

CONGREGATION ALBERT'S *KEHILAH* CURRICULUM

We raise these questions, "What does 'Jewish Education' mean?" and "How do we define success in Jewish education?" *Ronni Sims (Jewish Educator Extraordinaire)* suggests that there are certain elements that shape and underpin Jewish education for students and families in grades K-7.

K-Knowledge of: Torah, *T'filah*, tradition, Hebrew, holidays, history, Israel, life cycle events. (Torah is an ongoing dialogue between the text and its students. Torah is real in our daily lives and goes with us wherever we are. Developing the skills to study sacred text is essential to its integration into our lives.)

E-Experiential: hands on learning. Learning Jewish values by doing; acting in God's image; *mitzvot*; *Tzedakah* projects; *Tikun Olam*; Jewish art, music, dance, drama, literature. We are responsible to perform acts of *G'milut Chasadim* to make the world a better and holier place.

H-Holiness: awareness of the synagogue as a sacred space, a safe space, a comforting space, a joyful space, a space where God's presence is felt. *Avodah* is the work we do to find sacred connections to God, community and ourselves and can bring meaning and insight to our lives and our community.

I-Inspiration/Israel - programs and learning activities which inspire students and families to become more Jewishly informed and more involved in Jewish observance at home, in synagogue, in the wider Jewish and non- Jewish community.

L-Life Cycle: enhancing programs and activities which are personally and spiritually meaningful and memorable, which help students and families to grow and thrive Jewishly.

A –Access: The Jewish educational environment should be welcoming; accepting of diversity in family configurations and backgrounds; able to accommodate a spectrum of skill levels; affordable. Curricular content and objectives should be clear to families. Access to resources (human, print, and on-line) and enrichment opportunities should be explained fully. Ongoing guidance in accessing and using these resources should be provided.

H- Hebrew: Siddur Hebrew; the language of Torah and *T'filah*-Our unique, active connection to The Eternal and to the worldwide Jewish Community. Modern Hebrew - the remarkable evolution of our ancient sacred tongue into the vibrant, spoken language of the State of Israel. A major source of Jewish power and pride.

These 7 elements can provide a framework for the evolution of a ***KEHILAH K'dosha***- a sacred, caring, committed Jewish community of lifelong learners. The extent to which such a community evolves and endures is a way to measure the "success" of Jewish education offered at Congregation Albert.