

Congratulations to **Leora Bakst**, winner of the Pesach Card Design Competition (pictured above).

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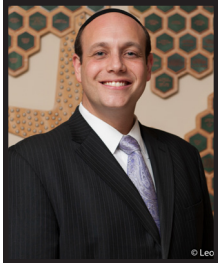
**Congratulations
Class of 2015
Graduates!**

**Have a
great
summer!**

Pictured below: 8th graders visit the Machane Yehuda Market in Yerushalayim during their class trip.



Rabbi Adam Englander, M.S. Ed. Head of School



My grandmother, may she continue to have good health and enjoy life, just got me a subscription to *Moment Magazine*. The publication, founded 40 years ago by Elie Wiesel, is devoted to meaningful Jewish discourse independent of any specific ideology or denomination. The first issue I received came just as I was getting ready to write this article on an entirely different topic, but one of the pieces in the magazine really got me to think and it inspired me to go in a different direction. Twenty-four well-known Jews, famous for a variety of different reasons, were asked to answer the following question: **"What life experience, advice or piece of wisdom do you think is most important to pass on to the next generation?"** Respondents consisted of well-respected authors, professors, physicians, and former government officials and included such names as Dr. Robert Aumann, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks.

Their answers were intriguing and/or inspiring and varied greatly, but most significantly for me, it forced me to think about how I would answer that question. So here goes. **Send your children to Jewish day schools and do whatever you can to support their growth, qualitatively and quantitatively.** I recognize that that sentiment may sound self-serving and I also know that when it comes to the readership of the *Hillel Herald*, I am "preaching to the choir." But I believe deeply in the truth of that answer and I believe that it needs to be reiterated again and again. As research (such as the Pew study) has made clear, there won't be "next generations" of Jews to pass our wisdom onto if we don't immerse our children in a way of life that inspires them to live as committed Jews. The only proven method to achieving that are excellent Jewish day schools such as Hillel. So to the parents, grandparents, friends, and supporters reading this issue of the *Herald*, take pride in the people, programs, and initiatives that are making Hillel Day School great and growing, and feel good knowing that you are answering the above question in the best way possible.

Have an enjoyable and meaningful summer!

MIDDLE SCHOOL: GRADES 6-8

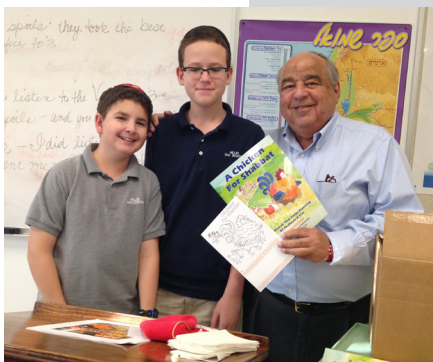
Color War



Thank you to faculty members **Dannie Grajower** and **Marjorie Tinio** for planning this year's Color War. The winning team was Blue, but everyone had a great time competing in all of the activities.



Middle Schoolers support the B.I.G. campaign, a partnership between StandWithUs and the American-Israeli Chamber of Commerce that aims to mobilize supporters of Israel to bypass the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaign (BDS) and buy Israeli-made products in their local stores.



Middle School students had a great meeting with **Bill Forster**, who has created an organization called *Chickens for Shabbat*, where he provides chickens to children in orphanages in Israel. The students heard his talk and then decorated tzedakah (charity) boxes for his organization to take home or to give to a friend. Another inspiring program!



Dr. Neal Weinreb, grandfather of **Sarit** (7th grade), **Yosef** (6th grade), **Akiva** (3rd grade), and **Matan** (EC4) **Scher**, kindly took time out of his busy schedule to visit the 7th grade class as they studied genetics in science, this past March. Dr. Weinreb is an expert on genetic disorders, especially rare diseases such as Gaucher's Disease and Fabry Disease. He shared stories of cases he's worked on, discussed why some diseases are more prevalent in certain groups of Jews, and closed with the importance of getting families genetically tested.

Chayim Dimont, M.S. Ed. Principal, Early Childhood - Grade 3



Recently, I gave a school tour to a parent, who had a lot of specific, detailed questions about our program. Finally, she asked me, "What makes your school different?" I turned to her and said that even when we have a successful curriculum, an amazing program, or a great event we still try and figure out how to make it better. At Hillel

we always strive for excellence in all that we do--to see what can be improved upon, what is working well, but can be tweaked, and what are the ingredients in the recipe of success in order to make it even better.

While our past reading program, the Macmillan Treasures series, has been a great asset to our students, we are moving on to an even better, more improved reading program, Super Kids, for Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades. Super Kids is based on scientific research that validates that phonics-based instruction is the best way to teach children to read. The program is completely aligned to Hillel Day School standards.

Ironically, when I mentioned this new reading curriculum to a staff member, her eyes lit up as she told me she remembered using it when she was in grade school. "I loved Super Kids!" she said excitedly. I hope that our students will be able to take away the same enthusiasm from their reading lessons.

Looking forward to the 2015-2016 year full of new, enriching, and exciting experiences! Have a great summer!

HDS EMET CLUB WINNERS

E^{xcellent}

M^{idot}

E^{very}

T^{ime}

Mazal Tov to
all of the
winners!

