



at North Shore Hebrew Academy

2020-2021 | ISSUE: 4 | SPRING | 5781

## MEOROT ADAPTS TO CONTINUE MISSION

Navigating the uncertainties surrounding COVID necessitated a different approach during the 2020-21 academic year. Meorot adapted and the Meorot Board decided to suspend in-person classes and to focus instead on the following three services: 1) Tutoring matching service -- where Meorot matches a student or a small cohort of students with an appropriate teacher and modality (online or in-person) 2) complimentary parent-child zoom workshop teaching about upcoming chagim and 3) Parent workshops focusing on practical parenting topics. Meorot also opened up the workshops to all elementary aged children in the community.

The formula of Meorot Parent-Child Zoom workshops was to provide a fun enriching activity while learning about an upcoming Chag. The series kicked off with a Succot workshop featuring a creative project led by Corinne Franco, Meorot Board Member, where she demonstrated how we can creatively use dried fruit to make beautiful centerpieces

for our Sukkahs. The event also featured an inspiring d'var torah from Rabbi Eli Slomnicki, principal of HANC High School. The Chanukah workshop was led by Meorot Educator Morah Marie Rosenthal who did a wonderful job providing a glimpse of the Meorot educational approach while reviewing the key aspects of Chanukah. Jonathan Zar of DJZJ then got the students on their feet while dancing to Chanukah songs and displaying their take home Chanukah crafts creations organized by Corinne Franco. Rabbi Nir & Sigal Shalom, of the Babylonian Jewish Center, led a Tu B'Shvat workshop where they guided participants through a Seder Brachot where students took turns reciting the five "Maga Esh" brachot. Musician Noam Segal then led participants in song and dance related to Tu B'Shvat. Chodesh Adar was welcomed by Morah Marie who again gave families a taste of Meorot by presenting the key concepts of Purim in a very animated manner with lots of reinforcements. Subsequently Corinne Franco led a wonderful crafts segment

### Parent Survey

[www.meorotqn.org](http://www.meorotqn.org)

In planning for the 2021-22 academic year and beyond, Meorot is requesting your participation in a 5-minute survey to help us best serve the community's needs.

### Online Video Library of Meorot Parenting Lectures

Videos are archived on the Meorot at North Shore Hebrew Academy [Facebook page](#)

**Dr. Pelcovitz** on "Developing your Child's Uniqueness"

**Rabbi Wallerstein** on "Overcoming Challenges"

**Dr. Gutkind** on "Understanding Reading Comprehension"

**Dr. Kalnicki & Kathy Gold** on "Recharging our Parenting Toolkits"

**Jessica Smooha** on "Advocating for your Child"

## PARENTS' CORNER:

Meorot has been a wonderful experience for our family, We have been part of the experience since our daughter was in kindergarten and we have seen such tremendous growth religiously and spiritually over the last 3 years. Our daughter started her Meorot journey with a limited amount of Hebrew knowledge and over those 3 years she has grown to be able to read out of the siddur and appreciate the love for Judaism and its values. We owe this to hard work and dedication of the teachers, the board and vision of the amazing and powerful Meorot program.

Last year, she received her first siddur along with her friends that attend North Shore Hebrew Academy. This gave her tremendous pride and we are so happy to watch her receive this great achievement and be proud to be part of the group and not feel left out or in the shadows of others.

Unfortunately, due to COVID in March of 2020 she transitioned to Zoom and Meorot was quick to transition too. She had 1 group session and 2 private sessions with Morah Marie. Even without the formal structure of the Meorot program she is still excited and happy to be part of their amazing virtual events that have been hosted throughout the year to allow her to continue to feel part of this amazing program.

## Lead Story Cont'd

where students personalized papier mache masks with clay and paint. A Model Pesach Seder was led by Rabbi Nissan Goldberg, P'TACH educator and YIGN youth director, who reviewed the key parts of the haggadah and demonstrated how to use a "makkot kit" that included props during their own seders. B"H Meorot's final workshop on Chag Shavuot will be led by "Dr. Mike" Atlas, GNS Youth Director.

## Parenting Tips – Online Resources

*Morah Marie provides her recommendations for online tools parents can provide to their children to build skills at home.*

### Learn the Alef-Bet

Jewish Interactive playlists on YouTube

- 1) [Stage 1: Ji Alef-Bet playlist](#) (for beginners), 2) [Mish Mash: Ji Alef-Bet playlist](#) (reinforcement to help with confused letters)
- 3) [Stage 2: Ji Alef-Bet playlist](#) (learning vocabulary and word recognition)

### Learn about Chagim

[JewishKids.org](#) (by Chabad, click on Holidays section)

### Learn about the Parasha

[The Family Torah by Jennifer Tzivia MacLeod](#) (available on Amazon)

## Hakarat Hatov – Expressing our Gratitude

Meorot is grateful to our fundraising committees for organizing the annual Meorot Chanukah Candles Sale and two Meorot Orchids Sales for Rosh Hashana/Sukkot and Mother's Day/Shavuot. These events were all done in the middle of the Covid pandemic and brought cheer to many in our community. Thank you to our volunteers Vivian & Nik Kron, Debbie Spilky and Judy Sobel, as well as, the dedicated Meorot Board and their children.

Thank you to all presenters who volunteered for the Meorot Parent-Child workshops and Parenting Lectures. We are blessed to have such dedicated and talented members in our community.

## Support Meorot

Donate at [www.meorotgn.org/donate](http://www.meorotgn.org/donate)

**Meorot is an innovative specialized Judaic Studies program, providing elementary aged students with an inspired Modern Orthodox Jewish education.**



**Partnering Yeshivot:**



**To learn more visit: [www.meorotgn.org](http://www.meorotgn.org) or contact us at: [info@meorotgn.org](mailto:info@meorotgn.org)**