




Congregation B'nai Chaim

Rabbi's Report ~ 2022-2023



To sum up this year,
the word that comes to my
mind is “news...”

...not news as in headlines or
current events, but experiences
new to B'nai Chaim and to me.



I tried out several new programs, took on new projects, and taught new students and topics.



Trekking Through the Talmud

What is it? What's in it? Why is it important?



I tried to create an event for as many months as possible. I'll share some of them with you...



Nissan / ניסן

Iyar / אייר

Sivan / סיון

Adar / אדר

Shevat / שבט

Tevet / טבת

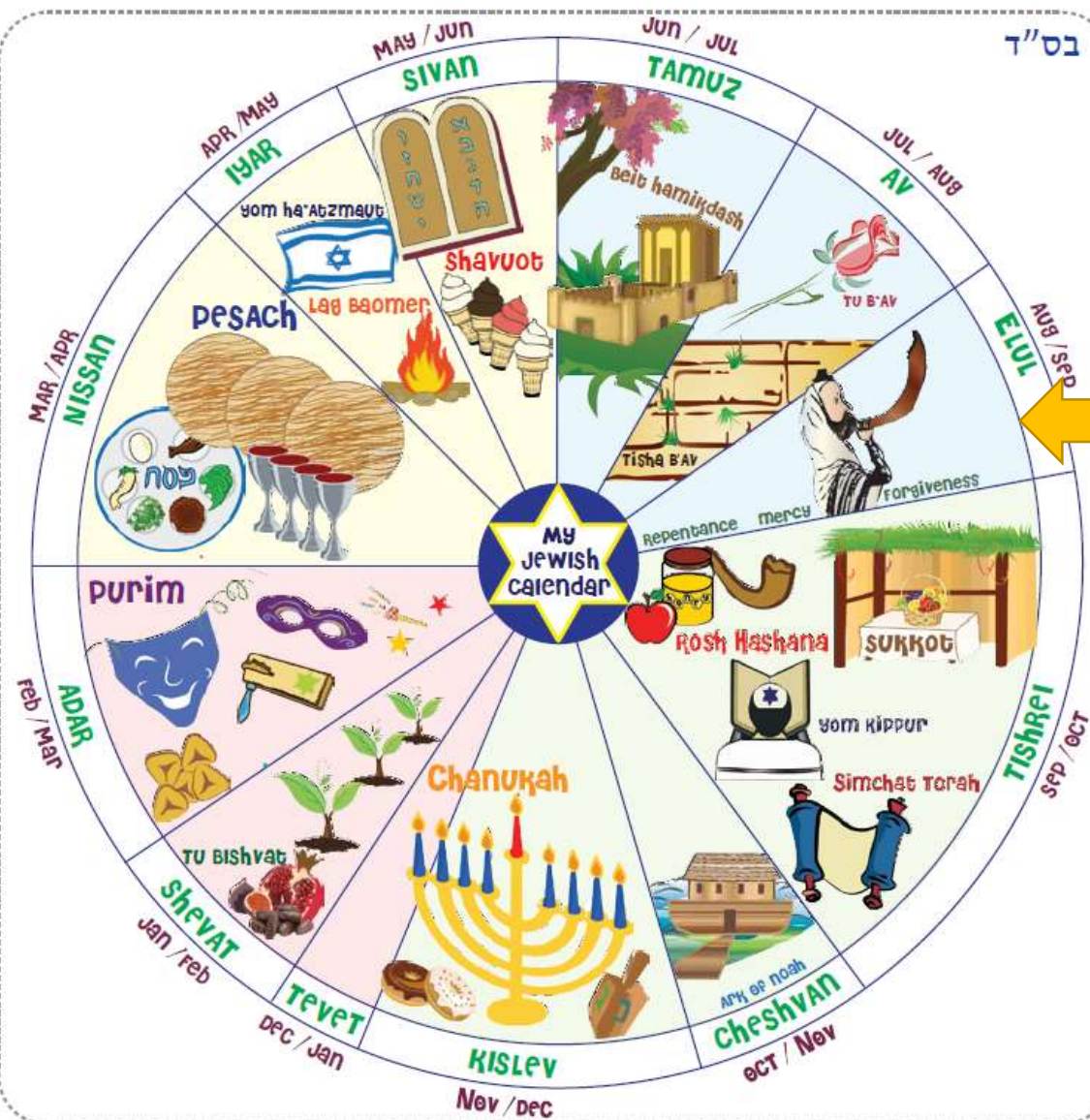
Tamuz / תמוז

Av / אב

Elul / אלול

בס"ד

We'll begin here
in Elul (August).



Kislev / כסלו

Cheshvan / חשוון

Tishrei / תשרי

The first day of Elul is not only the beginning of the High Holy Day season, but also *Rosh HaShanah La-Behemot*, the New Year celebrating domesticated animals.



Since this day fell on a Religious School Sunday, I decided it would be fun to observe it. We brought our pets for a blessing and I sounded the shofar!





Precious Pickles
Kahn

Stuffed
kitties,
too!