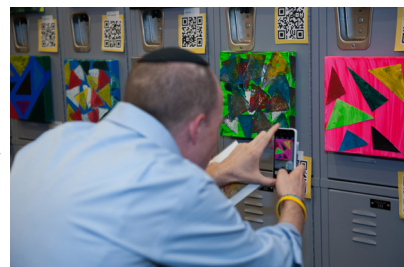


Nate Aharon
Noa Amiel
Nava Berkeley
Shoshana Berman
Lily Blaine
Alexandra Cohen
Miriam Cohen
Netanel Cohen
Tamar Cohn
David Dahan
Elisheva Davis
Michael Deakter
Shai Deichman
Neshama Dreyfuss
Avigayil Elkoby
Meir Englander
Tani Englander
Ittai Fixler
Daniella Frist
Hailey Gately
Noa Gedz
Max Gerstin
Eli Goldwasser
Yitzie Greenbaum
Shoshana Greene
Aryeh Gross
Eitan Gross
Natalie Grunberg
Shira Grunhaus
Brennen Gumper
Emma Harow
Benny Hochner
Shuey Kahan
Abby Karsh
Ariana Kassorla

Joseph Kestenbaum
Lizzy Klein
Yoni Krawatsky
Rayli Kroll
Zohara Lam
Meir Lanner
Naftali Leizgold
Daniel Lugassy
David Lunski
Mordechai Marcus
Ari Mayzel
Noah Medjuck
Ari Mergui
Chavie Mergui
Paige Rackman
Rhyann Rackman
Amir Rindsberg
Nachi Rosen
Lily Rudensky
Jonah Sacher
Ella Saketkhov
Sam Shapiro
Merav Skoczylas
Ari Spolter
Simcha Spolter
Sam Stern
Zahava Tilis
Eliana Tokayer
Atara Tripp
Daniella Weiss
Josh Young
Gavriella Yudewitz
Shemaya Zangre
Noah Zucker

ART NIGHT

This year, the Early Childhood students used shapes to design mesmerizing works of art, which were displayed for parents during a lively throwback to the Art Deco era-themed gallery event.



Thank you to **Ms. Zemel** for being sure that all of the unique pieces included QR codes and links to personalized videos. In addition to the stunning Shabbat-themed collaborative canvas (sketched by the talented **Mrs. Rose**), the silent auction also consisted of adorable, individual, classroom pottery projects, designed with the students' fingerprints.



Thank you to **Craftit** for so generously dedicating their paint, firing facility, and personalization services, as well as providing discounts on the pottery and a gift certificate for our raffle. Thank you also to **American Girl, Lisa Pinkis, Seth Frohlich, and Maxim Boutique** for their donations to our raffle.

Much appreciation goes to our dedicated Art Night Committee: **Bina Asher, Cara Beim, Sara Bienenfeld, Shira Englander, Rachel Harow, Naomi Katz, Ilana Landau, Lanie Meltzer, Lisa Pinkis, Elana Rackman, Stephanie Stern, Rachel Tripp, Chava Weisstuch, Deborah Young, Rachel Yudewitz, Michal Zisquit, and Andrea Zucker.** Accolades to the teacher liaison, **Devorah Kahan**, and the entire Early Childhood staff for their dedication and assistance in preparing our young artists for this event.

A special thank you goes to **Mr. Dimont** for his commitment to the students, his devotion to the success of Art Night, and for the long hours he spent producing a heart-warming video for the parents to enjoy. An amazing time was had by all!

STATE FAIR



The third grade State Fair was a fantastic culmination celebrating all the hard work the students put in to exhibit their state research projects. Each student researched a state and presented the information through technology by using Prezi presentation software and by writing a state report. They also learned how to use the app, Aurasma, to showcase different processes of the project through interactive videos.

Hadassah Smolarcik, M.S. Ed. Principal, Grades 4 & 5 and Judaic Studies



As a principal, I never engage in the fervor of the “end-of-the-year countdown.” Quite the opposite, I approach each June with a sense of apprehension and trepidation because it is the time of the year for me to seriously reflect on the passing of another academic year in the lives of our children. With the culmination of each year, I ponder, appraise, and contemplate the growth and evolution of our students. We live in challenging times--the landscape being very different than the environment that I grew up with as a student. Today's children are going to face many challenges and in order to do so they will need to be resilient, they will need to acquire coping skills, and prepare themselves for the challenges they will face. Despite our best efforts to protect our children, we cannot prevent adversity and daily stress but we can help our children learn to be more resilient by changing how we think about challenges.

I recently came upon this story that inspired me to think differently and it truly resonated with me enough to want to share it with you. A man once noticed a butterfly's cocoon in his yard and decided to watch the emergence of the butterfly. After a few days, the butterfly began to push its head through the opening of the cocoon. The butterfly was struggling with all of its efforts but it seemed to the man that the butterfly was not making progress. The man was afraid that the butterfly would not survive this process and decided that he would help open the cocoon. The man took a scissors and carefully opened the cocoon, the butterfly immediately emerged and the man was thrilled with his assistance in this process.

The man looked at the butterfly; something did not look right. The butterfly's wings began to shrivel and its wings seemed deformed. Try as he could, the butterfly could not raise its wings; it would never fly!

