

“The Times, They Are A-Changin’”- Bob Dylan

I'm sitting here, with my Religious School calendar. For the first time in 12 years, I'm crossing off days. Every time we finish a program, an event or a holiday, I say to myself, “This is the last one...”



Of course, the holidays, the programs, the events, even the students and parents aren't finished. They will come back to and fill the halls of TBAY with the sounds of learning. But I won't be able to hear them. At least not in person.

I'll have to listen to my memories: of students loudly, enthusiastically singing to the reedy, violinny, piano-y sounds of the accordion; the footfalls of students walking in the halls repeating prayers for practice; shouts of answers to a quiz-show game. The quiet one-to-one conversations between tutor and student. Madrichim moving up and down the halls, tending to both student issues and office matters. There is growing and learning in every corner.

Or, I'll remember the look of the sanctuary, filled to capacity with parents and children, looking up at me as I open up a tool box and pull out a hammer, a wrench, a screwdriver, a *Hanukkah*, a *Siddur* and a *tallit*, introducing the theme for the year. Or a Rabbi, dressed in a kittle and a chef's toque with a cardboard breastplate, a Cantor in a toga and a Holy Ark, empty of Sifrei torah, with rubbish on the floor of the sanctuary; a *Kotel* Square of 1967, filled with crying soldiers listening to the sound of the *Shofar* and singing *Hatikvah*. Standing at a SMARTboard and showing a class what is going on at the Kotel *this minute!* The face of a Bar Mitzvah child (er, adult) as they sing Adon Olam surrounded by friends at the end of their service.

There are so many memories, and I'll carry them with me forever. .

But, enough looking back. We still have time before the end of the year to make more memories!

What are we going to do?

We can look back to our Purim Megilla Film. What a success! Not only did the students learn more about the Purim story, families now have a copy of the story to watch over and over. The proceeds from the sale of the video will go towards a new camera! I hope that the tradition of TBAY “Festival Films” continues!

Teachers will continue to design wonderful holiday activities. This year's Pesach model Seders were, as usual, innovative and instructive. There was much to digest, both in terms of discussion and food.

We'll end the year with the Israel-connected holidays: Yom HaShoah, Yom Yerushaleyim, Yom Ha'atzmaut, Lag B'Omer. There will be lots of running, dancing, singing, throwing, building and learning!

Students will continue to learn, in pairs as Jews have done since Avraham as well as in large classes, with books and computers. We'll continue to have Youth Services where your children can hone their skills as prayer leaders and taste the joy of Shabbat as a congregation. Kitah Gimmel students will receive their Siddurim in an extravaganza of music, dance and *nachas* on May 4 at 6:30. TI students will delve into hard questions; Kohavim will interact with letters and Torah stories. Lots will be going on.

Our final program takes place on May 20 as Kitah Zayin is promoted.

What do we have in store? You'll have to wait to find out, but rest assured, there will be plenty of memories included.

The last few sessions of **Teen Institute** have been a flurry of creativity! A combination of Midrash and Art resulted in a beautiful silk painting called "Standing At The Edge." Please come and see it displayed in the school hallway. I hope that the TI'ers enjoyed their personal projects as well.

The Kadima/USY/TI Chocolate Seder was a sweet success, with a wonderful, enthusiastic turnout. The weeks before were filled with Passover prep, charoset "cook-off's" and discussions. Thanks to Alysa Berg and Judy Levine for the hard work.

There will continue to be innovative programs for the TI'ers, and we hope to have input from them for next year's offerings. Please encourage your children to come.

See you in the halls!

Gail Beckman Buchbinder, Education Director