

Social Actions Put Food on the Table

You should have seen Miri Rabinowitz and myself trying to cram all the bags of food you brought to High Holiday services for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank into our two cars! It was floor to ceiling. Our contribution this year weighed in at 1525 pounds!!! Bravo.

For Sukkot, our October 23 participation in the Fall Food Share included an enthusiastic multi-generational team including Dan Resnick, Marian Magone, Annie Geller, Zoe Feinstein, Julie Schroeger, Sharon Serbin, Nancy Levine-Arnold, Miri Rabinowitz, Elissa Hirsh and myself. Approaching shoppers beelining into the Giant Eagle is not the easiest job in the world. But a dash of humiliation was certainly worth it for the cause! Dan Resnick saved the day, dashing down to Kinko's to make copies of the Foodbank flyer, when our supply was on the verge of extinction. We managed to induce shoppers to shell out \$280, dollar by dollar, which the Food Bank multiples by 5, or the equivalent of \$1400 in food. We also coaxed shoppers to donate 10 boxes of food.

Thanks to all of you who brought bags of food and took time to solicit contributions. Right now, contributions are seriously down, due to all the disasters at hand. Consequently, the Food Bank is really hurting for inventory. Donations go to 350 local agencies that feed the hungry.

Mark your calendars and join the fun on our Tu B'Shvat repacking date, February 5, at the Food Bank Don't miss it! Remember, *you get to wear those lovely hairnets!!!!!!*

Wendy Osher

Mitzvah Committee Request

Committee members and other congregants may be able to provide support and help, if they know who is ill or homebound. If you or other members want such help or simply want to keep the congregation informed, please contact mitzvah committee chair Arlene Stromberg (stromberga@yahoo.com or 412.241.1378).

From the Dor Hadash Religious School

The religious school had a lovely ceremony honoring this year's new students, the "Simcha of Sweet Study," on Erev Simchat Torah. Eleven of the thirteen new students attended with their families, and were welcomed to the school up on the bima. Each student received a gift of a book from the school, along with a sweet treat.

Two new classes were formed this year, at the level of Gan (kindergarten age) and Bet. Dalet and Hay classes participated in the Dorot service in December, and the Vav and B'nai Mitzvah classes in November. Mara Silver will become a Bat Mitzvah at the January 14 Shabbat morning service.

Students in the Dalet through B'nai Mitzvah classes will have Hebrew evaluations in January. Representatives of the school's Board will observe and evaluate all new teachers later this school year and consult with parents for feedback concerning the new teachers.

Principal Shelly Andreas reports a disappointing lack of support from the JRF as to educational resources, and development and improvement of curriculum. She has had a hard time reaching any responsible or responsive person at the JRF. However, she did more recently make some appropriate contacts, and will consult with Rabbi Zevitt, the visiting Rabbi sponsored by the Havurah, when he is next here.

Attracting new students to the school and new families to the congregation remains an important goal. We will take steps at this time to improve the school's web page, as the congregation's improved web site links to out-of-date pages for the school. Updated content could or will include new descriptions of the school, and most of the content of The Dood'ler, Shelly's school news letter. We may also create a new flyer.

We also suggest spreading the good word about our school through word-of-mouth, as much as possible, to all interested families.

We also discussed a possible Purim party for the kids, on March 13th, before reading the Megillah, keeping in mind the appropriate timing for a weeknight/school night.