel - the Promised Land**

**Pathways Through Jewish History**

**B'yad Halashon, Yalon**

**Siddur Meforash**

**Teachers:** Mrs. Hava Kimmelman, Mrs. Ernestine Sloan, Mr. Meir Brandwein, Mrs. Florence Leventhal, Mr. Victor Liberman

**THE YOUTH INSTITUTE** - Knowledge and Ecstasy

Formerly known as the confirmation class, this is a new program of Jewish studies and experiences for high School age students. The program, largely based on elective courses, will lead to Confirmation and will include the option of a study tour of Israel as the culminating educational experience of the Beth El-Keser Israel School.

For details see the special brochure on the Youth Institute.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR**  
(Save for future reference)

Sept. 10, 11 and 13	Teacher Workshops
Sept. 14	First day for Hay Classes
Sept. 15	First day for Alef, Bet, Gimel and Dalet Classes
Sept. 20	Youth Institute Begins
Sept. 30	Erev Rosh Hashanah*
Oct. 1, 2	Rosh Hashanah Youth Services*
Oct. 5	Parent-Teacher Get-Together
Oct. 10	Yom Kippur Youth Service*
Oct. 12	Columbus Day*
Oct. 14	Erev Sukkot*
Oct. 15, 16	Sukkot*
Oct. 21, 22, 23	Erev Shmini Atzeret* Shmini Atzeret* and Simhat Torah
Nov. 11	Veterans Day*
Nov. 20	Jewish Book Month Begins
Nov. 26-29	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec. 23-30	Chanukah
Dec. 24, 1970 through Jan. 3, 1971	Winter Vacation* Classes Resume Jan. 4
Feb. 13-16	Mid-Winter Recess*
Feb. 21	Regional Educators Conference at Beth El-Keser Israel*
March 10	Purim Eve* Students come for Megillah Reading at 7:00 P.M.
March 11	Jewish Music Month Begins
April 4	Model Seder
April 10, 11	Passover*
April 17-25	Spring Vacation* Classes Resume on April 26
April 26-May 2	Special Programs Observing Memorial Day for 6 Million Jews and Israel's Independence Day
May 13	Lag B'Omer
May 28	Confirmation
June 18	Commencement

\*NO-CLASSES

**Attention Teenagers**

1. On Sunday, September 20, there will be a social and the official opening of the Youth Institute. Make sure to be here.
2. Contemporary High Holiday Services on Rosh Hashana October 1 and 2 at 10:30 A.M. and on Yom Kippur. October 10 at 11:00 A.M.
3. Join U.S.Y.

*Congregation* **BETH EL-KESER ISRAEL School**

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