

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

One of our fundamental objectives at MJCBY's Religious School is that our students enjoy coming to Religious School and feel at home at MJCBY. We continue to provide a high quality education in a warm and inclusive setting where children feel safe and happy; where students can use all their senses to engage in learning; and where learning is enjoyable, experiential and hands-on.

We have seen a strong increase in our youth programs past B'nai Mitzvah this past year as a direct result of our interactive curriculum: both our ALP and our USY attendance have grown. Our students are wanting to come back for more!

This year our enrollment consisted of 44 students, led by a staff of 6 teachers, 1 assistant teacher and 1 administrative assistant.

Cantor Shana led a fantastic monthly Junior Congregation (Grades 3 - 7) throughout the year, and an amazing twice weekly music class for the entire school

Our ALP group met regularly once a month for dinner, spirited discussions and more

### Some 2022/23 Highlights reflecting our philosophy of interactive and joyful learning:

- Our opening day Pancake breakfast, followed by a Shofar workshop for the parents, was a great way to kick off the year
- We held a special RS Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidrei service and a special RS Simchat Torah event.
- Our Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur Junior Congregation Services were enjoyed by students in grades 3 - 5
- We engaged students in a special year-long Jewish names project
- RS families enjoyed Sukkah programs and meals
- We had a petting zoo visit in honor of Parshat Noah!
- Our Board of Ed ran two well attended breakfast fundraisers
- Soferet Linda Coppleson guided our students through a very special Torah writing workshop
- Our Hanukkah Party was a hit - with a play directed by Cantor Shana and performed by grades 6 & 7 RS students, a Menorah contest with prizes, doughnuts, Hannukah activities and more
- Religious School students, teachers and families walked to the Morristown Green and enjoyed our community Hanukkah event there
- We celebrated two special Shabbat events per grade: Grades 3 - 5 gathered for a special Friday night service and dinner as well as a special Saturday morning Shabbat service and kiddush lunch. Grades 6 & 7 also met twice a year for the same. Our K - 2 students held a Havdalah program.
- In honor of Tu B'shvat we hosted an incredible Tu B'shvat Seder where we also got to meet our incoming Rabbi
- In honor of Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month we hosted a very special event with the Morristown Seeing Eye
- Our Purim Party Shpiel and Carnival were so much fun!
- Our Pesach Model Seder organized and led by Cantor Shana was once again INCREDIBLE
- Mitzvah day was a wonderful opportunity for our students to join the community in helping those in need
- Our older students enjoyed the movie Paper Clips and discussion in honor of Yom Hashoah
- We celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut with an exciting Israel day (Israeli dancing, live broadcast from the Kotel reading of Megillat Ha'atzmaut, crafts and activities for the kids, Israeli lunch...)

- We had a s'mores party for Lag B'omer
- Our year ended with a special End of Year celebration and service led by our graduating class. Students presented Rabbi Nesson with Thank you cards and posters and a song written for the occasion by Lux Onigman.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD AT 2023/24:**

- Our Registration for RS 2023/24 is well underway!
- We are continuing to keep our tuition low and affordable. Early bird discounts, referral discounts, and special offers to incoming SY families are some other ways in which we are making a Religious School education more affordable and accessible
- We will be hosting a few open houses this summer to attract new families: Shabbat in the Park & Ice Cream Social
- We are looking into fresh, engaging, new and technologically advanced curricula and are applying for some grants that would make it possible to incorporate the use of iPads and smartboards in our classrooms

## LIFE LONG LEARNING ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

2022/23 has been another great year of learning and celebrating at MJCBY!

Please enjoy the highlights of last year's programming. For pictures of all of these events please check out our Facebook page: Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael.

Summer 2022:

- Shabbat camping trip attended by 25 people was so much fun!
- Shabbat in the Park & Open Houses were enjoyed by all
- Our Ice Cream Social for young and prospective families was attended by 60 people
- The YJC (Young Jewish Community) group met for hiking, brewery, July 4 fair, trivia night; and the first of their now monthly Shabbat dinners was held at MJCBY

Fall 2022:

- Family Tashlich at Speedwell Lake
- Family Services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as well as Game Rooms for the children
- Pizza in the (Sukkah) Hut & Magic Show
- TGIS (Thank G-d It's Shabbat, for young families with children up to second grade) enjoyed Shabbat Italian style
- In honor of Krstallnacht Aron Goodman and Tova Friedman spoke to the community about Aron's TikTok Channel "TovaTok", spreading Holocaust awareness (with millions of views, check it out!)