Crookshanks
Sherrod





Ruby
Halko



Marley
Pinsky

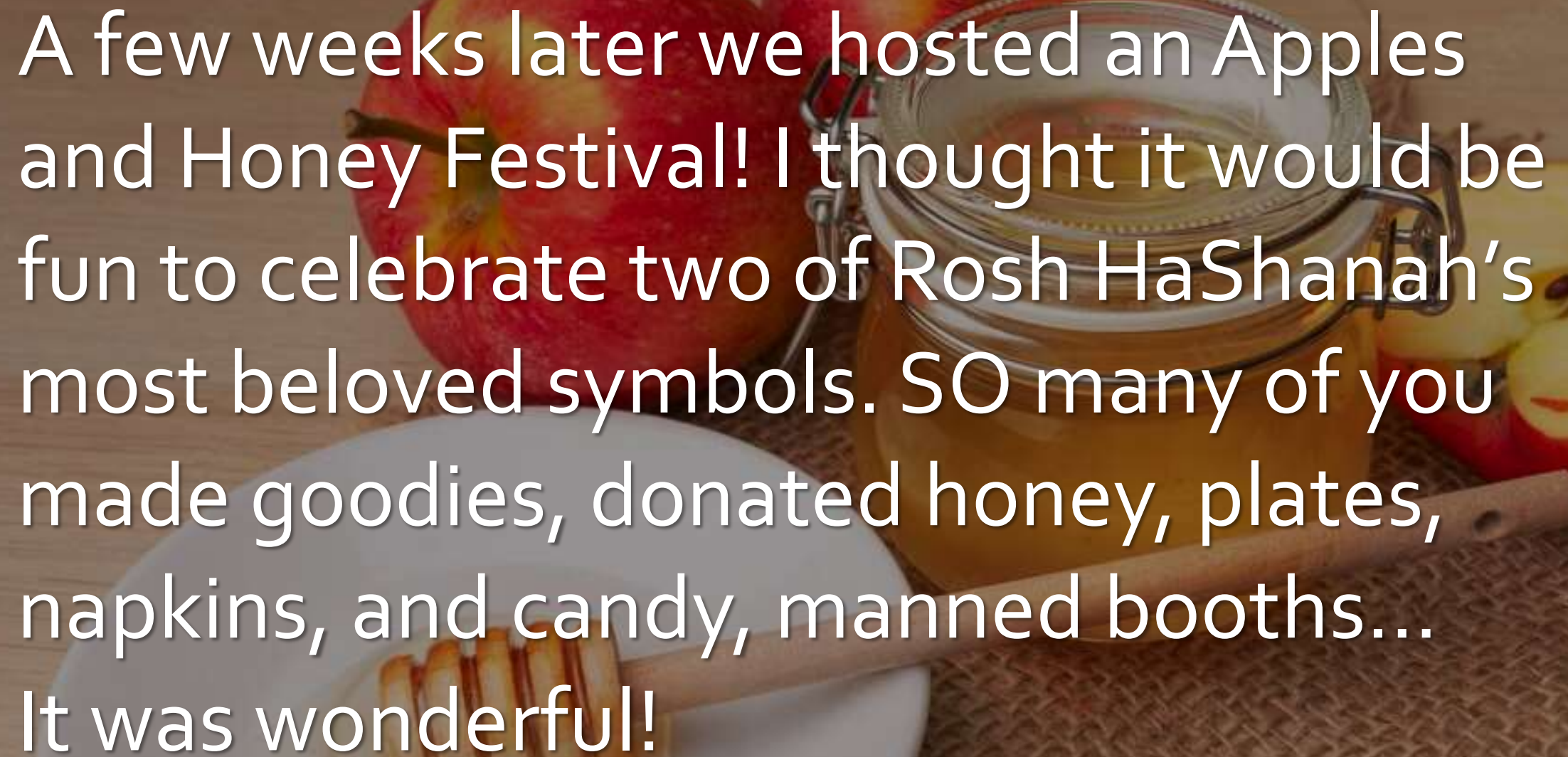


Baby Girl & Abby
Dennis



Eddie Lane

Riley
Lane

A still life photograph featuring several red apples, a glass jar of honey with a metal clasp lid, and a wooden honey dipper resting on a white plate. The items are arranged on a light-colored wooden surface. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

A few weeks later we hosted an Apples and Honey Festival! I thought it would be fun to celebrate two of Rosh HaShanah's most beloved symbols. SO many of you made goodies, donated honey, plates, napkins, and candy, manned booths... It was wonderful!



Making Rosh HaShanah cards



Rosh HaShanah BINGO

Some of our apples and honey-themed offerings...



