

October 2015 Message from Rabbi Dubin

Exciting things are happening at the JCNWJ on Sunday mornings, and we hope you'll choose to be part of it!

First and foremost, on behalf of our entire team at [The Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning](#) (especially our teachers, Debbie Fesinstine, Suzi Marr, and Jennifer Rosenblum – and our tireless Education Chair, Gerri Klein) I want to thank all our parents for entrusting your children with us this year. It is an honor and a privilege that we do not take lightly.

The thematic focus of our upcoming year will be an ongoing response to the question, “What does it mean to be an American Reform Jewish child/person?” To accomplish our goal, we will explore 350 years of Jewish experience in America, with themes being presented each week based on where we stand in both the Jewish and secular calendars. Special attention will be paid towards developing a deep and ongoing discussion of the Jewish ethical mandates that emanate from the various episodes we study.

We will begin each week with a school-wide gathering, during which I will introduce the day's theme. We will then disperse to grade-specific classes where the theme will continue to be explored in age-specific ways.

In the middle of the class day we will reconvene as a whole school for a brief prayer session, accompanied by our music specialist, Debbie Fesinstine.

Finally, we will follow our prayer with dedicated Hebrew study, with attention being placed on developing reading fluency, thematic understanding, familiarity with specific synagogue practices, and appreciation for the value of prayer.

Also on Sunday mornings, we will be welcoming knowledge-thirsty adults into the building to learn at the same time as our children. Marci Braunstein and Alison Shelofsky will be offering five 1.5 hour sessions (October 4, 11, 25, and November 8, 15) for adults who are eager to develop the ability to read Hebrew. This fabulous class is being funded by the [National Jewish Outreach Program](#), and we are grateful.

And finally (for now), there will be a third learning opportunity on Sunday mornings as well. Because I am just so excited about the curriculum we are piecing together for the Sunday School children, I have decided to offer a parallel adult class for congregants who want to address the same themes that our children are exploring. The exact dates for this class have not yet been determined, but our current plan is to begin after the Hebrew Literacy class has come to completion. Stay tuned for more information, including a more detailed list of the planned themes. How beautiful it will be when our whole community, from our children to our retirees, takes the opportunity to focus together!

Yes, exciting things are happening on Sunday mornings at 115 Youmans Avenue, and we invite you with open arms to come join us. And bring your friends!

Wishing you all a most Blessed and Happy New Year,

Rabbi Dubin

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