

Worcester Community Hebrew High School Recipe for an Extraordinary *Chai* School Experience

Ingredients:

- 18 (*chai*) exceptional educators
- 18 (*chai*) engaging classes
- 36 (double-*chai*) enthusiastic students

Recipe: Select various combinations of above ingredients in two 1-hour increments weekly throughout the year to create uniquely enriching learning experiences that result in meaningful connections within the local community and to the Jewish people throughout the world. This recipe initially serves the 54 (triple-*chai*) students and educators, but then extends to countless people as those who participate share their knowledge with others and make a commitment to continue their Jewish learning and educating. Though generally served September through May, many people enjoy this recipe year-round and actually seek it out at Jewish summer camps and in places as far reaching as Israel!

***Chai* Exceptional Educators:** Keren Azoulay, Noam Ben Zvi, Danielle Carrus, Debbie Fins, Nancy Greenberg, Hila Hutmacher, Cindy Kalish, Joy Lapidus, Beth Meltzer, Steve Meltzer (*z"l*), Ellen Meyers, Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky, Renee Rudnick, Rabbi Robert Sternberg, Sue Summit, Erin Gruwell sponsored by JFCM, NE ADL Youth Leadership Group, SNEC Israeli Young Emissaries.

***Chai* Engaging Classes:**

1. Barbie wears *Tefillin*. Do you? - Gender Roles and Body Image in Judaism
2. Becoming Catalysts for Change – Making a Difference in Our Community
3. Beyond the Bagel: Jewish Food from Ancient to Modern Times Throughout the World
4. *Chaveroot B'Armanoot*: Friends in Art
5. Hip Hop *Midrash*: Is Your iPod Jewish?
6. Israeli History, Culture, Government, Politics, Peace Negotiations, Defense Force
7. Israelis Wear Sunglasses: Viewing Israel through Israeli Music, Movies, Art, Dance & Drama
8. *Keshet Hineini*: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Teen Issues
9. Leadership and *Torah*
10. Making *Midrash*
11. Packing for College: Issues & Challenges of the College Selection Process, and Life on Campus
12. *Shirei Zimrah*: Contemporary Jewish Songwriting
13. Taking Judaism With You
14. The Chosen Image: How Jewish Themes and Characters are Portrayed
15. *Tikun Olam*: You Can Do It – We Can Help
16. Turning Experience into Teaching – Passing the Knowledge Along to Younger Jewish Students
17. Wherever You Go: Tasty Travels of the Jewish People
18. *Young at Heart*: Perspectives on Geriatric Lifestyle Issues

Double-*Chai* Enthusiastic Students: Sarah Becker, Jillian Book, Hannah Boronski, Diana Clark, Graham Coombs, Inbal Dagan, Libby Dimenstein, Ben Feldman, Morgan Fins, Sarah Flynn, Ian Gansler, Max Greenberg, Samantha Greenberg, Josh Kapiloff, Micah Klayman, Sarina Lapin, Jenna Linz, Tess McCabe, Eve Morin, Eliana Perlmutter, Sarah Rose, Michael Shemesh, Abby Shuster, Sam Shuster, Annalisa Specter, Zachary Stiller, Ariana Summit, Zoe Summit, Evan Swartz, Jonathan Vengerik, Josh Victor, Alice Waters, Dan Wert, Gillian Wert, Julia Zinn, Perpetual Student - Sue Summit

I gratefully acknowledge Howard Borer and Ellen Meyers for entrusting the Worcester Community Hebrew High School program to me and for supporting me with my programming throughout the year. Many thanks are also due to the Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts for funding the high school program, and to Congregation Beth Israel and Temple Emanuel for generously donating their building space. Thank you also to the staffs of JFCM, BI and TE for their efficient and patient assistance, and to the outstanding Hebrew High School faculty for contributing their talent and creativity to help me attain my vision of providing a summer camp style *limud* (learning) atmosphere for the Jewish teens in our community. Finally, I want to thank the students and their parents for their dedication in partnering with the faculty to make this a tremendously successful year of Jewish learning and community bonding.

From the earth to the heavens above, I want to thank Steve Meltzer for his tireless support of this program and so many other youth programs in our community. An extraordinarily talented musician, chef, educator and youth group advisor, Steve was mentor and friend to his students and his peers as he individually and collectively inspired us each to reach our full potential and to take pride in and share our Judaism in the form of *Torah* (through study), *avodah* (worship – preferably through music!), and *gimilut chasadim* (acts of loving kindness).

Steve opened the Hebrew High School year leading us in camp songs as we sang together around a campfire and made s'mores. He and I shared a vision of uniting our Jewish community through our youth, and inspiring our students to proudly carry their Jewish values in their hearts as a guide as they continued their journey through life, as they learned and as they evolved into young adults.

Steve's time with us was too short, but while he was with us he taught us *lo alecha hamlacha ligmor, v'lo atah ben chorin l'hibateil mimena*. We don't have to finish the job, but we must try to do our part. The work may be heavy and time is short, but together we can make a start. In true Steve fashion, he left a little bit undone. Our job is to take what he gave us and pass it on *l'dor vador* (from generation to generation) through his music, his teachings, and his *ruach* (spirit).

Kol Tuv,

Sue Summit

Worcester Community Hebrew High School Director

It is with great pride that the
Worcester Community Hebrew High School Graduates
Invite you to their graduation ceremony

Thursday, May 21, 2009
at 6:30 in the evening
Temple Emanuel Rose Chapel

Please join the graduates and their families for
a dessert reception following the graduation ceremony

Diana Clarke, daughter of Phyllis Spatrack & Chester Clarke
Graham Coombs, son of Caryn Stewart and Bryan Coombs
Jenna Linz, daughter of Cynthia Linz & Elliot Linz
Abigail Shuster, daughter of Marcy & Fred Shuster
Annalisa Specter, daughter of Alison & Larry Specter
Ariana Summit, daughter of Susan & Jeffrey Summit
Gillian Wert, daughter of Lisa & Kevin Wert
Julia Zinn, daughter of Pamela Zinn & Robert Zinn, z"l