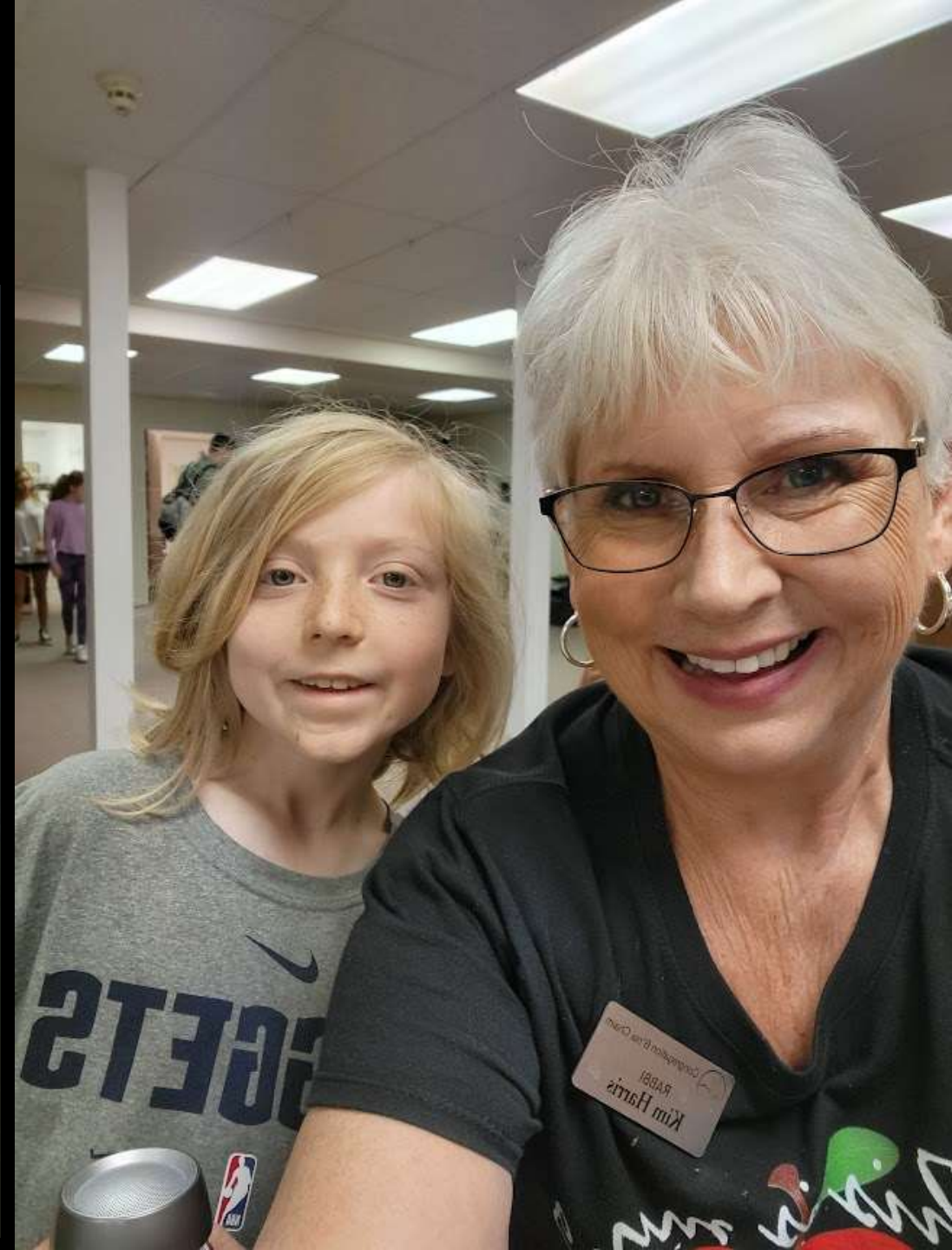


apple cider donut!





My shirt says...



Emily and Jason joined us a couple months after the festival and welcomed Baby Ruthie!









Ruth was
making
caramel
apples!

Tot Shabbat!
Deanna Hoffman and
Karen Pinsky started
a Tot Shabbat group
this year that met on
Friday mornings.
I sometimes came in
to lead songs and
blessings and visit
with the kids.







A new idea for sukkot... We created Biblical and other notable Jewish figures out of pumpkins to decorate the sukkah!





and drink, a person is obligated to feed "the
poor" into our sukkah, too.
our sukkah:











B'nai Chaim goes camping!
Upon my invitation, the Dennis Family allowed us to
camp at their property in Lyons! We did Shabbat,
went hiking, and took in all the beauty!









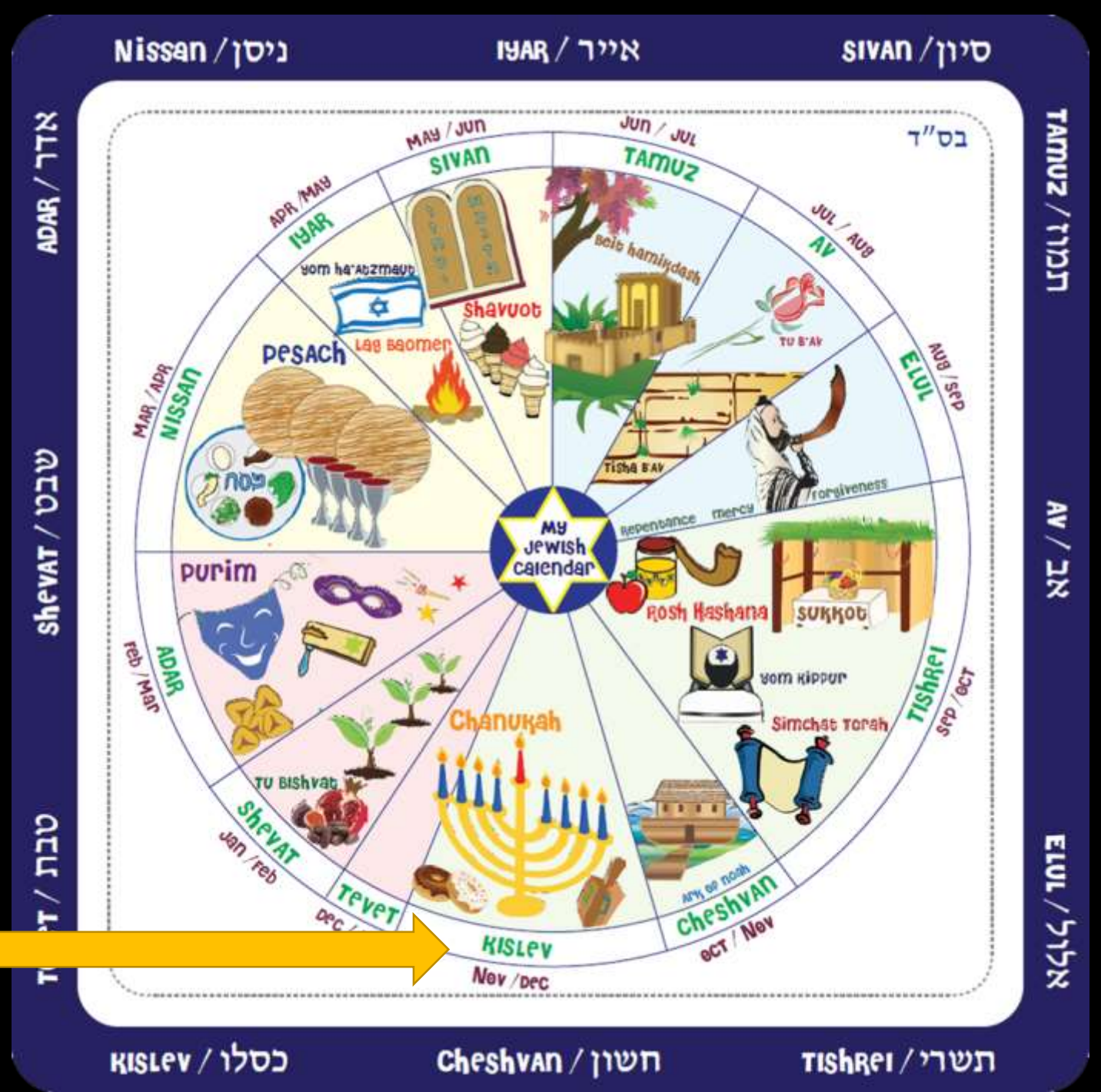




A wonderful simchah! I gave Simon Vogt and Ruthie Vogt their Hebrew names! (Proud grandparents are Lisa Kanter and Buddy Schweig.



