

## EDUCATION

This month our 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Schiff Tichon Sinai students have been invited to participate in a retreat together. Not only is this an early bonding opportunity but it also provides our 7<sup>th</sup> graders a glimpse of what Schiff Tichon Sinai has in store for them when they choose to participate post bar/bat mitzvah (notice I said when and not if). In the past, we have headed off to Kutz Camp in upstate New York. However this year, we have decided to stay home and spend the weekend in our newly upgraded building. You've heard of a staycation, right? It's the same idea.

Retreat comes from the Latin verb "to pull back." Temple Sinai has a Women's Retreat and a Men's Retreat and just like adults, students are pulled in different directions. They have the stresses of juggling school, sports, social obligations, and finding a weekend off is so difficult for many, so why should they do it? I'm sure that the reasons our male and female congregants participate in their respective retreats are varied, but I also suspect that they have a common desire that is not exclusive to adults only.

For our students, the retreat will be an opportunity for them to "pull back," step away from the everyday and relax. No cell phones. No internet. They will be able to engage in meaningful conversations and participate in activities that will require focus. They will be challenged both mentally and physically (we are going to visit a ropes course), and yes, there will be some prayer involved. One of my former students once said to me, "Morah Amy, sometimes you just gotta be." (I loved that comment so much that I had it translated into Hebrew and had it inscribed on a pendant.) This is what the retreat will allow: for a few days, our students will be free of their hectic schedules and they can just be.

It is our hope that a weekend together will create or enhance connections among our students that did not previously exist. They will have a renewed commitment to their Judaism and they will be inspired to go forth and make the world a better place. After all, we like to see our students grow and "Growth Happens Here."

L'shalom,  
Morah Amy

### NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Nov 2        Camp Shabbat
- Nov 2-4     Schiff Tichon Sinai Retreat
- Nov 11-12   No School
- Nov 17     Family Shabbat Program
- Nov 18     Schiff Tichon Sinai  
              Lasagnas with Love - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Nov 21-25   No School