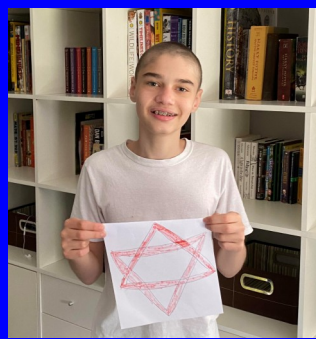
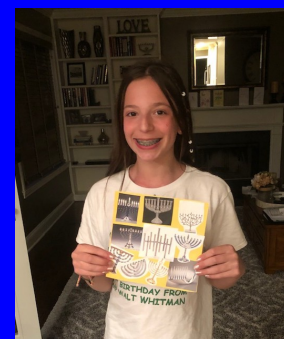


Temple Beth El

Seventh Grade Aliyah Ceremony



**Alex Cohen, Lola Duhov, Ilana Gilbert, Owen Herz, Sydney Kassel, Camryn Laichtman,
Brandon Nadel, Jenny Schneider, Eli Schwartz, Maya Shapiro, Sophie Sigman**

Class of 2020

May 27, 2020

4 Sivan, 5780

REFLECTIONS

Our students will share some reflections on their time in religious school at Temple Beth El:

Alex Cohen

Hebrew School

Hebrew school isn't some boring religious school where you can't wait to go home. In fact you never want to go home. From seeing your friends when you walk in to stuffing our faces with Oreos before going home, Hebrew School is a school like no other. My classmates, I am happy to say, are some of my best friends. Every Thursday, I would go to school excited knowing I would have Hebrew school later. I would walk in and immediately feel connected and close with my friends. We would have our laughs, and Mrs. Hammerman would tell us to calm down sometimes, but it was always fun. At the end of the Hebrew school day, I would always be sad to see my friends leave. I always wished they would stay just for an extra 5 minutes but I knew they had to go, and I knew I would see them next time. Despite quarantine where I can't even meet with my close Hebrew school friends, we manage to keep our bond and even make it stronger through face time and online. Hebrew school was such a fun memory, and I'm so sad to see it go. But I can look forward to the future memories after this virus passes over with all my friends. We will still go to Temple and hang out. Thank you Temple Beth El and Hebrew school, for giving me these amazing bonds, friendships and memories, I don't know where I would be today without it all.

Lola Duhov

A Day in the Life of Hebrew School

As I run, I join my class in Tefilah. After the service, Mrs. Hammerman smiles and all of my friends join me with funny faces and jokes in the classroom. I sit at my desk, and after small conversations, we start the lesson. She gives us a break after working, and we munch on Cheez-its and cookies, trying to snatch the salt and vinegar chips. After jokes, food, and music, we return back to class. Towards the end of the day, we raid Mrs. Hammerman's store of snacks yet again, and feast on Oreos and fruit roll ups. We stay in the room talking with each other until Mrs. Hammerman dismisses us from class. Alex, Ilana, Sophie, and I all group on the stairs waiting for the parents and start doing ridiculous dances. Once everybody has been picked up, the day of Hebrew school has come to a close.

Even though these days don't seem important, all the little details matter to me. These events and activities create friendships among all of us, and I am so glad that I have created strong bonds with everyone in the class. I want to thank Mrs. Hammerman especially for being so supportive when it comes to learning and being an overall amazing person. I also want to thank Rabbi Hammerman for teaching and praying with us during Tefilah and teaching us the true meaning of our religion and the history behind it. Lastly, I want to thank all of my classmates, who I am proud to call my close friends, just for being by my side. Because of all these people, I am who I am and I am proud to have been shaped into a proud and confident Jewish woman.

Ilana Gilbert

Ah, Hebrew School! Such an enjoyable, yet educational program! From my many years at the Temple Beth El Hebrew School program, I have made so many friends who are like family to me. In the Torah, Hashem tells us to be kind to one another. Long story short, it didn't really go this way for some of us at first. Eventually, we all warmed up to each other and became friends, eventually making a group chat which we still chat on very often today.

