So much happens in each virtual session of religious school, our teachers keep things active and moving - even at home! See pages 3-6 to read all about it!

There are many opportunities for families and youth to learn and grow as a community even while we are not together in person! See pages 8 & 9 for details.
Imagine the following scenario: You have a problem. You know your destination, but you do not know where you are. Having recently arrived in Ohio from the East Coast, I am not entirely sure if 71 or 75 takes me to my in-laws’ house or whether Whole Foods is at Rookwood or Kenwood (or both?). It stands to reason that if I am new to this region, I am also a newcomer to Congregation Adath Israel, and the few pre-pandemic hours I spent in the religious school provided me but a narrow peephole. While I knew where I needed to go—getting the religious school up and running, pandemic and all—how could I even begin to determine the shortest route there when I didn’t have a clue as to my whereabouts?

The first step, as any mountaineer will tell you, is to find North. As so, while there were countless curves and bumps on my journey—registration, staffing, curriculum, training, scheduling, just to name a few—I found my North. Every now and then, when we feel as though we’ve lost our way, we discover our greatest inspirations. My inspirations were community, collegiality, openness, and grace, all of which I found right here, in this congregation.

Thank you for welcoming me to Congregation Adath Israel.

Rebekah Skirball Miller
Director of Education and Youth & Family Programming
The Teachers and Madrichim keep things moving and active - even in the virtual classrooms! Take this opportunity to read about some of the things that have happened during this past month!

**SHERRY COHEN: PRE-GAN 4 (PRE-KINDERGARTEN 4Y)**
Pre-Gan is off to a great start! The first day we learned about saying Teshuva. We drew pictures of things we were sorry for. Grady was sorry for taking his brother’s bike. Then we put our pictures in the sink, washed away our mistakes, and promised to do better next time. Next we learned about Sukkot. Mazel the Mailcat delivered pretend lulavs to everyone. Teddi shook her pretend lulav all around to remind us that G-d is everywhere. Finally, we learned about people and places in the synagogue and started the Alef Bet.

**DEBBIE LEMPERT: KITAH GAN (KINDERGARTEN)**
Zoom, zoom, zoom into Kindergarten! Our Gan students have done a great job learning via Zoom. Although we are all in our own squares on a screen, we connect through singing and activity. So far the students have learned about Sukkot, and Simchat Torah through stories, videos and active learning. We have such great learning still to come this year!

**DEENA ABERNATHY: KITAH ALEF (FIRST GRADE)**
Although first grade has been a little different this year, it has still been great getting to see everyone each week. We have already learned about Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah. We will continue to visit each of these holidays, along with those to come each week. We are now moving into our Mitzvot program. So far, we have covered Gemilut Chasadim, or Acts of Loving Kindness. I love breaking down these abstract concepts into small acts that we can all do on a daily basis. This is one of my favorite topics we cover and I hope they enjoy it too!
ZAK LEMPERT: KITAH DALET (FOURTH GRADE)

Shalom, and welcome to Fourth Grade! I’m so excited with how our students have begun the year. Our Madrichim, Tillie, Erez, and Jacob have truly enjoyed welcoming each of our outstanding students to our “classroom” on Sundays and Wednesdays. We began the year by thinking about the Torah, a subject we’ll be focusing on throughout the year. Students have learned so far about creation, Shabbat, Noah’s Ark, and Mitzvot, or commandments. We learned that Mitzvot are given by G-d in the Torah, and that they are more than “good deeds,” although many are good things we do for each other and for G-d. We’ve also picked up on our Hebrew practice. This year is going to look totally different than anything we’ve experienced before, but every student has given 110% to trying. I continue to be so impressed with the level of creativity, thoughtfulness, and persistence of our class as we tune up our Hebrew skills for another awesome year. Looking forward to an awesome rest of this 2020!

