

Congregation B'nai Israel

Park Avenue Temple

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בני ישראל

July 20, 2009
28 Tammuz 5769

Dear Kitah Chet (8th) Parents and Students:

I would like to ask you to reserve the weekend of **January 22-January 24, 2010** for an incredible program. This is the weekend we will embark upon our eighth grade retreat – **Life, the Universe & Everything**. At 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 22, all of the members of Kitah Chet (8th grade) will board a bus at Temple and travel to Camp Eisner in Great Barrington, MA. There we will celebrate Shabbat, play, learn and pray together for about 44 hours.

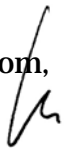
We will explore being a mensch—an ethical human being. We will discuss how Jewish values might be relevant to who we are becoming, what God has to do with all of this and what we think about being Jewish. We will play learning games in and out of doors. We will play sports, dance, sing, run, jump and basically do all of the kinds of things one does at summer camp (except swim—it gets cold up there)!

This will be a tremendous opportunity for group bonding, which is a very important experience at this age. **We expect that the entire class will participate, and we will spend a few class sessions preparing.** The cost of the weekend is \$190.00. Please call me if financial assistance is needed. We will hold an informational meeting for parents and students in the fall. If you are unable to join us for that meeting or if you have questions, feel free to call or e-mail me at iwise@congregationbnaiisrael.org.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that all of our students attend this weekend.

Please complete and return the attached form with your check made out to Congregation B'nai Israel as soon as possible but no later than Wednesday, November 25, 2009. If you wish, you may charge the retreat fee to your Visa or Mastercard using the enclosed form.

L'shalom,



Ira J. Wise, R.J.E.
Director of Education

Kitah Chet (8th) Retreat ☆ January 22 – January 24, 2010

Life, the Universe & Everything

F.A.Q. (Frequently Asked Questions)

Where Is the Retreat?

We will leave Temple on Friday, January 22nd at 4:00 p.m. and expect to return by noon on Sunday, January 24th.

Where is it, and what are the accommodations?

The retreat will be held at the Joseph Eisner Camp for Living Judaism in Great Barrington, MA. It will take us just under two hours to get there. We will be staying in the Kivie Kaplan Center (KKC). Students will be in rooms holding up to six people. Each room has its own full bath. Most of our indoor program will take place in KKC. In addition the outdoor facilities are quite extensive and we will make use of them as well.

What will they be doing?

We will celebrate Shabbat, play, learn and pray together for about 44 hours. We will all take part in preparing and leading one of the services held during the weekend. We will explore being a mensch—an ethical human being. We will discuss how Jewish values might be relevant to who we are becoming, what God has to do with all of this and what we think about being Jewish. We will play learning games in and out of doors. We will play sports, dance, sing, run, jump and basically do all of the kinds of things one does at summer camp (except swim—it gets cold up there)! This will be a tremendous opportunity for group bonding, which is a very important experience at this age.

Who will be responsible for my son/daughter?

The staff for the weekend will include Ira Wise, Rabbi Gurevitz, faculty members and teenagers from BIFTY, our Temple Youth Group. We will be staying in KKC with the students.

What do the students need to bring with them?

In addition to clothing students will need a sleeping bag, pillow, towels, toiletries, any sports equipment or instruments they might want, games, cards, etc. A full packing list will be distributed a few weeks before the retreat.

How much will it cost?

The fee of \$190.00 per student includes bus transportation from B'nai Israel to Eisner and back, meals through breakfast on Sunday, lodging and the entire program. There will be no opportunities for spending money during the trip, so none is needed.

What is the deadline for applications?

Applications and payment must be in the Education Center by Wednesday, November 25, 2009.

Who do I talk to about financial assistance?

Call Ira Wise, Rabbi Prosnit or Rabbi Gurevitz at 336-1858 or e-mail us at iwise@congregationbnaiisrael.org for any need-based aid. Funding should not be a reason for a student not to attend.

How can I get the answers to other questions?

If you have questions or concerns feel free to call or e-mail me at iwise@congregationbnaiisrael.org.

Kitah Chet (8th) Retreat ☆ January 22 – January 24, 2010

Life, the Universe & Everything

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address:

Parent/Guardian: _____ Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian's other phone numbers (cell, office, etc.):

I release Congregation B'nai Israel and its staff from all liability for any injury occurring during the Retreat Weekend, while traveling to, from and during the event. In the event that I cannot be reached in an emergency, I empower Director of Education Ira Wise or other adult representative to authorize medical treatment for my child in accordance with their best judgment. This includes but is not limited to hospitalization, injections, anesthesia or surgery.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please list any and all allergies, including food AND medication: _____

Please list any and all medications to be taken during the weekend: _____

Parents, if your child normally takes Ritalin or any other medication that helps them focus, please make sure they have and take it during the retreat weekend, unless that is contrary to medical advice.

Doctor's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Medical Insurance Carrier: _____ Policy # _____

Date of most recent tetanus booster: _____

Does this student have any physical or emotional conditions of which we should be aware?

Please complete and return this form to the Education Center no later than Wednesday, November 25, 2009!