



Carpool Curriculum by Michael Raileanu

Parshat Ha'Azinu
(Deuteronomy 32:1-32:52)



CARPOOL CURRICULUM

We are approaching the end of the book of Deuteronomy as we have come to Ha'azinu, Deut. 31:1-32:52. Moshe stands before the Jewish people and speaks to them in a poem of unbelievable beauty and surpassing blessing. Moshe recounts, one more time, everything that the Jewish people have been through together. It ends with God officially telling Moshe that his time has come. He directs him to the place where he is to die and God will bury him. How gently must God have spoken to His beloved servant Moshe. How hard it must have been to deliver that message, and how hard to hear it. Why did Moshe speak in a poem here at the end? Have you ever composed a poem to help you express something? How about composing a song to help you learn something? Moshe is at the end of his life here, how do you think that effect the need for a song or a poem instead of a nor-

mal speech? We are told in 32:20 that at one point God will, "...hide my countenance (God's face) from them (the Jewish people)." What does that mean? What might happen when God's face is hidden from us? When that happens, what do you think would we need to do to bring God's face back to us? During Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we refer to God as "Avinu Malkeynu (literally our Father, our King)." This parasha calls God our Father, too. In what ways is God like our parents? In what ways is God like a Ruler? We are also told that God is like an eagle protecting the young in a nest. What other metaphors can you come up with for our relationship with God? Why do you think it is important for people to try and explain our relationship with God in these kinds of terms?

What is your relationship with God like? How do you plan on connecting with God during the upcoming holidays?

Shavuah Tov & Shana Tova!

Cookin' Corner

From ChallahCrumbs.com: The honey cake served at my childhood home was generally brick-like, left untouched by children, and gobbled up by the older generations. This cake is sweet, light and fluffy, with a delicious honey coating, and my kids gobbled a loaf of it in a single sitting. Wrapped tightly, it freezes very well.

Ingredients:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1 c. honey | 1 c. sugar | 2 eggs |
| 1 c. oil | 2 c flour | 1 tsp baking powder |
| 1 tsp baking soda | 2 Tbsp cocoa | 1 c boiling water |

Directions:

Preheat oven to 325. Spray 9 x 13 or 3 small loaf pans. Mix first 4 ingredients until well blended. Combine dry ingredients in a separate bowl. Add dry ingredients to egg mixture. Carefully add boil water. You will end up with a liquidy batter. Pour into pan(s) and bake for 35-40 minutes.



Upcoming Important Dates

- 9/20 HS (K-2)
- 9/21 HS (3-7)
- 9/25 HS (3-7)
- 9/27 HS (K-2)
- 9/28 NO HS—Erev Rosh Hashanah
- 10/2 NO HS
- 10/4 HS (K-2)
- 10/5 HS (3-7)
- 10/9 NO HS—Columbus Day

Happy Birthday

The PSJC Hebrew School wishes the following birthdays this week a "Yom Huledet Sameach!"

Micah F. (Kitah Bet) 9/27

Naomi U. (Kitah Gimel) 9/30



TODAH RABAH!

A big thank you to everyone who (speedily!!) volunteered to help out your Microsoft-Excel-challenged Hebrew School principal and format the Hebrew School roster. *Today Rabah to Dave Caplan (dad to Max in Kitah Aleph) and Josh Kleinberg (dad to Shayna and Sari in Kitah Gimel) for taking on the challenge. The Hebrew School roster will be sent out to everyone soon, so stay tuned!*



Park Slope Jewish Center
1320 8th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11215
718.678.1453/www.psjc.org

Elisabeth Albert
Director of Family Education
718.832.5863/principal@psjc.org

Carie Carter
Rabbi
718.768.1285/rabbicarie@psjc.org

What Should I bring to Hebrew School Each Week?

Each student should bring their 1) class books, 2) pencil, 3) *Tzedakah* and 4) anything your teacher has specifically requested.

E-MAIL

Please make sure we have your correct e-mail address. This will be our primary source of communication. If you have not received anything via e-mail from Elisabeth check with her at principal@psjc.org to make sure we didn't make a mistake!

Back 2 School Nite

Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday, November 2nd at 7:15 PM**. Parents are invited to shmooze with one another, hear from the principal, rabbi and committee members about what is going on in the school, and have a chance to talk to your child's teacher(s) in a casual "science fair-style" event.

facebook

Have you joined the PSJC Hebrew School Facebook group? This is a closed group for current PSJC Hebrew School parents, students and teachers. We'll post class updates, pictures, reminders and more here! Just another fun way (in addition to emails, the website, and the Shavuon L'Mishpachot) to stay in touch with all of the amazing things happening in Hebrew School this year.

Class Shabbat Dinners

Class Shabbat Dinners are one of the highlights of the year. It is a great opportunity to schmooze with your fellow classmates and their families in a fun, Shabbat environment! Best of all—they aren't at PSJC—they are home hosted by an awesome family from the class and the food is potluck (dairy/Parve/vegetarian). Stay tuned to the Shavuon, the calendar, and emails alerting you to your child's class Shabbat dinner. The first class dinner of the year is for our newest, youngest students in Kitah Gan (Kindergarten)!

Friday, October 28th, 2011: Kitah Gan Class Shabbat Dinner

We are looking for a class parent to organize the dinner (as well as a couple of other minimal tasks over the year) and one amazing Kitah Gan family to host everyone. Be in touch if you are interested in either!



Volunteers needed to supervise children playing in the yard on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

We need people to function as official "shushers" of adults and to supervise children playing in the tent/yard.

Mini Minyan and Junior Congregation end around 12:15 pm. Supervision is most needed from 12:15 - 1:30 pm (although volunteers would be appreciated all morning to be an extra pair of eyes for any play in the yard).

Please contact Reva Grossberg to volunteer: Revacarm1@aol.com

THINK ABOUT IT...

Looking for some great conversation starters for your holiday table? Try a few of these out (special topics for Rosh Hashanah):

-We are in the Hebrew month of Elul and are preparing for the High Holy day season. Every morning during Elul, we hear the sound of the shofar. It is our call to prayer, and a way to alert our attention to self-examination and soul searching. How will YOU feel when you hear the shofar?

-Last Thursday was the first day of fall, 9/23. Spring is a natural 'new beginning' but we start our new year in the Fall with Rosh Hashanah. What characteristics of Fall symbolize the new year for you?

-This Shabbat, we read the second to last parsha of the Torah: Parshat Ha'azinu. The name of the parsha--Ha'azinu--means "listen!" Rosh Hashanah begins Wednesday evening at sundown and we will hear lots of interesting sounds that perhaps we haven't heard for an entire year. Which sound most symbolizes the new year for you? Happy 5772!

-It is a mitzvah* to hear the sound of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah. The shofar reminds us of our past year and points us to the year to come. It's an ancient alarm clock! What will you wake up to this year?

**Mitzvah means "commandment" NOT "good deed." Yes, good deeds ARE Mitzvot, but not all Mitzvot are good deeds. Can you think of a Mitzvah that is not a good deed?*