SHOSHANA BOARDMAN: KITAH GIMEL (THIRD GRADE)

We started the semester in Kitah Gimel learning about the holidays, especially focusing on Teshuvah and what it means to forgive ourselves and one another. Around Simchat Torah, we spent a few weeks on in-depth text study of the end of the Torah, discussing Moses’s life and relationships with G-d and people. We built these ideas into a larger discussion about being made in the image of G-d. We learned about the origin of this concept in the Torah, when G-d created Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. We traced it to post-biblical rabbinic midrash about Hillel and Shammai. These leaders of two rabbinic schools often disagreed but nevertheless ensured that their arguments remained respectful. We discussed using the idea of the equal creation of all humans to think about the ways we treat each other, even when we disagree. To think about the ways in which we can treat our own bodies as though we were made by G-d, the students drew their bodies on paper and labeled different body parts with ways they can care for them, or ways that they show that they were made by G-d (“I use my eyes to see what G-d made. I take care of my stomach by eating good food. I use my mouth to smile at people”). The students have adjusted very well to an online format and are impressively enthusiastic even though they already must be spending many hours per week on Zoom. I have enjoyed getting to know them.

GALIA WECHSLER: KITAH BET (SECOND GRADE)

Kitah Bet has had a very exciting first month of school! We started our first couple of weeks talking about the holidays: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah. Kitah Bet students learned why we celebrate these holidays and what we do to honor these days. We also learned about some key Jewish values such as Hakarat HaTov (gratitude) Slicha (forgiveness) and Shalom Bayit (making peace in the home). We read the story of Noah and enjoyed a fun craft where we drew rainbows and wrote promises. In the story of Noah, Noah and God made promises to each other, and we can all make promises to our friends, community, and to the earth to be a little extra kind.
VIRTUAL CLASS HAPPENINGS

SHIRAN ORLEV: KITAH HEI (FIFTH GRADE)
Welcome to Kitah Hei. We are all excited to be virtually together, and I know this is going to be a wonderful year. We started off this year introducing ourselves, sharing something about one another, and reconnecting with our friends from last year. We launched a wonderful new year of Jewish learning talking about the meaning of Teshuvah through rituals, symbols, stories, and history. In order to figure out our origin and our place in the world as a tribe of brothers and sisters sharing history, religion, and a homeland, we used maps to visualize where objects, places, cities, and countries are in relation to one another. Technology gave us the opportunity to create online educational games as one of our key tools of learning. Students have been actively participating and offering their unique points of view, enhancing class discussions.

ILANA SYMONS: KITAH VAV (SIXTH GRADE)
Kitah Vav has certainly started the year off strong! For our first unit this year, we are studying Sifrei Kodesh (Holy Books), their structure, and how we can interact with them; so far, we have met the TaNaKh, the Mishnah, and the Talmud. Throughout the various holidays, we studied specific texts from these books relating to how we celebrate. We also used some modern activities as models for what we're studying, for example: figuring out what questions to ask of a text by analyzing a passage from Harry Potter and writing in-depth instructions for making a PB & J sandwich as a model of the in-depth instructions the rabbis write out in the Mishnah.

MITCH COHEN: MUSIC & TROPE TEACHER
Music: We've sung many songs already this year that the students have enjoyed. Here's a list of just a few of them: Dip Your Apple by the Fountainheads (Rosh Hashana), Uvshavtem Mayim (as we pray for a good rainy season) by Nava Tehila, Hineini (Here I am) by Rick Recht, Back from Babylon by Joe Buchanan, Hame’ira by Rabbi Josh Warshawsky and Coleen Dieker, Am I Awake (Boruchu) by Noah Aronson, Torah Orah (traditional), Mayim Mayim Mayim (traditional), G-d, G-d, G-d by Ellen Allard, Modeh Ani by Freelander & Klepper and more!

Trope: It's been an exciting first few weeks in Trope class. Tropes are symbols which represent musical melodies. The melodies are used when chanting Torah and Haftorah. In class, we created hand motions for each of the Tropes to make them easier to remember. It's been fun on Zoom watching each student do the hand motions. We've covered at least 8 of the Tropes the first few weeks.
**VIRTUAL CLASS HAPPENINGS**

**PHYLICIA COOK & DAHLIA ZACK: TRIBES**
Shalom everyone! We are thrilled to be more involved in Religious School this year, running the new Tribes program and the Madrichim program! Tribes is a Sunday multi-age program for 2nd through 7th grade students. We have successfully completed our first month of Tribes. One of the highlights was a session dedicated to the value of honoring our elders. First, as you can see in the image on the cover of this journal, we created a “Word Cloud” together as a group, offering up words we associate with the word “community”. We then teamed up with the Jewish Family Services to write letters for homebound seniors. Spearheading this new initiative has been a very meaningful experience for us. In addition to facilitating the Tribes activities, our Madrichim Program continues to develop and grow. Their role has been crucial to the success of our online school. Their assistance with using technology effectively alongside their partnership with the teachers is not only a valuable experience for them, but a model of leadership to the younger generation. We are very excited for the year ahead!