I would like to point out the friendships in our class that are the closest to me, and that I will remember for the rest of my life. Let's start with Maya. Maya Shapiro has been my absolute BEST friend since preschool at age 2. She will be my bestie forever, and I am ever so lucky that I got to have her in my Hebrew School class, so that I could see her even more often. Alex Cohen has been a very close friend of mine ever since one day in about third or fourth grade. One day, we made a joke about Kohl's cash that many people in the class know. We have been inseparable ever since. Eli Schwartz has been a very good friend of mine since a few years back. I think that we got closer over the same joke, but became much better friends since last year going to school together and also when we were making our own tallit in Hebrew School. We are in the same class in both Hebrew and regular school, and talk over FaceTime at least five days a week. Lola Duhov has always been a friend of mine ever since being in the same preschool class. From there we lost touch, until reuniting at Hebrew School in second or third grade. Ever since then, she has been such a close friend that I will cherish forever.

Sophie Sigman came into our class this year, and has already made friends with the entire class. Sophie goes to both regular and Hebrew School with me. Although most of our classes aren't together, I have a close relationship with her that will last a lifetime. Both Sydney Kassel and Camryn Laichtman have been in our class forever, and are such sweet and intelligent girls that I will always remember. Brandon Nadel has always been in my class for Hebrew School, and has always brought some great arguments to the conversations in class! He truly always has something witty and contradictory to say in every situation. He is such a sweet boy at heart, and I will miss his personality so much once I graduate. Owen Herz is a person I have known since Kindergarten. We definitely have not always gotten along too well, but we are now great friends and always will be. He is such a funny, caring, and interesting boy. Last but certainly not least is Jennifer Schneider. This wonderful girl was the first student in our class to celebrate her bat mitzvah! Through everything, she has always kept a huge, beautiful smile and a positive attitude!

In conclusion, I am so grateful for all of my wonderful friends at TBE, and the teachers! I don't know what I did right to deserve a bunch like the Hebrew School Squad! I love you guys!!

Owen Herz

One of the highlights of my Hebrew school years are the mitzvah projects that I did. This temple is one of the most active with mitzvah projects that I know. There are class mitzvah projects, and every student also does their own special bar mitzvah project. My favorite class mitzvah project was donating to Jewish Family Service. Jewish Family Service is an organization that gives items to Jewish people who can't afford to pay for food or gifts for the holidays. For Hanukkah, we are given the name of a family and told the ages of the kids in the family. After we get the family, they give us a list of what gifts they want, and we split the gifts up as a class and buy them. We got them gift cards for supermarkets, for Amazon, and for other stores. We also decorated a big box on the outside with wrapping paper and put the gift items on the inside along with some toys, Hanukkah candles, a drip plate, and Hanukkah cards that we made for the family. The woman from Jewish Family Service came to our class to pick up our gift box, and she thanked us. That made me feel excellent.

Another great experience is when each student does a special project for their bar/bat mitzvah. My personal bar mitzvah project is fantastic. I am donating to the Israeli Guide Dogs. If you don't know, they are an organization that gives blind people in Israel free guide dogs. The guide dogs are taught Hebrew commands. This is a nonprofit organization. Dogs that are not capable of working as seeing eye dogs become therapy dogs. This project means a lot to me because I am a dog person and I also want to help people.

Sydney Kassel

Hebrew school was filled with so many fun memories, all of which I will cherish and remember. One of my favorites is when the whole class would go to Tefilah and be together as a class. We did this every year but I especially loved this year because we really started to learn more difficult prayers to get us ready for our Bat and Bar Mitzvot. These prayers would challenge us and I know that everyone in our class loves a good challenge. My favorite prayer to do is the blessing before the Torah reading. This is because I know this prayer so well, I can practically do it in my sleep. I also love this prayer because Camryn and I would perform it sometimes in front of our class and the sixth grade class. Cam and I would always have the best time doing this. I look forward to it when I go to Hebrew school. And whenever the class sings together it's hard not to have a good time. I am happy that I am graduating, but I will miss these moments with my class. This was my favorite memory from my years at Hebrew school.

