

SKOKIE VALLEY AND KOL SASSON YOUTH DEPARTMENT NEWS - FALL 5779

Welcome Zahava!



Meet our new Youth Director, Zahava Berman!

Zahava joined the joint Kol Sasson-Skokie Valley Youth Department this summer. She brings a background as a professional educator and administrator with deep ties to both communities. She has hit the ground running and we are already experiencing tremendous growth and changes in our programming. Here's an update from Zahava!

Thank you to everyone at both Kol Sasson and Skokie Valley for such a

warm and inviting welcome! I have been having such a wonderful time meeting so many of you and getting to know your kids. Over the past few weeks, I have focused on engaging with the kids in their groups on Shabbat to build relationships and get my sense of the program. I sang songs with Aleph, played "Mr. fox" with Bet, implemented a parsha Q & A game in Gimmel, and engaged in Torah discussion with Daled. I've also been meeting the madrichim to hear their ideas and began developing them as leaders.

As I begin this journey as Youth Director, I want to share with you my vision for our groups *(continued on page 2)*...

High Holiday Group Signups

Have you signed up your kids for High Holiday Groups yet? If not, please do so here so we know who will be there and how much food to have available for your kids! [Please click here to register your children.](#)

Parent Volunteering

We are expecting many children with us over the High Holidays and have developed a robust program. We can use your help to help things run as smoothly as possible! [Please sign up to volunteer here.](#)

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(letter from Zahava, continued) Groups should be a place for our children to grow in their love for Judaism, develop strong and long lasting relationships, and to become menches and leaders in our community.

I believe children learn and grow best when having fun in a structured environment. I plan to create this environment by using weekly schedules in each group. Children will grow and develop relationships through clear expectations, positive experiences, and Jewish engagement within the groups.

About a week ago, we had our first training session with the Madrichim. After getting to know each other, we created goals for the group. We learned some new games and twists on old games that allow us to play almost anything on Shabbat! We began creating schedules for each group. These schedules will be implemented and perfected over the next few weeks. [Click here](#) to see version 1 of our schedules! We will also be creating rules and expectations for each room. The Madrichim, children, and myself will be creating these together and will post them in each room.

Currently, we are gearing up for Rosh Hashana and planning some exciting activities! I am looking forward to partnering with each of you.

Shana Tova!

Zahava

Rosh Hashana Group Schedule

Zahava and the madrichim have been hard at work developing a robust Rosh Hashana program, from tashlich outdoors to mussaf triva to great snacks! [Check out the programming lineup here.](#)

Calling all Potential Group Leaders!

Do you know someone who would be interested in leading groups, either for the year or who wants to pitch in over the next few weeks during a busy season? Please contact Zahava at zahava.berman@gmail.com!