The man's kindness was misguided. Instead of helping the butterfly emerge, he caused the demise of the butterfly. You see, the cocoon with its restriction, requires the butterfly to struggle to free itself because it forces fluid from the body of the butterfly to the delicate wings, which then, in turn, allows the butterfly to fly and soar. Without the struggle, the butterfly cannot fly. Let us help our children not only fly, but soar!!!!

CHUMASH PRESENTATION

On Sunday, May 17, Kitah Alef gathered in the Loewenstern Cafetorium with their parents, grandparents, extended families, and friends to celebrate the momentous occasion of receiving their first Chumashim. All of the children prepared throughout the entire year for this special day by learning how to read Hebrew with fluency and accuracy. They also prepared by working on a comprehensive and detailed Parsha unit that helps the yeladim become very knowledgeable of Torah stories and facts.

The program opened with a video completed with the help of our computer teacher, **Ms. Cindy Zemel**, displaying the work that the children participated in throughout the year in order to ensure their readiness for the special occasion. After the video was over, the children happily marched in and sat on the stage, which was beautifully decorated with the help of our art teacher, **Mrs. Barbara Rose**.

Throughout the 30-minute presentation that followed, each child had an opportunity to tell a part of the Torah story in both Hebrew and

English and enthusiastically sing songs. Before presenting the children with their Chumashim, **Rabbi Englander** shared a meaningful message with the children about the importance of learning Torah each day. With their new Chumashim in hand, generously donated by **Jeffrey and Naomi Gross** and family in loving memory of **Tobie & William Wiener**, the yeladim enthusiastically, accurately, and passionately read from the beginning of Sefer Bereshit.



After the children exited the stage, they enjoyed refreshments while their parents had an opportunity to listen to video interviews of the students sharing their thoughts and excitement about receiving their new Chumashim.

Thank you to **Morah Shira Sharp, Mrs. Pammy Gene, Morah Hanna Marín, and Mrs. Samantha Witztum**. Also special thanks to the moms who donated time and talent to decorating the Loewenstern Cafetorium with beautiful decor and refreshments.

Dibbur Yafeh Video Premiers

During the period of Sefirat Ha'Omer it is customary to work on improving our middot (character traits). Accordingly, grades one through five began a lesson on positive speech--Dibbur Yafeh--featuring a video presentation starring our amazing 4th grade actors. This play was a modified version of the fable, "Beauty and the Beast," and it focused on how improving speech can create healthier relationships. This amazing video was presented at an Oneg and began the program, which consisted of four units: 1) giving appropriate compliments, 2) the importance of greeting someone, 3) using your tone of voice appropriately, and 4) how to handle making a mistake.

Each lesson included a story and ways to practice the skill learned. These four components were the focus of the program as they formulate the social fundamentals for our children.

We are fortunate at Hillel Day School to have so many teachers who exemplify these positive communication skills and model them continually for our students. However, reinforcement of these values and expectations can only hopefully lead to smoother learning situations. Outstanding examples of students' work were displayed on the bulletin board in the main school hallway. We hope that our students will be inspired to have even greater Middot Tovot!

We are grateful to **Rabbi Eisenberger, Morah Salid, and Morah Gabriella** for their work on this program. To view the video, go to HillelTube.



HDS parents, **Dr. Chanoch and Rachel Harow**, rescued a Sefer Torah (a Torah scroll) that was in need of repair and brought it to HDS, while a Sofer (scribe), repaired it. This opportunity gave HDS students a chance to see how a Torah is written and to hear Dr. Harow's story of why it is dedicated in memory his grandfather. We thank the Harow family for bringing this experience to HDS.

THE LION'S DEN

Maia Shaffer, Athletic Director



As the school year ends, Hillel's sports program is celebrating another successful year.

Our sports program has made great strides each year, and this year was not an exception.

The Spring season, which was our last season for the 2014-15 school year, ended with Girls Softball and Boys and Girls Tennis.

Both Softball and Tennis teams had a very exciting season, and showed a lot of enthusiasm looking toward next year.

Our Jump Rope for Heart event, which took place in March, was not only a fun and effective way to teach heart-healthy living, but also emphasized the importance of physical activity as our children did something they enjoyed — jump roping!

As always I would like to give a special thanks to **Daniel and Caroline Katz and family**, who have gone above and beyond to support our sports program, as well as to all our parents for their constant support.

Lastly, I would like to thank our coaches -- **Coach Mike, Coach Allan, Coach Noah, Coach Moishe, Coach Samantha, Coach Shapiro, Coach Ray, Coach Art, and Coach Eon** for the valuable lessons they provide to our athletes in many different areas: discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship; winning and losing graciously, achieving goals, and much more.

Also, thank you to **Rabbi Englander** for all of his guidance and support!

Wishing everyone a nice and restful summer!



2015 Athletes of the Year

Sara Baum ~Kayla Bensmihen

Yitzy Lanner ~ Isaac Shapiro

Jump Rope For Heart

Jump Rope for heart is one of the favorite fundraising events for many students at HDS. This year, we raised a total of \$6,700, but most importantly, Jump Rope for Heart helps students learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health while raising funds to fight heart disease and stroke.

The event was filled with great music, competitions, and rewards for outstanding performance. A big thank you to our amazing PTA for donating the delicious ice pops to all the students. And the winners are...