We are here...

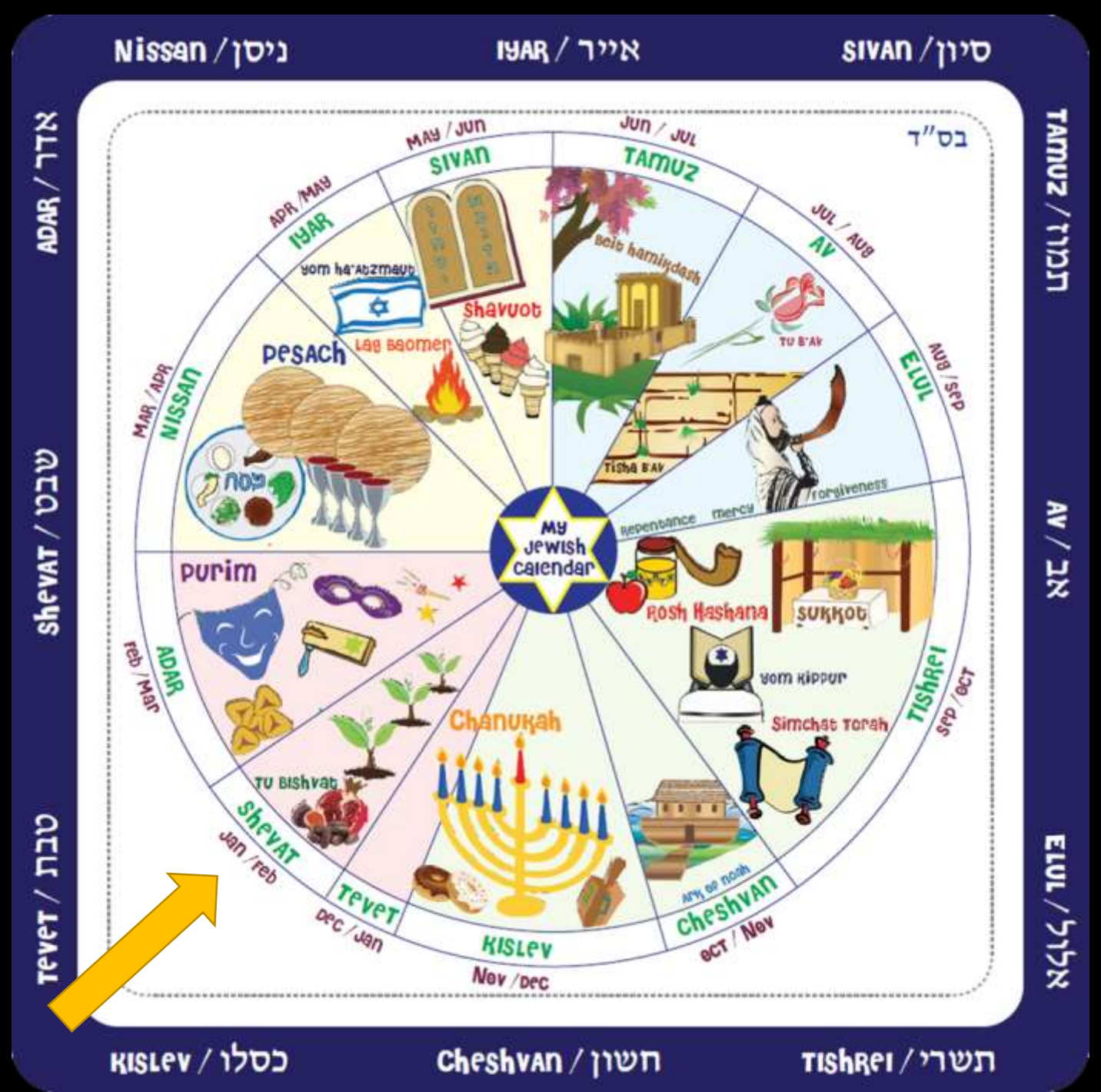


In other news, for our Chanukah celebration (Latkepalooza), I put together our band, choir, and kids to entertain and lead Chanukah songs.





We are here...



For January I had an idea
for us to host a spaghetti
dinner at which our teens
would take orders and
serve patrons.
The proceeds went to our
youth fund.



Spaghetti Dinner

Supporting Jewish experiences
for B'nai Chaim youth

Saturday, January 28
5:30 p.m.

\$15.00 / PERSON
\$10.00 / AGES 6-10
UNDER 6 FREE

RSVP required [HERE](#)

The kids worked really hard and did an excellent job. I helped plate the orders for them to serve.

Me



Our teens enjoying the fruits of their labors!



For Tu BiSh'vat, I wanted to try some new things, so I made slides for our seder and taught some new songs.



For Trees

By: Peter and Ellen Allard



This lovely tree, standing before us
Planted by someone a long time ago
Someone with hope, a hope for tomorrow
With a dream of the future right here in this tree

Today we are going to do a Tu BiSh'vat Seder, sort of like we do on Passover. We will taste foods that grow in Israel as well as drink different kinds of juices.