Camryn Laichtman

This year I got the opportunity to learn about a very serious, mature topic, the Holocaust. Along with this, I got to watch the movie, The Devils Arithmetic. In January, our class went over to Mrs. Hammerman's house to watch this movie. She told us it was going to be sad, and she was right. It was very sad and even disturbing at times, but I really enjoyed the movie. It was just difficult to see what all of these Jews had to go through. I can't imagine experiencing the real Holocaust. After the movie we discussed it. We talked about our favorite parts, what was the saddest part, etc. My favorite part was probably when one of the women covered up for the other woman when she was sick, so she could stay alive. The death scenes were the saddest. Before we saw this movie though, we learned about the Holocaust so that we could have knowledge going into the movie. Once again, it was hard to learn, but I got a lot of knowledge from it. Such as, the name of the camps, how they slept, what they did in their "free time", what work they did, etc. The movie was one of my highlights from this year. Yes, it was sad, but it was also very good. This has been a fun year with Mrs. Hammerman and I will miss this year and everyone else. Thank you for my Hebrew school experience!

Brandon Nadel

One of the highlights of Hebrew School for me was learning about Israel. I was interested in the Gaza Strip. I wanted somewhere that I could talk and learn about the topic, while exploring both sides. For my end of year project I did a presentation on the Gaza Strip, which I found very interesting and one of the most memorable experiences of Hebrew School.

Jennifer Schneider

My favorite parts of Hebrew school are singing and music. I like singing the prayers, like the Shema, the Baruchas and the Aleinu. I also liked drawing the maps and flags as part of the activities. Hebrew School has been a lot of fun. My favorite snacks were popcorn and pretzels. I like seeing my friends. I appreciate all the help my teachers and teacher assistants, Jessica & Jacob, have given me over the years and the special help from Mrs. Marcy for my Bat Mitzvah. I will miss Hebrew School after graduation.

Eli Schwartz

In Hebrew school there are two main things all students learn, Hebrew and the history of our Jewish ancestors. In my early years of Hebrew school, we learned the Hebrew alphabet, songs, basic prayers for our food and stories like Noah's Ark. During our 3rd and 4th grade years, we learned longer and more challenging prayers and sang them in front of our class. All through these years we did fun activities learning about the Jewish holidays and the meaning behind them. In our final couple years at school, we learned about the Holocaust because we were old enough to understand the history and truth about what happened. Preparing for our Bar and Bat Mitzvah's this year has been exciting and stressful and it is hard to believe that we are graduating. Even though I will miss Hebrew school, I will never forget the journey with everyone here.