1st place: **Akiva Scher**
(3rd grade)
\$806 raised

2nd place: **Tani Englander & David Skoczylas**
(5th grade) \$523 raised

3rd place: **Olivia Kahane**
(4th grade) & **Benjamin (Paco) Kahane** (5th grade)
\$322 raised

5A and 5B are the winners by grade, raising a total amount of \$2,446. Based on the \$6,700 raised, the American Heart Association will reward us with a \$600 gift certificate, which will help us purchase new equipment for our PE Department.

GIRLS SOFTBALL *By: Coach Samantha*



The Girls Softball Team finished their thrilling season with 2 wins and 4 losses. Throughout the season, the girls worked on a lot of the fundamental skills and progressively improved in all areas. The athletes showed a vast improvement in base running, stealing, and overall fielding.

I thoroughly enjoyed working with the girls this season and I feel that the players have a sense of accomplishment. Each member of the team improved their individual skills and I am so proud of each and every one of them. Well done on an enjoyable Softball season!

BOYS & GIRLS TENNIS *By: Coach Art Snow*



The girls Tennis Team had a successful year despite not reaching the playoffs. The team was led by number one player, 7th grader **Lizzy Adler**, and the girls are poised for a great season next year.



Our boys Tennis Team finished the season with only one loss against Sagemont 3 to 2. Unfortunately we played Sagemont first round of the playoffs with an identical score. We lost two matches 8 to 6 and the match really could've gone either way. The boys fielded 5th grader, **Yair Gritzman**, in our number one position followed by 8th graders **Coby Light** and **Isaac Shapiro**.

The tennis program at Hillel has existed for five seasons. This year the timing of holidays and school trips and rain made for a tight schedule. Parents and the school should be proud of the efforts of their student athletes who performed extremely well under those circumstances.

Special thanks to **Leora Cohn** for her assistance in taking the sports photos.

HDS HAPPENINGS

6th Annual Third Grade Book Club

By: Elise Cohen & Tzippi Rosen



The third grade book club group had two fun and exciting book club meetings this year. The first one was hosted by **Tamir Cohen**, where the group read *Mrs. Lane Is A Pain* by Dan Gutman. After discussing the book,

they learned about ventriloquism and made paper bag puppets that the kids enjoyed playing with and pretending to make them speak. A great time was had by all. The second book club was hosted by **Jennifer Rosen**, where the group read *Magic Tree House #39: Dark Day in the Deep Sea*. The children made paper aquariums based on the book and decorated cakes like the deep sea using blue frosting, licorice and marshmallows, to name a few. They enjoyed eating their creations. The book club was a fun, casual setting for the kids to get together and learn new things without even realizing it. Thanks to **Rebecca Gross** for giving the children the opportunity.



Amatzia Fensterheim spoke to the Middle School students about serving in the Israeli Army despite being injured this summer in Gaza. Amatzia, first cousin of HDS faculty member **Rabbi Gershon Eisenberger**, said one of the most inspiring and motivating things was the care and appreciation he felt from other Jews living all over the world.



The boys who participated in our Sunday morning Torah learning program, dedicated in memory of **Dr. Yitzchak Belizon**, were treated to a Marlins game! We are so proud of their dedication!

Super Sunday

Rabbi Adam Englander, Suzanne Rice, and Daniel Katz, are pictured at the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County's Super Sunday this past March. The Jewish Federation provides Hillel Day School with scholarship funding annually as well as other subsidies and grants.



Birthday Card Design Winner

Mazal Tov to **Yehuda Eisenberger**, 4th Grade, who won the Birthday Card Art Competition, under the direction of Mrs. Barbara Rose.

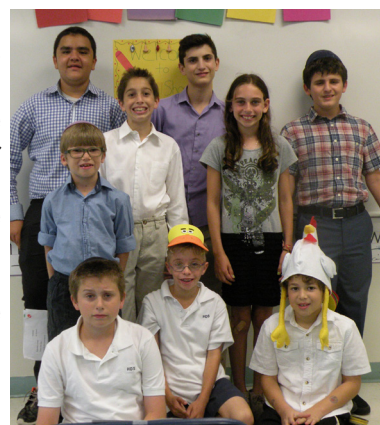
Yehuda's winning design will be professionally printed on next year's student birthday cards.



HDS students took part in an exciting, interactive, informative presentation on sea turtle nesting and the threat to sea turtles, led by **Boris Tezak** and **Courtney Cocilova**, both Ph.D. candidates from the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton. The presenters were impressed with the high-level of thinking in the questions and comments coming from the class.

Writer's Showcase

The Etgar students dazzled the audience with their amazing Writer's Showcase. The theme was using the five senses to enhance their writing, and the authors all performed beautifully.





Mrs. Rose Retires

While it is hard to imagine our school without her, we announce the retirement of **Mrs. Barbara Rose**, our school's lead art teacher for the past 15 years. Teaching hundreds of students each week is no easy feat, but Mrs. Rose has done it with care, class and a passion for ensuring that children improve not just as artists, but as people. Our school's art

program has grown and developed significantly over the years and Mrs. Rose deserves all the credit. We will all certainly miss her and we wish her only the best in this next chapter of her life.