We honor the seven things that grow all during the year in Israel according to the Torah: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, olives, dates, and pomegranates.

The seder has four parts, one to represent each season of the year.

Now we will taste some things from trees that are soft on the outside, but they have a hard pit on the inside.

Some examples are olives, dates, peaches, cherries, and apricots.



Michelle provided all the fruits and juices and helped the kids make little birdhouses!



More news...

To celebrate Super Bowl weekend, I thought it would be fun to have a Souper Bowl soup tasting and contest.

Willi Risch took the title!



It's a
SOUPER BOWL

COOKOFF

BRING YOUR SOUP GAME!
WHOSE BOWL WILL BE THE MOST SOUPER?

Saturday, February 11 - 5:30 p.m.

Bring your favorite soup in a crockpot and battle to be the B'nai Chaim Souper Bowl champ!

Taste as many soups as you like and vote for your favorite!

Don't want to make soup?
Bring bread or a yummy dessert.

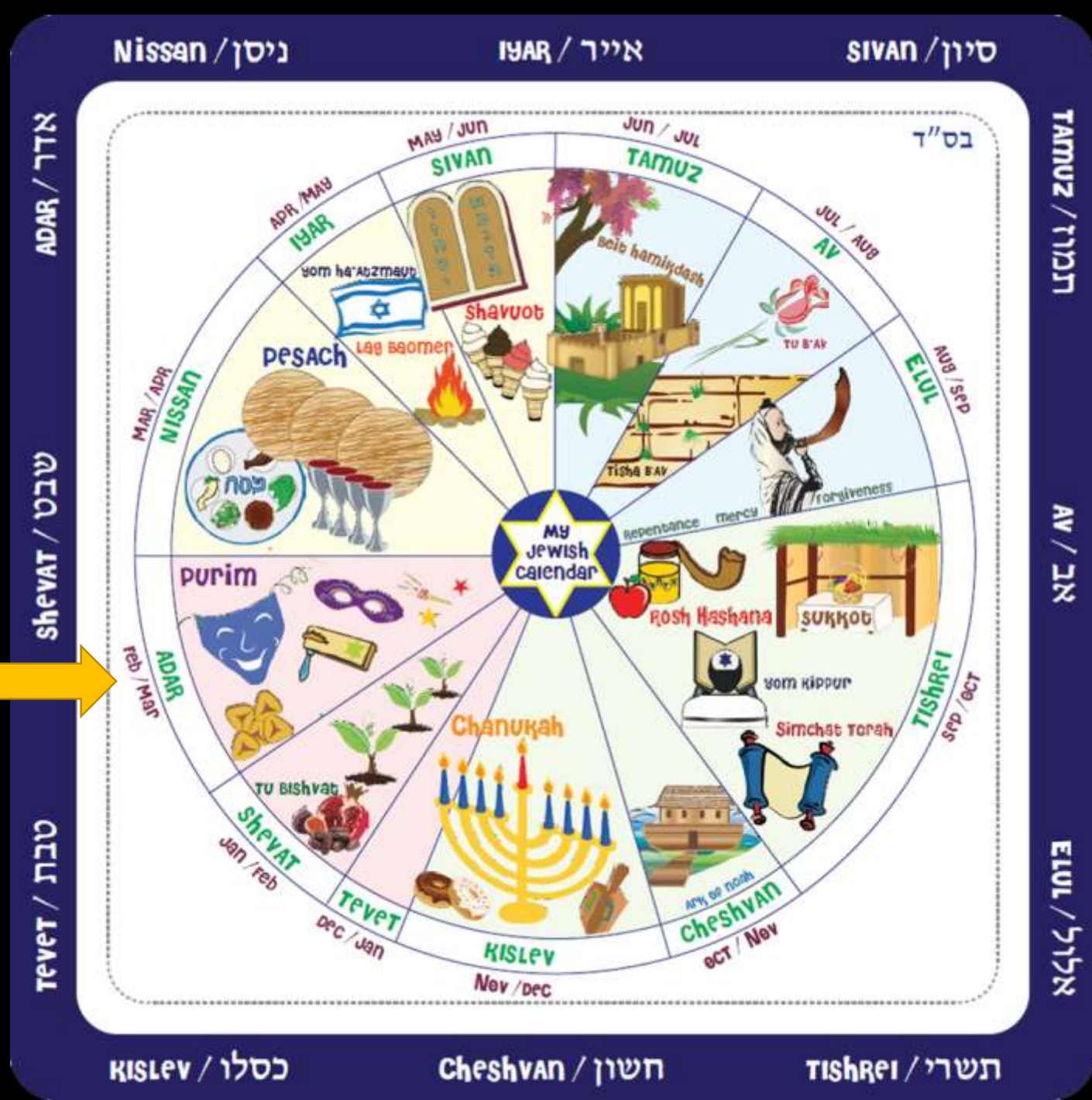
\$5.00 /person







We are here...



In March, I decided to do a Pop-Up Purim! I provided props, costumes, and a simple script. The kids chose various parts and acted them out.

Purim at B'nai Chaim!

Pop-Up Purim Spiel fun!
Wear your costumes!
Prizes for the best kids costume
and adult costume!

GAMES!

Cake Walk
\$10.00
for unlimited turns!

Goodie Bags!!

Hamentaschen!

9:00 a.m. ~ Sunday, March 5
Please bring goodies for the cake walk!



The kids could choose which character they wanted to play. When I yelled “Pop Up,” they took new parts and different kids came up.



Michelle and I were the narrators.

The kids were such hams! (Kosher hams, of course!)



