

PJ Library Sponsors Pre-Purim Bash at the Omaha Children's Museum

Mark Kirchhoff, Community Engagement and Education

Chag Sameach! It's a Pre-Purim Bash at the Omaha Children's Museum at 500 South 20th Street on Sunday, March 5 from 5:30-7:30 pm. The event is open to Omaha's young families raising Jewish children of PJ Library age – six months to eight years. Older siblings and grandparents are welcome as well. You are encouraged to invite your friends - families who are not currently participating in the PJ Library program are welcome to join you for the evening. New recruits can sign up for the free program that evening. Enrollment is also available at any time by visiting www.pjlibrary.org

The Bash is headed by PJ Library's terrific host families, Adam and Abigail Kutler with Sam and Henry, Matt & Stephanie Beneda with Shalom, Judah & Eliyana, Andy and Teresa Ruback with Max and Chloe, Brandon and Kari Tauber with Taylor, Tori & Halle. The evening features all of your favorite museum exhibits plus a dairy dinner, hamantaschen and fun Purim activities. Kids will have the opportunity to make shalach manot (gift baskets) and to decorate a mask or a crown for the occasion. Families on the current mailing list will be receiving a postcard reminder shortly. The card has a blank mask on the front for your child to cut out, color, and decorate for an early start on the evening. The event is free of charge, with reservations required by February 28. Phone (402) 334-6463 or email mkirchhoff@jewishomaha.org to make your reservation.

"PJ Library events at the Omaha Children's Museum have been so much fun over the years," said host Andy Ruback. "They have traditionally been held during the celebration of Hanukkah. I think this year's pre-Purim event is going to be extra special." Andy explained that in addition to the fun of the museum, the evening will help prepare attendees for the upcoming holiday. "Families won't have to worry about getting in costume for this event; PJ Library will provide everything needed to decorate a mask or crown as well as assemble a basket of Purim treats to gift on the holiday," he explained. "It is going to be a fun evening where multi-generations will share the joy of Purim. I'm excited about this opportunity – especially for the kids – to share a community-wide Jewish experience," Andy said.

The PJ Library program is designed to strengthen the identities of families raising Jewish children and their relationship to the Jewish community. Nationally the program is supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation through partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations. PJ Library provides age appropriate books for children mailed to the child's home each month. Omaha's participation in the book subscription program is possible because of the generous support of the Dorothy and Myer S. Kripke Institute for Family Literacy. The PJ Library families also extend a special thanks to the Murray H. and Sharee C. Newman Supporting Foundation, and Esther K. Newman/Carolyn Kully Newman for the funding which makes this Pre-Purim Bash possible.

What could be better for the celebration of Purim than the celebration of Purim ahead of time? Mark your calendars, make your reservations, recruit and join your friends for a fun evening.