This year our students spent a lot of time learning about the creative and demanding process that surrounds the innovations of engineers. Engineers are creative problem solvers and at this year's Science Fair our students showed how innovative they can be by designing, building, and creating their own original inventions. They partnered and worked together for weeks to make functional and novel designs, such as self-watering plants, bug vacuums, towels that don't slip, extra bright flashlights, and much, much more! As parents and students strolled through the gymnasium on the morning of June 2 to see all of these amazing creations, the excitement of the students was palpable and everyone in attendance was impressed by the ingenuity of the students. It was another great year of science for the students, and we can't wait to see what next year will hold!

Environmental Awareness

Hillel 2nd graders completed a cross-curricular activity in their music class incorporating music, technology, science (environmental awareness), and Hebrew! The students learned about taking care of the planet, balance and blend when singing in a choir, following a conductor, matching pitch, recording technology, and they even wrote their own phrases which were then translated to Hebrew for the song. After a lot of hard work, dedication, and hours of rehearsal and recording, our project is finally completed and ready to share. Go to <http://cooltheworld.org/media-gallery/> to view the video!



The Kids Time Program annual performance featured "Honk, Jr." this year.



This year, middle school students across Boca Raton, participated in a Holocaust-themed writing competition known as PIM.

This project

was spear-headed by **Mrs. Annette Shachter** and her sisters, in memory of their late father, **Mr. Yitzhak Moshe Przygorski**, a Holocaust survivor, who was known as PIM. His initials also became the slogan of the competition--"Personal Involvement Matters." Two HDS students were winners in the competition. **Akiva Stadlan**, 8th grade, won for his artwork, and **Yosef Scher**, 6th grade, won for his writing entry. The winners were recognized at the Yom Hashoa program at BRS. Akiva Stadlan was not present at the program as he was commemorating Yom Hashoah in Eretz Yisrael with his fellow 8th grade classmates. Yasher Koach to Yosef and Akiva for representing Hillel and for their outstanding talents!



HDS HOLIDAYS

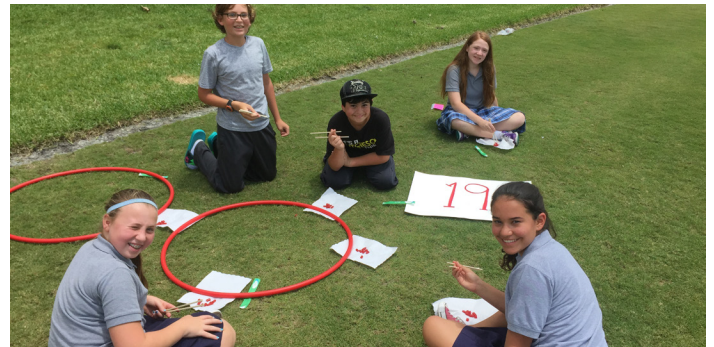
PESACH



Purim



Lag B'Omer



YOM HA'ATZMAUT



Hillel students rotated through a variety of stations designed to teach them lessons about Israel in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut. The mangal and melting pot stations were sponsored by the **Wultz family** in memory of *Daniel Cantor Wultz, z"l*.



5th Graders perform Daglanut, Israeli flag dance, in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut.

YOM HASHOAH



YOM YERUSHALAYIM



Second graders perform for Yom Yerushalayim.

Left: A violin solo by **Leora Tripp**.



Middle School faculty took on the Middle School students in a friendly game of kickball. Faculty wins!

YOM HAZIKARON



A Yom HaZikaron program, including a visit from an IDF Soldier, was held for Middle School students.

CLASS TRIPS



Jewish Federation*
OF SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY
ANNE & NORMAN JACOBSON
JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Hillel Day School received a grant once again for its 8th grade graduation trip to Israel, funded by the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County and the Jacobson

Jewish Community Foundation through the Jules L. & Dorothy M. Kamsly Teen Program Grant. This grant helped subsidize the school's financial aid budget earmarked for those students who can't afford the trip. Students embarked on the ten-day class trip, which took place during Israel's Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzmaut) and Israel's Memorial Day (Yom HaZikaron), and experienced breathtaking tours of our homeland including historical sites, both ancient and modern, and were introduced to Israelis involved in many different aspects of religious and cultural life. Students also had the opportunity to participate in public service and Chesed on an almost daily basis, and experienced firsthand what they have learned in the classroom during their journey at HDS.

8TH GRADE ISRAEL TRIP



7th Grade Washington, DC Trip



6th Grade Pigeon Key Trip



PTA PAGES

Sharona Kay, M.A., Ed. PTA President

PTA LUNCHEON HONORS OUTSTANDING GUARDIANS OF LEARNING VOLUNTEER CAROLINE KATZ

By: Michele Dimont



A record-breaking 100 guests joined the Hillel PTA in honoring longtime Hillel mom, PTA member, and Guardians of Learning (GOL) fundraiser **Caroline Katz** at this year's Annual PTA Luncheon. Held at the JARC auditorium, guests dined on a delicious luncheon while listening to heartwarming speeches by PTA President **Sharona Kay**, Hillel Principal (Grades 4-5 and Judaic Studies) **Hadassah Smolarcik**, and Luncheon Honoree **Caroline Katz**.