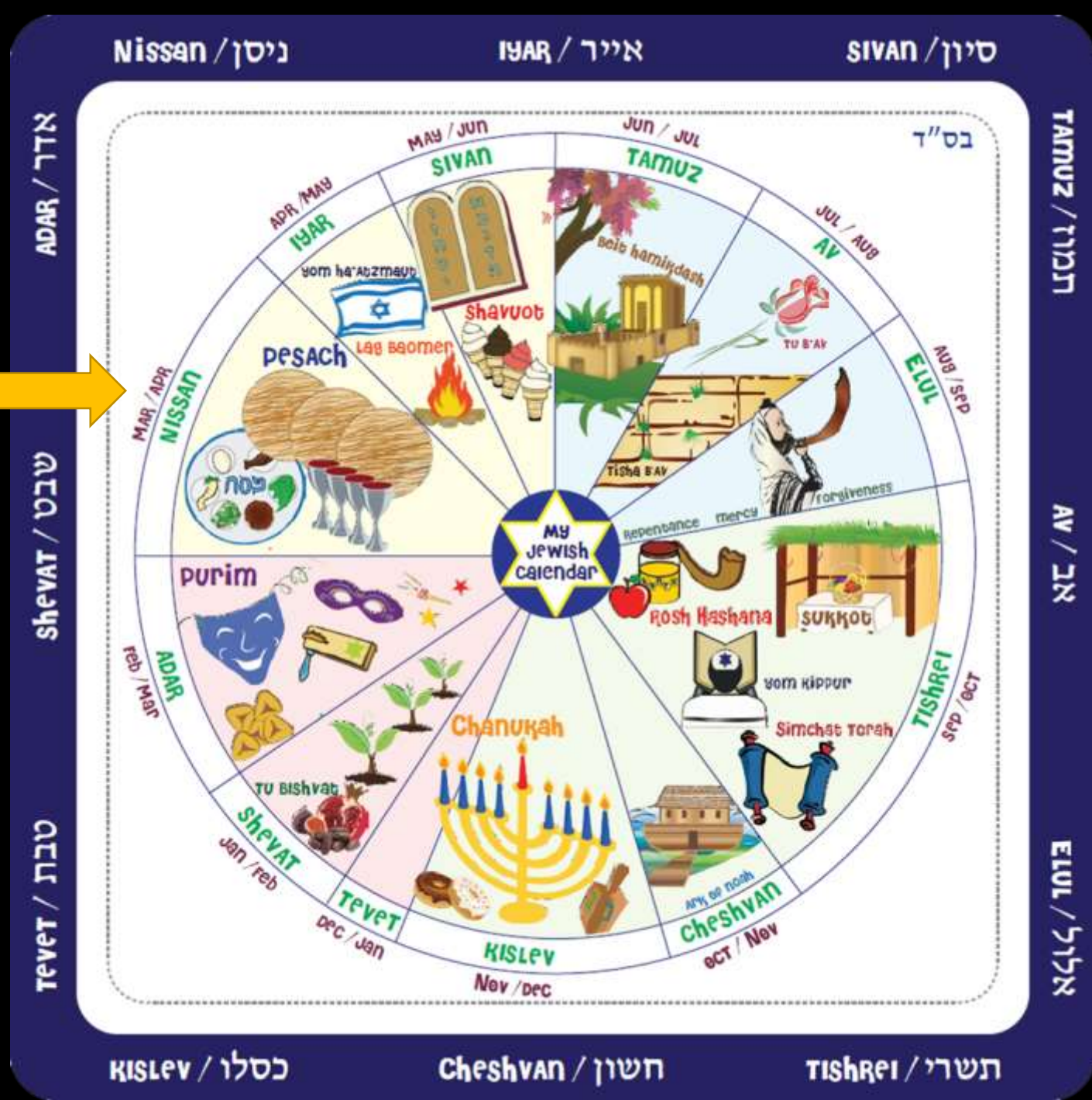
Some of the kids played multiple parts!



Teens and grown-ups
wanted to have fun, too.



We are here...



For Pesach, I thought kids and families would enjoy a “make it, take it” activity day. We made matzah!



We made charoet, too.
Everyone grated their own
apple and added the
ingredients they wanted.



Thanks, Michelle, for bringing the
ingredients and materials for all
the projects!

Nancy and Aliya made
gorgeous matzah covers!



Making afikomen bags and Pesach cards...



I thought a flower decorating workshop would be fun so that we could make table decorations for our potluck seder dinner.



