

Limud
January 6, 2019

By Axelle LaBaw

Welcoming in the new year, the students of Limud hit the ground running with their first lessons of 2019 focusing on the upcoming holiday, Tu BiShvat. From the pre-k and kindergarteners who made trees from paper bags, popsicle sticks, and leaf stamps soaked in green paint, to the madrichim, who spent over an hour painting trees onto glittering canvases, the holiday preparations were in full swing.

With Morah Melissa, the teens immediately went to work on their craft after laying their eyes upon the box of promising art supplies. With spongy brushes, patterned tape, paints of ocean blue and scintillating gold, and their own creativity, everyone's project turned out beautiful and uniquely theirs.

Morah Melissa encouraged their individuality, building on the concept of group painting by ensuring that everyone's artwork had a distinctive je ne sais quoi. While the teens blended colors, the first and second graders started to learn how to say them in Hebrew. Accompanied with a reading of the story of Joseph and the coat of many colors, the students learned to associate adom with red, tzahov with yellow, cachol with blue, and yarok with green.

Cantor Gustavo's class began the new year with a meaningful lesson about inclusivity. The seventh graders welcomed Debra, her friend Jeff, and her sons Matt, Ben, and Jesse into the classroom to discuss how to treat people with special needs. Debra told the students to include others not just because they have a disability, but because they're human. "But what is the Jewish value?" the Cantor inquired of the lesson, proceeding to explain how of the 613 mitzvot, one that they could most certainly apply was to never put a stone in someone's path-to never create either emotional or physical obstacles for someone else. "You're being rude and nasty by putting the stone there in the first place," Gal commented. The seventh graders discussed the motivations behind people who place stones in others' paths with their visitors, coming to the conclusion that it's not always for attention, but sometimes even out of ignorance. Leaving class today, the students each gave Jesse a hug-a physical "thank you" for showing them that everyone has their differences on different levels, but that doesn't change the fact that everyone needs a friend. "Every time he comes," the Cantor said, commending Jesse's lighthearted nature, "he makes us all feel so happy."