The room was filled with laughter and warmth at the Sunday morning event on May 17 as guests enjoyed **Sharona Kay's** seventh (!) "State-of-the-PTA" address, which welcomed everyone with explanations of how PTA can make even more money by some of its extremely easy fundraisers. With the help of **Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik** and his iPad slideshow, Sharona was able to enlighten the audience on how Amazon, Target, Shoparoo, and many other online websites and apps can very easily help PTA earn the big bucks.



The year 2015 was a record year for GOL membership! Spearheaded by **Caroline Katz**, 61 women joined the GOL this year, making it the largest number of participants ever to become members of this vital PTA program, which is PTA's largest fundraiser. Thank you to all members for their commitment and dedication to PTA. New GOL members will receive pins, and each renewed member will have a diamond added to her pin. The PTA thanks **Salomon and Sabrina Romano** for producing the pins and diamonds each year at cost.



Afterward, Sharona invited everyone to watch a touching surprise video for Caroline put together by her daughter, **Lilly**, which included videos of all the Katz children—near and far—congratulating their mom, as well as a collage of beautiful family photos set to music. The morning could not have been complete without a speech made about the woman of the hour by **Hadassah Smolarcik**, who used the story of Rut from the holiday of Shavuot to capture Caroline since Megillat Rut teaches us how great the reward is for those who perform kindness. "Anyone who really knows Caroline is aware of the tremendous sensitivity that she has



towards her family, her friends, her community, and to the Jewish world," Morah Hadassah said. "She is a person whose Neshama oozes Chesed."

Sharona then presented Caroline with three gifts, the first of which was a donation of an entire Shaas to Hillel Day School. "We hope that as the children learn many important lessons from these Sefarim, one of the lessons they learn is the importance of helping others, as the Katz's have taught," she said. The second gift was a memento with a Booker T. Washington quote: *Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others.* Lastly, the third gift was described as "a labor of love" since a large team of women spent hours going through every single picture of the Katz family on file since they joined the school. They then chose their favorites and **Lillian Aharon** used the photos to create a beautiful album for her. With tears of appreciation in her eyes, Caroline accepted the gifts, speaking so beautifully about what Hillel means to her and thanking everyone for all they have done, as well as encouraging others to get involved.



PTA thanks the following people who made this year's Luncheon so successful: **Leslie Abady, Naomi Abramovitz, Lillian Aharon, Mirta Brown, Jordana Carmel, Orlie Cohen, Chayim Dimont, Dvora Eisen, Rabbi Adam Englander, Shira Englander, Sara Goldberg, Rachel Greenbaum, Rachel Harow, Susan Herr, Jill Kaminetzky, Lilly Katz, Naomi Katz, Miriam Raul, Suzanne Rice, Jill Rose, Tzippi Rosen, Hadassah Smolarcik, Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik, Donna Tripp, and Deborah Young.**



Guardians of Learning Spring 2015



Leslie Abady	Jean Katz
Naomi Abramovitz	Sharona Kay
Liora Adler	Bruria Kodsi
Elana Belizon	Susan Koslovsky*
Lisa Kaufman Bensmihen	Irene Kott
Rebecca Berkeley	Jen Kroll
Mindy Berlin	Ilana Landau*
Batzi Berman	Linda Levy
Mirta Brown	Suri Markowitz
Jordana Carmel*	Melanie Meltzer*
Helen Cohan	Joyce Muller
Laura Cohen	Debora Guitmann Mutchnik*
Orlie Cohen	Jill Rose
Michele Dimont	Rachel Rudensky
Shira Englander	Suzy Ruttenberg*
Jamie Frank*	Dana Schechter
Cara Freedman	Tracey Schwartz*
Robin Gare	Naomi Shapiro
Lauren Glaun	Shira Sharp
Basheva Goldberg	Hadassah Smolarcik
Yocheved Goldberg	Liz Stadlan*
Laura Greenbaum	Gila Stern
Keri Greenfield	Stephanie Stern
Simone Griff	Linda Struhl
Meira Gross	Phyllis Struhl
Naomi Gross*	Robin Struhl
Ilona Grynsztein	Rachel Tripp
Rachel Harow*	Edna Tokayer
Liz Karsh	Ruthy Weiss*
Caroline Katz	Suri Winograd
	Risa Zimmerman

* New GOL

The Guardians of Learning program is PTA's most lucrative fundraiser, spearheaded by Caroline Katz. Members receive a specially designed gold-plated silver pin, to which a diamond will be added each year of renewed support. Membership is a true statement of the commitment to the wonderful and valuable endeavors of the PTA that directly benefit our children and staff. We value the solid group of Guardians and remain grateful.

Thank you to the 61 women listed above who have chosen to become Guardians of Learning.

The 2014-2015 PTA Board thanks PTA President **Sharona Kay**, whose outstanding leadership, boundless capabilities and energy, remarkable creativity, and kind spirit have made the PTA an invaluable organization within the HDS community.



PRE-PESACH BOUTIQUE



On the evening of March 25, the Boca Raton Synagogue bustled with excitement as hundreds of shoppers took a break from their busy schedules to attend HDS PTA's Pre-Passover Holiday Boutique. The semi-annual event raised funds for HDS, while bringing business to our community vendors, and providing one-stop shopping for our patrons. From clothing to hats, housewares, jewelry, Judaica, paper goods, toys, children's accessories, and more, the event offered something for everyone—often at discounted prices. The PTA commends **Orlie Cohen** and **Rachel Harow** for their outstanding work in coordinating and organizing the boutique, and thanks all of our parent volunteers. We also express our gratitude to **Matthew Hocherman**, **Linda Gordon**, and the **BRS staff** for their help setting up the event.