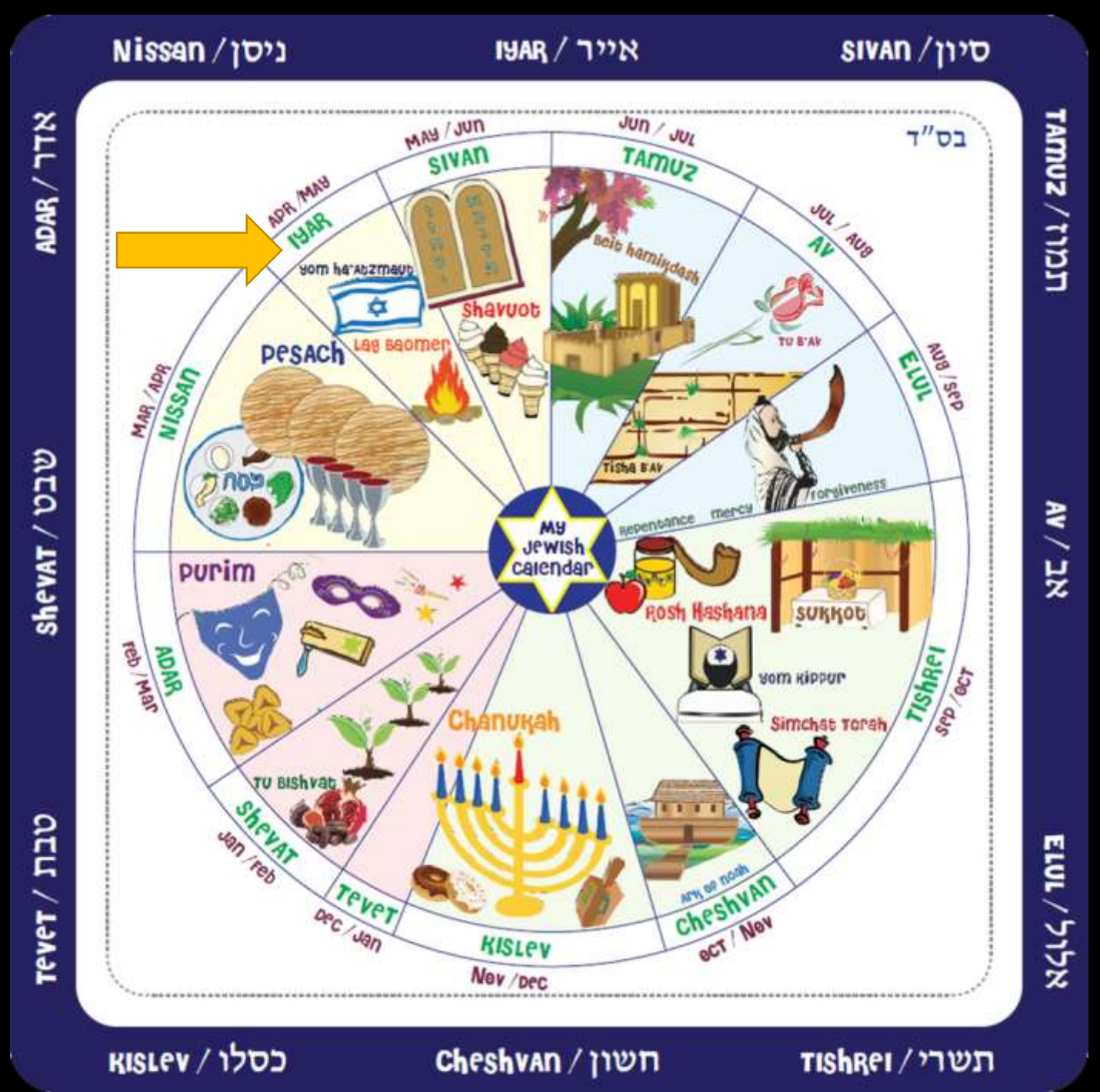
Flower Arrangement Workshop

Tuesday, April 4
7:00 p.m.

Create flower arrangements to
decorate our Potluck Seder tables!

BRING YOUR OWN VASE SO YOU CAN
TAKE YOUR ARRANGEMENT HOME
AFTER THE SEDER.

We are here...



Celebrate Israel at 75!

This year for the first time
we hosted a table at
JEWISHColorado's
Celebrate Israel festival.



Leah Benjamin did face
painting for the kids.
They loved it!



It was inspiring to see so many people united in support.

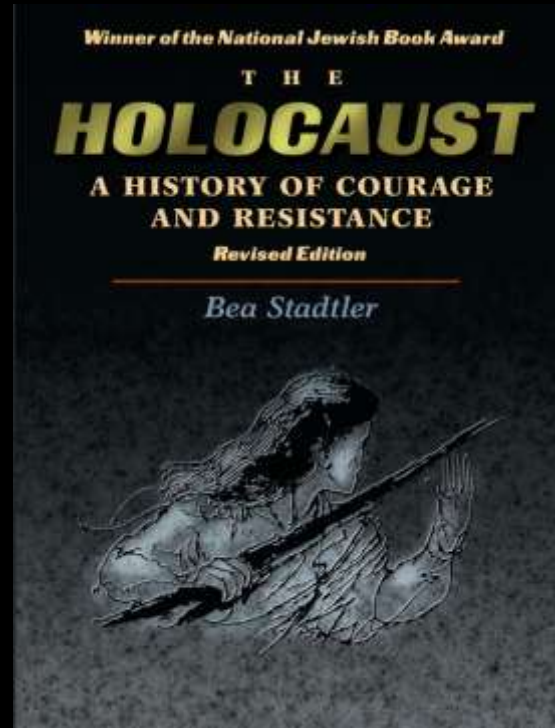
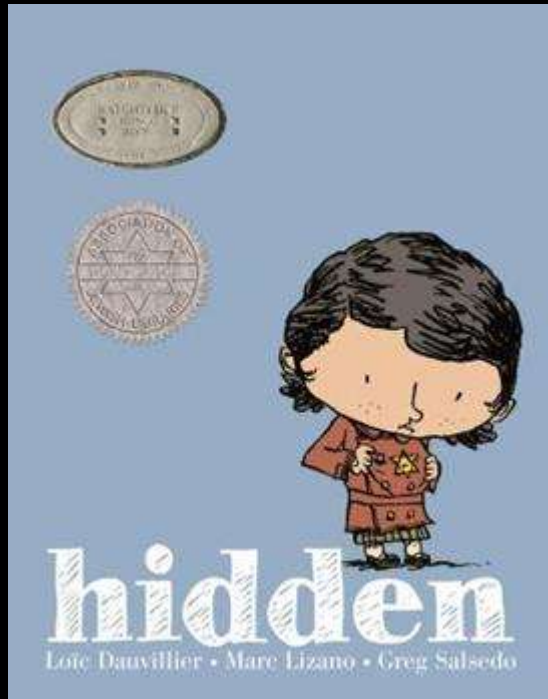


In other news... This year I taught religious school to the 5th and 6th grades.

This photo was taken on Fix Up – Clean Up Day. At the beginning of the year, we created a tree on which we placed leaves throughout the year. We wrote on them how we can follow Jewish values as well as examples of mitzvot.