Winter 2022/23:

- TGIS (Thank G-d It's Shabbat, for young families with children up to second grade) enjoyed Shabbat Mexican style
- Havdalah Pyjama Party for children up to second grade
- Scribe Linda Coppleson led a fascinating Torah writing workshop
- Hanukkah Play and Hanukkah Party was so much fun and attended by approximately 90 people
- Hanukkiah Lighting on the Green was once again a resounding success!
- New Year's Chinese Kosher Dinner was great fun and very well attended
- TGIS (Thank G-d It's Shabbat, for young families with children up to second grade) enjoyed Shabbat French style
- In honor of JDAIM (Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month) we enjoyed a fascinating presentation by the Seeing Eye of Morristown

Spring 2023:

- We enjoyed a fantastic Purim Shpiel and Carnival
- TGIS (Thank G-d It's Shabbat, for young families with children up to second grade) enjoyed Shabbat Irish style
- Mitzvah Day was a great opportunity for the community to come together and make a difference
- JYC (Jewish Young Community) had a wonderful Challah bake
- We enjoyed another lovely Women's Seder with speaker Dr. Arnd-Linder from Israel, who shared about her project interviewing Israeli and Palestinian women

- Mimouna was an incredibly fun event, attended by about 100 people. To be repeated next year by popular demand!
- In honor of Yom Hashoah we gathered to view the movie “Paperclips” (available on Amazon and highly recommended)
- For Yom Ha’atzmaut we enjoyed an exciting Israeli festival, complete with delicious Israeli lunch, crafts and activity stations for the kids, Israeli dancing and a live broadcast from the Kotel
- TGIS (Thank G-d It’s Shabbat, for young families with children up to second grade) enjoyed Shabbat Chinese style
- JYC enjoyed a wine tasting with sommelier Dr. Adam Carmer

Looking ahead to the summer:

- JYC is gearing up for their one year anniversary since becoming a part of MJCBY
- We have 4 Shabbat in the Park events planned that will also double as open houses for prospective families
- We will once again host the Scream Truck for a summer ice cream party

We will be busy all summer planning another exciting and educational year of events and are looking forward to another great year of lifelong learning at MJCBY!

## YOUTH PROGRAMS USY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

This year our USY programming has seen an increase in enrollment and engagement!

Some highlights from the past year:

Summer trip to a Baseball game at Patriots Stadium in Bridgewater

Special Discussion Groups during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services

October:

Sushi in the Sukkah with professional Sushi chef Tin!

November:

Pizza Lunch & Thanksgiving pie baking activity

December:

Latke Lunch and Gelt Bets Team Building Activity

January:

Bagel Lunch & Jewish art on canvas activity

February:

Tu B'shvat themed Lunch & Biographies Project

March:

Purim trip to the Game Vault

April:

Pizza Lunch & Chametz Scavenger Hunt

Plus: We hosted the Hagalil Shabbaton!

May:

Bagel Lunch, Save The Children presentation, Smoothie Making & Friendship Challenge Games

Stay tuned for a summer ziplining trip!

## YOUTH PROGRAMS BETTER TOGETHER ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

We were very fortunate to have been chosen as the recipients of a grant that allowed a group of 15 students in middle and high school to visit Lester Senior Living once a month. It was an incredible experience to develop intergenerational friendships over the course of the year!

In November we brought our new friends beautiful plants and handwritten cards. We also played ice breaker and get-to-know-you games. The hour flew by as our teens and seniors were deeply engaged in conversation!

In December Cantor Shana came along and we sang Hanukkah songs accompanied by guitar and songbooks. We came bearing Hanukkah gifts, handwritten notes, Hanukkah candles, and chocolate gelt. We played a regular dreidel game and a fun variation dreidel game. One of the residents showed us some of her (3000 piece!) Jewish doll collection.

In January we were joined by professional Israeli dance instructor Reut Segal and we had an amazing time dancing together! This was probably our most popular event of the year so far.

In February we brought treats to share and interviewed our friends at Lester about their lives. We got to see their pictures and special keepsakes. Our students then met at Starbucks (on a different date) for a writing party where we had the opportunity to turn the interviews we conducted into mini biographies.

In March we shlepped dishes, utensils and ingredients with us for a delicious Hamantash bake. There was plenty to eat, plenty to share and plenty to bring home to our families!

In April we brought beautiful flowers for Pesach, as well as delicious Chametz cookies to share with each other. We spent a relaxing hour coloring Passover mandalas together and shmoozing.

In May our theme was friendship, as we enjoyed adorable mini doughnuts and made beautiful beaded bracelets together.

We can't wait for our special end of year event on June 9: Shabbat Dinner with our Lester friends and our families right here at MJCBY!