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August 24, 2015
9 Elul 5775

Dear Kitah Chet (8th) Parents and Students:

I would like to ask you to reserve the weekend of **January 22 – 24, 2016** for an incredible program. This is the weekend we will embark upon our eighth grade retreat **Justice – My Journey of Jewish Values**. 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.


Students will have an opportunity to take the lessons and ethical dilemmas that we have explored in class and pair them with their own stories and personal journeys. Who are the people who have influenced their sense of right and wrong? Which experiences played a key role in their lives? Which Jewish moments have had the greatest impact? We will also have the opportunity to meet some local individuals doing social justice work in the Berkshire Mountains. 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 **\$195.00**. Please call me if financial assistance is needed.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that all of our students attend this weekend. There will be an information meeting on Monday, December 7 at 7:15 p.m.

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 Tuesday, December 15, 2015. 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 – 24, 2016

Justice – My Journey of Jewish Values

F.A.Q. (Frequently Asked Questions)

Where Is the Retreat?

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

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 brand new Messinger Leadership Center. The boys will be in one room, with staff members and the girls will be in another, also with staff members. Most of our indoor programming will take place in one of three additional facilities. 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 examine what our world needs to meet the ideals we share and what we can do to repair it. 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.

How much will it cost?

The fee of \$195.00 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 Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

Kitah Chet (8th) Retreat ☆ January 22 – 24, 2016

Justice – My Journey of Jewish Values

F.A.Q. (Frequently Asked Questions) Page 2

Who do I talk to about financial assistance?

Call Ira Wise, Rabbi Prosnit or Rabbi Schultz at 203-335-0745 or e-mail Ira at iwise@cbibpt.org for any need-based aid. Funding should not be a reason for a student not to attend.

Who will be responsible for my son/daughter?

The staff for the weekend will include Ira Wise, Rabbi Schultz, our Young Israeli Emissaries, members of the faculty, college students and teenagers from BIFTY, our Temple Youth Group. Staff members will be staying in the bunks with the students.

What do the students need to bring with them?

A packing list is enclosed. There will be no opportunities for spending money during the trip, so none is needed. **We also insist that participants do not bring cell phones, as they are disruptive.** Other electronic devices are at the owner's risk. In a bunk or on the bus, things get jostled and dropped. The point of the weekend is to be with each other. Additionally, there is no access to the internet available at any time.

But what if there is an emergency and I need to reach my child?

Ira's cell is 203-727-2831 and he will have it with him at all times. If he doesn't answer right away, know that he is probably engaged with the kids and he will get back to you as soon as there is a break in the action! If for some reason that does not work, the Emergency # at Eisner is 413-329-8771. Please do not call unless the emergency is extreme.

Is Kitah Vav (6th) going on Retreat at the same time?

Yes! For the first time, we are going to have two retreats at the same time. The two groups will separate bunks and most of the programming will be separate as well. But we will have meals and sing together – and we might be near one another during free time as well!

How can I get the answers to other questions?

If you have questions feel free to call me at 203-335-0745 or e-mail me at iwise@cbibpt.org.

Kitah Chet (8th) Retreat ☆ January 22 – 24, 2016

Justice – My Journey of Jewish Values

Packing List

What should I bring?

Clothing – Obviously it is too soon to predict the weather. We have been in shorts on retreat, and we have also been wearing three layers plus SmartWool socks. Check the forecast for Great Barrington, MA (01230) when you start to pack on Thursday night!

Several changes of clothes including extra underwear and socks

While we will not be fancy for Shabbat, a nicer shirt, blouse and or sweater for Friday night is a nice way to mark the beginning of that special time.

Warm outerwear, including gloves and hats. Snow pants are not required, but might be a good idea if you have them already

Shoes for inside (sneakers are fine) and warm boots for outside.

Pajamas or sweats

In The Bunk

Sleeping bag & pillow. (Sheets optional)

Toiletries

Towel(s), wash cloth (if you like to use one)

Any medicines you normally take, with written instructions.

Stuffed animals (optional)

Other supplies (all optional)

Sports equipment (balls, Frisbees, Nerf things, sleds, etc.– no scooters please)

Books, magazines

Games, cards

Sleds, toboggans, snow saucers and tubes, etc. – We do suggest checking the weather reports for Great Barrington the morning of the 22nd before lugging a sled!

Personal electronics (at your own risk), cd's

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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 any medication that helps them focus, please make sure they have and take it during the retreat weekend, unless it 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 Tuesday, December 1!

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Credit Card Payment Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Circle one: **VISA** **MASTERCARD**

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Security Code: _____
(Security Code is last 3 digits on back of card)

Tuition Worksheet

Number of children attending Retreat: _____ x \$210.00 = _____

Total Tuition: _____

Obligation to be Paid

Retreat Tuition 5776/ 2015-2016

Total to Charge: \$ _____

I authorize the above payment is to be charged to my credit card. I understand that the dates below are approximate, and that if more than one charge occurs in a month they may be combined.

Cardholder Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please note – we are ONLY able to accept Visa or Mastercard.