Maya Shapiro

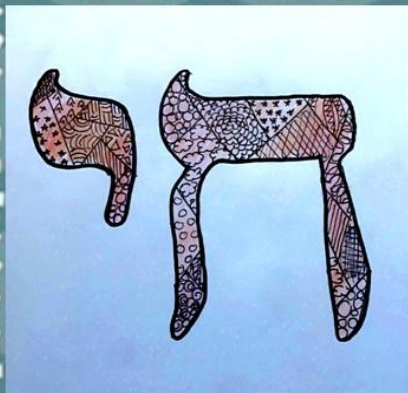
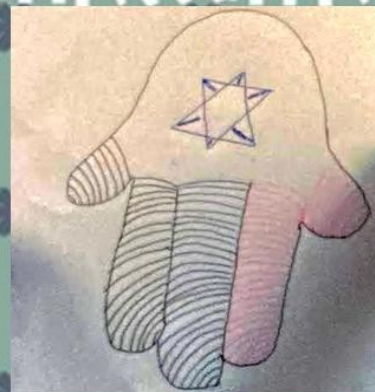
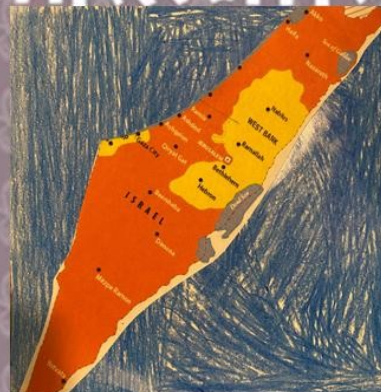
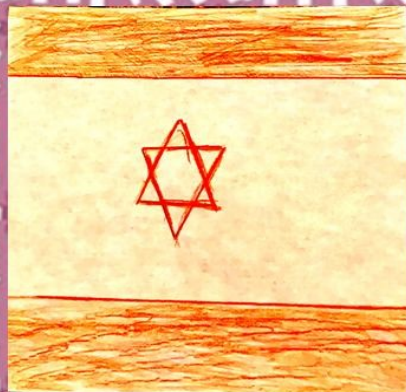
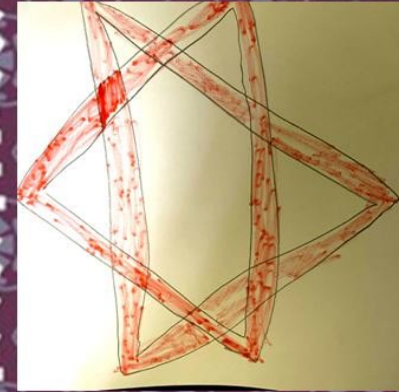
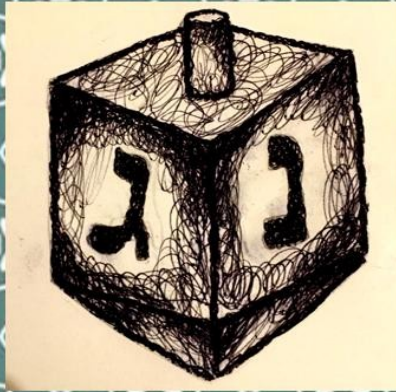
I am sad to leave but sometimes life needs to move on. I had some fun times while I was in Hebrew School. One of them is when I made my Tallit. It was a time when I got to be creative and have fun. I also got to experience what it was like to decorate a tallit and make the necessary knots. Thanks, Temple Beth El, and all the people in it for giving me new experiences and showing me new things.
Thank you and bye.

Sophie Sigman

This Hebrew School year has been interesting because I came into the school as a new student just at the beginning of this year, and then because of COVID-19 it hasn't been a normal school year. Even though I didn't get a full year of Hebrew School in the classroom, I still do have some great memories. One memory that will always stick with me was the class sleepover. The weekend started with my class going to Friday night services, which was a Shabbat Unplugged with Cantor Deborah Jacobson. There was a big crowd of people at services for Shabbat Unplugged. When my class was up on the bimah leading kiddush for the congregation, Cantor Jacobson gave me the cup of wine to hold. When I drank it I spilled some on the carpet. I felt a little embarrassed in front of so many people. And then Ilana, Alex and I started laughing. That is one memory that will always stick with me for the rest of my life.

The rest of the sleepover weekend was really fun, and I have some very special memories. Some highlights were when the class had Shabbat dinner all together, and when I got to hold the kiddush cup.

OUR CLASS ART PROJECT: SYMBOLS OF JUDAISM



SYMBOLS OF JUDAISM SEVENTH GRADE CLASS OF 2020

Alex Cohen, Lola Duhov,
Ilana Gilbert, Owen Herz,
Sydney Kassel, Camryn Laichtman,
Brandon Nadel, Jenny Schneider,
Eli Schwartz, Maya Shapiro,
Sophie Sigman



BLESSING UPON COMPLETION OF SEVENTH GRADE

Blessed are You, God, source of life, who gives us the ability to learn, interpret and teach others; even though our traditions are very old, there is always something new to be discovered. The process of learning never ends and we have just reached the beginning of a lifetime of discovery.

Praised are You, who helps us to gain wisdom.

THE SHEHECHIYANU

A traditional blessing recognizing significant moments in a Jewish life

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַּן הַזֶּה.

Baruch ata Adonai Eloheynu melech ha-olam

She-he-chey-a-nu v'kiy-e-ma-nu v'hi-gi-an-u laz-man ha-zeh

Blessed art Thou Adonai our God who has blessed us with life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this moment in time.

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