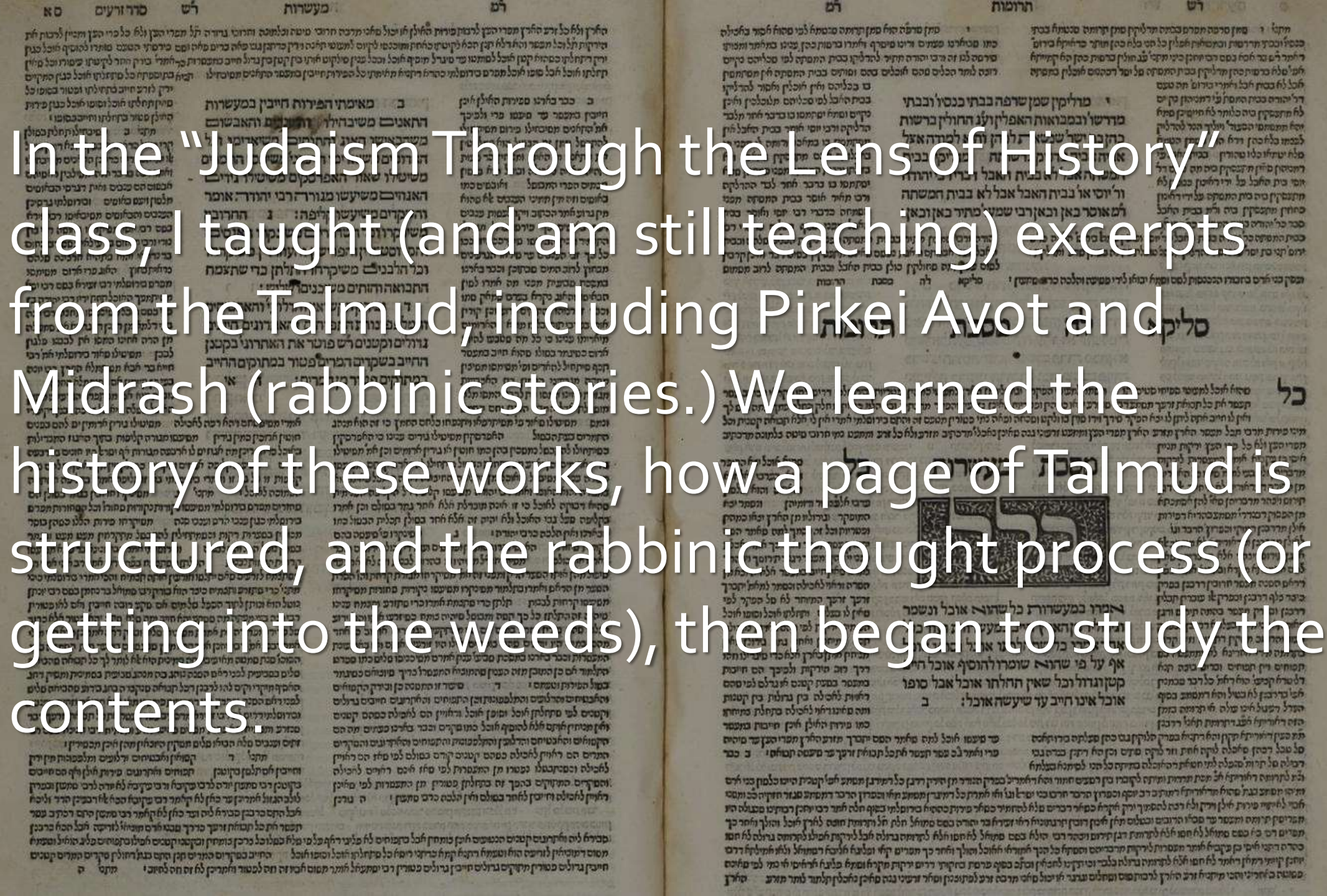


We studied stories from the Torah and the Prophets, relating them to values and mitzvot, as well as the Holocaust, using children's books, Anne Frank's diary, and other appropriate materials.



I found it difficult and painful to have to explore this subject with them. I was also ANGRY that I had to do so.

In the "Judaism Through the Lens of History" class, I taught (and am still teaching) excerpts from the Talmud, including Pirkei Avot and Midrash (rabbinic stories.) We learned the history of these works, how a page of Talmud is structured, and the rabbinic thought process (or getting into the weeds), then began to study the contents.



[illegible]

From when, that is, from what time, does one recite Shema in the evening? From the time when the priests enter to partake of their *terumah*. Until when does the time for the recitation of the evening Shema extend? Until the end of the first watch. That is the statement of Rabbi Eliezer.



1

Moses received the Torah at Sinai and transmitted it to Joshua, Joshua to the elders, and the elders to the prophets, and the prophets to the Men of the Great Assembly. They said three things: Be patient in [the administration of] justice, raise many disciples and make a fence round the Torah.

I am enjoying studying the texts in Hebrew, reading them aloud, and translating them, as well as the lively and thoughtful discussions we are having.

And now back to our
regularly scheduled
programming...

If only I had the time
allotment and just the
time to put in all the
memories from this
year!



Can't conclude without our B'nai Mitzvah!

Nathan Halko



Leila Cole



Can't conclude without our B'nai Mitzvah!

Linda Mays



Can't conclude without our B'nai Mitzvah!

Annabelle
Dennis



Can't conclude without our B'nai Mitzvah!

Siri Sherrod



Can't conclude without our B'nai Mitzvah!

Radley Weiss



All of the “news” happened because of
you; and the fond memories I have of
them are because of you!



Thank you for all you do!

Rabbi Kim

Mazal tov to our new board!

Susan Bergkamp – President

Sophie Gross – Vice-President

Secretary – Ruth Brown

Treasurer – Willi Risch

Dan Feiveson

Jenny Flanagan

Gayle Mink

Nancy Sherrod

Aliza Sodos

David Weiss