Thanks to a free, downloadable application for smartphones and tablets, HDS families are turning their grocery receipts into donations to our school. When you download Shoparoo, it does not matter what or how much you buy – every grocery receipt allows you to earn points for HDS just by snapping a picture of it. We applaud all of the families who have helped HDS earn a \$291 donation from Shoparoo.

HDS FOOD DRIVE BENEFITS FAMILIES IN NEED



HDS was proud to once again lead an annual food drive to benefit families in our community who are in need. Participating schools collected many pounds of groceries for the **Ruth Rales Jacobson Family Food Pantry**. We applaud **Cara Freedman** for coordinating this effort, and thank the seventh graders for their assistance in delivering and organizing the goods. We also thank the many HDS families who participated in the drive.

With Praise, Thanks & Admiration

❖ Thank you to **Cara Freedman** for planning every one of our teacher breakfasts for the past several years.

❖ Kudos to **Lisa Friedman, Jill Kaminetzky, and Susan Herr** for helping to arrange for the PTA to provide HDS teachers and staff with an end-of-year gift of two complimentary movie tickets.

❖ Thank you to **Liora Adler** for creating snack bags for our teachers during parent-teacher conferences.

❖ Thank you to **Lea Saida** for keeping a watch on the tzedakah boxes we have placed in local establishments.

❖ Thank you to **Zipora Rindsberg** for organizing a special day for students during Shushan Purim with activities at Chuck E. Cheese's® and a delicious lunch from Lenny's Pizza.

❖ The PTA expresses its gratitude to **Pita Pan Bakery** for its generous weekly donation of delicious fresh challot for our Early Childhood Shabbat program, in loving memory of *Rachel Vidal*. We also thank all of the volunteers who pick up challot weekly.

PERFECT PRESENTS

Tired of shopping for last-minute birthday party gifts? If you have a child or children in Early Childhood through fifth grade, you can save time, money and energy with the PTA's Perfect Presents program. For a one-time fee, your child receives a gift for his/her birthday and giving gifts to your child's friends is effortless. You no longer need to shop for presents! For more information, please contact **Naomi Katz** at nweisel@gmail.com.

GOOD & WELFARE CARDS

The PTA offers beautiful Good & Welfare cards to honor lifecycle events. The suggested donation per card is \$10 or three for \$25. The PTA saves you time and postage by sending the card(s) for you with your message! For more information, please contact **Dvora Scher** at dvora@dwpalaw.com.

B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

Do you find it hard to select the perfect Bar or Bat Mitzvah gifts? The B'nai/B'not Mitzvah Fund enables parents to provide Bar/Bat Mitzvah presents that benefit tzedakah and HDS. That means you save time on shopping and support a valuable cause. A variety of gifts are available to choose from, and you designate any of several charities as the recipient of your donation. Thank you to **Sara Golberg, Lori Landes, and Suri Winograd** for organizing gifts.

If you're looking for an easy way to get involved with HDS, consider enlisting in the PTA Troopers—and find the volunteer opportunities that are just right for you! Please email sharonakay@mac.com to join and learn more.



RECYCLING PROGRAM

Please remember to drop off your used printer and ink toner cartridges, cell phones, laptops, digital cameras and other small electronics at the front desk. HDS is proud to be among the many schools participating in the Dade Recycling program. Thank you to **Andrea Zucker** for leading this initiative, and to the many families and businesses who are already contributing to this important effort.



AMAZON AFFILIATES

The PTA has joined Amazon Affiliates, a simple way to support HDS every time you shop at Amazon. **All you need to do is visit <http://www.hillelpta.org/amazon.html> to place your Amazon order, and the school will receive 6% or more back on your purchases.** You'll find the exact same prices, product selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon's standard website – with the added bonus of knowing you are supporting our school. Thank you to all of the HDS families who have helped us raise over \$569. We express our gratitude to **Miriam Raul** and **Andrea Zucker** for coordinating this program.

TEACHER APPRECIATION BREAKFASTS

Sponsoring a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast is a great way to recognize our HDS teachers and staff. For information on sponsorship opportunities or to volunteer to help with the breakfasts, please contact **Cara Freedman** at 561-750-3132 or carafreedman@yahoo.com.



Faculty and staff enjoy the May Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, sponsored in honor of Kindergarten and Eighth Grade teachers.

UNIFORM SHOPPE

Thank you to **Dvora Eisen** for running the HDS Uniform Shoppe year round and for overseeing the uniform sale from May 11-15. Because the PTA is responsible for storing, managing inventory, and ordering and selling shirts, skirts, school spirit shirts, and more, we are also able to provide students with wholesale prices on a regular basis. The Uniform Shoppe is also pleased to offer Kippot and Tzizit at great prices.



75 GOLFERS TEE OFF AT INAUGURAL PARENT-CHILD GOLF OUTING

On Sunday, June 7, seventy-five golfers participated in the Hillel Day School Inaugural Parent-Child Golf Outing at Boca Lago Country Club. This event, co-chaired by **Dov Hochner, Dovid Kestenbaum, Teddy Struhl,** and **Michael Zimmerman,** brought in over \$50,000 for the school's Annual Scholarship Fund.