**TOBY SAMET & BRETT SCHWARTZ: SUPPORT & ENRICHMENT TEACHERS**
As part of our online school this year, two of our seasoned and knowledgeable teachers, Toby Samet and Brett Schwartz, are available to provide support and enrichment to our religious school students. This service is available in lieu of the resource room. If your child needs extra help with his/her/their Hebrew, Trope, or Judaic studies, please feel free to reach out to Sydney@adath-israel.org

**BARBARA BRESLER: LIBRARIAN**
Barbara Morrison-Bresler, the librarian at Adath Israel, is available to pull materials from the library, sanitize, bag them and make them available to you for pickup. She will need a few days notice, however, as hours are limited in the building. She is also happy to help you with finding virtual resources, be a cohost on a Zoom class, and as co-leader of the Sisterhood book club, she is happy to share their book list with you. Please feel free to contact her directly at barbara@adath-israel.org
ZOOM PICS!

MY GOAL FOR THIS YEAR:

Telling my brother things!
UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS

NEFESH MOUNTAIN

CONCERT & FUNDRAISER

Saturday, November 21, 6 PM

Free virtual concert! Watch your email for the Zoom link.
Donations will be encouraged throughout the evening. Receive the Nefesh Mountain CD via digital download with a donation of any amount.

Havdalah & Concert
Join us on Zoom for Havdalah followed by the concert.
Nefesh Mountain is the place where Bluegrass, Old-Time, and American Roots music meet with Jewish heritage and tradition.

VIP After Party
With a donation of $180 or more, you’ll receive:
VIP access to the after party with intimate conversation with Nefesh Mountain, more music from the duo, and a special gift bag.

MISHDALAH

30 Minutes of Mishnah
Followed by Maariv and Havdalah

Join Rabbi Chaidell for a weekly class on Mishnah Berachot followed by Maariv and Havdalah. We’ll gain insights into Jewish blessings and prayer guided by this 2000-year old text as we read and translate in the original Hebrew (all Hebrew backgrounds welcome). Come welcome the new week together.

Mishnah Class time followed by Maariv / Havdalah Time
UPCOMING VIRTUAL YOUTH EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER CRUSY EVENTS
(MUST BE A MEMBER OF MY USYFI FALL TO ATTEND)

CRUSY NIGHT—NOVEMBER 5, 2020 (8TH-12TH GRADE)
KADIMA KINNUS—NOVEMBER 12-15, 2020 (5TH-7TH GRADE)
FALL KINNUS—NOVEMBER 19-22, 2020 (8TH-12TH GRADE)

VISIT WWW.USY.ORG/_MYUSYFIFALL/ FOR MORE INFORMATION

HAVDALLAH & VIRTUAL ESCAPE ROOM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
6:30 PM
8-12 GRADE

JOIN AIUSY AND IR-HAMALKA USY FOR A JOINT VIRTUAL PROGRAM

ZOOM INFO TO COME
VIRTUAL SIMCHAT TORAH!

Moadim L’Simcha!
SUSHI IN THE SUKKAH AT HOME!
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Samantha Ackerman 11/25
Hailie Barbash 11/23
Juda Guttman 11/14
Kai Guttman 11/16
Jaylyn Hall 11/26
Noah Hiudt 11/16
Madeline Kaehler 11/29
Atalya Leiferman 11/19
Meyer Lerer 11/28
Jack Levine 11/2
Arthur Newman 11/24
Joseph Samuel 11/30
Henry Siegel 11/30
Liam Stalvey 11/22
Leo Webber 11/5
Noah Weeden 11/26
Isador Wolfson 11/21