Thank you to this year's generous sponsors:



Presenting Sponsor
Daniel & Caroline Katz and Family

Lunch Sponsor
Jerry Cohen

Golf Cart Sponsor
Butters Construction and Development

Hat Sponsor
Avi & Felicia Frohlich/Frohlich Financial



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Tee Sponsors
**Sheldon Hills
Kosher Marketplace
Donna, Ben, Rachel, and Jackie Tripp
The Wirtschafter Family
and our
Community Rabbis:**

Rabbi Adam Englander, Rabbi Efreim Goldberg, Rabbi Josh Grajower, Rabbi Yosef Kassorla, Rabbi Meir Kessler, Rabbi Jonathan Kroll, Rabbi Chaim Lanner, Rabbi Philip Moskowitz, Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik, and Rabbi Matan Wexler.

We also gratefully acknowledge **Leo & Heni Ehrlich, FACTS Management Co., the Hillel PTA, and Supreme Energy, Inc.** for their generous donations. Thank you to **Dr. Eli Cohen** for donating the sunscreen and to all of this year's volunteers for helping make the event run smoothly throughout the day: **Orlie Cohen, Chayim Dimont, Dov & Shaindi Hochner, Jill, Noam, and Daniella Kaminetzky, Jeremy Lurie, Liz Pilkington, and Phyllis Struhl.**



The outing offered both a parent-child track, which included an instructional clinic, followed by 9-holes of play, as well as an adult 18-hole track. Golfer ages ranged from 5 years old to grandparent participants.



After play on the links, a lunch buffet, including delicious steaks grilled by **Steve Lugerner,** had over 115 people's mouths watering as the players joined with family members, sponsors, and friends.

This year's contest winners, who each received a medal and HDS "Flair" gift bag donated by the Hillel PTA, were:

Longest Drive:
Parent: **Josh Light**
Child: **Ben Blaine**

Closest to the Pin:
Parent: **Phil Landau**
Child: **Azriel Galbut**

Putting Contest:
A three-way tie by **Ben Blaine, Elisha Horowitz,** and **Eitan Landau** resulted in a sudden death putt-off with the winner being **Eitan Landau.**

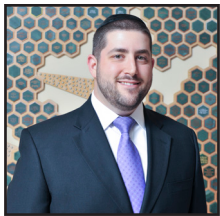
All child participants received trophies. A participant raffle followed with prizes generously donated by **Five Star Golf, the Hillel PTA, and Mutual of America.**



It was truly an amazing and memorable day for all who came out. We look forward to our 2nd Annual Parent-Child Golf Outing next year!



Photo Credit: Chayim Dimont



From the Executive Director, Joe Sharp

School may be out for the summer, but as the *Herald* goes to press a week after the 2014/15 school year, we have already been hard at work maintaining and improving facilities and technology for our students, staff and families.

Our dedicated crew is hard at work creating new spaces for individualized learning, upgrading classroom furniture and technology, and making necessary repairs and upgrades throughout our campus. We passed an audit of our Homeland Security grant expenditures and underwent upgrades to our fire safety system. I attended a school safety workshop along with representatives from several South Florida private schools, sharing ideas and strategies with each other. We have upgraded our accounting system, and are training in new features of FACTS and DDC. I attended a fiduciary summit with experts in retirement planning and other employee benefits, and have also been working to offer the best possible benefits for our incredible staff. We are also watching as the State works out the details of their new budget, and hoping for an increase in the funding that we rely upon.

Although Camp Ruach ensures that our campus is full of activity and happy children all summer long, we are eagerly awaiting the return of our students and teachers in the fall!

Have a wonderful summer!



Photo Credit: Leonardo Moran

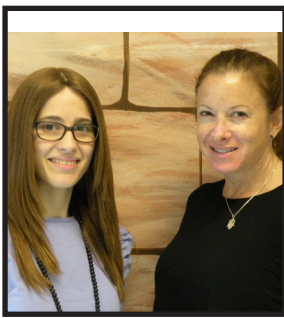


Look for the complete Kindergarten and 8th Grade Graduation feature stories in our Annual Report coming this Fall.

Teachers Of The Month



Morah Ofra Struogano
February 2015



Morah Bracha Doch
Ms. Jill Gumper
March 2015



Thank you for a wonderful year,
Hadar and Adi!

Special thanks to **Michele Dimont** and **Meira Gross** for their assistance with each of this year's *Hillel Herald* issues.

In Memory



Julia Lauren Besner
HDS Class of 1999
January 23, 1985 ~ April 11, 2015

If you have information to include in a future *Hillel Herald*, please email srice@hilleldayschool.org.
Editor: Suzanne M. Rice 561-470-5000 x225

Hillel Day School is a "Makom Torah," a place where Torah is studied. As such, dress should conform to what would be appropriate when visiting a synagogue.

CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY! Please remember to speak with us about including Hillel Day School of Boca Raton in your planned giving. Legacy gifts such as wills and bequests, or including the school in your estate plan, life insurance policy or retirement account, are vital to the future generation of Hillel Day School students.



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