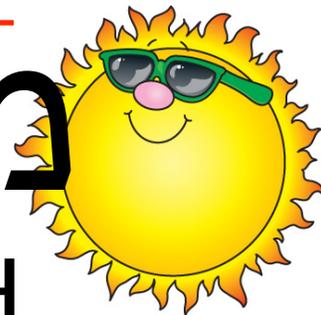


# מחנה יהודה

## MACHANE YEHUDAH



"Nothing's new under the sun." (Rabbi Akiba; Talmud)

Way back in 1979, when I was a student rabbinic intern at B'nai Jehudah, I helped out with an innovative educational program, called מחנה יהודה (Machane Yehudah). The name was a reference to both a well-known outdoor market in Jerusalem and a play on a part of our congregation's name (Jehudah). Machane Yehudah literally means "Camp Jehudah." And that's what it was over three decades ago: a summer camp for B'nai Jehudah students.

For the last two years, we have been developing a model of learning for our students that might be more flexible and/or more engaging for some of our families. Our world is vastly different than the 1940's and 1950's, when the Sunday morning-based model was refined. So, we listened to your feedback. We worked with experts in the field of Jewish education. We consulted with the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) and with our Federation. We studied other congregations and their experiments in informal Jewish learning.

**We are delighted to introduce a completely new and experimental alternative Religious School option. Going back 32 years, borrowing a name that reflects much of the learning we have discovered, we call our new program: מחנה יהודה (Machane Yehudah).**

**Our new alternative program will begin on June 11-22, 2012 for students entering grades 3-5 in the 2012-2013 academic year.**

If you choose Machane Jehudah as your child's Religious School option this is what you can expect: Students will attend a 2-week program during summer vacation from 9 am- 4 pm. (Depending on activities and curriculum, the location will be at the Cohen Retreat Center and/or our synagogue site). During camp days, students will have two 75-minute lessons addressing the theme of the year. Students will interact with our clergy and have daily tefillah, Israeli dance, music, sports, art, chugim (specialty activities), and water fun. Additionally, there will be a family Shabbat program, service and dinner at the conclusion of the 10-day program. During the academic year, there will be 8 family programs. These will be Shabbat and Holiday-themed programs, mostly occurring on Friday evenings, Saturdays, or Sundays. (The rest of the students from our congregation – both those in our Sunday morning program and those who attend Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy – will be invited to join in these family events.)

On the back of this sheet are answers to commonly-asked questions. If you have additional questions or suggestions, please contact us. **We are here to help you decide which program is best for your family: our new "10-day summer + 8 family programs during the academic year" model or our traditional "30 session Sunday morning" model.** Contact information is also on the back of this sheet.

This program is partially funded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City, the Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater Kansas City, and the 140th Anniversary Fund

# Q & A

## **How will students get out to the site?**

*All students participating in Machane Jehudah will be transported by school bus. Drop off and pick-up from our building on Nall.*

## **What if I want my child to attend both Machane Jehudah and the traditional Sunday program?**

*Although Machane Jehudah is designed to be an alternative model, the curriculum will be differentiated enough that a family could choose both options should they desire to do so.*

## **What about Hebrew school? Will Machane Jehudah replace mid-week Hebrew training?**

*We want all of our children to learn Hebrew, the traditional prayer language of the Jewish people, and the official language of the world's only Jewish country, Israel. That can't be accomplished in just two weeks. So, we will have all our students continue attending our mid-week Hebrew school program OR alternatively study with a private tutor at the family's expense (and meet our congregational requirements).*

## **I have a child in 1st grade and 4<sup>th</sup> grade, is there a special "sibling option" for my younger child to attend the summer program?**

*Especially for this first year, we won't be able to accommodate such "options." We believe your younger child will blossom from the loving consistency that comes from a traditional religious school structure. This helps to build an initial strong connection to their classmates and to the synagogue community.*

## **Can my child attend another camp program to fulfill B'nai Jehudah's religious school requirement?**

*Our professional team has been working diligently with the Union for Reform Judaism in creating a model that meets the objectives we at B'nai Jehudah feel are important for our community. Because we are focusing this summer program around our curricular goals, it and our Sunday morning-based Religious School are the only options available. That said, we strongly encourage families to send their children to a variety of Jewish experiential opportunities – our URJ summer camp, GUCI, our local JCC camps, and other Jewish sleep away camp options. They are awesome and life-changing experiences, that can supplement and support either of our options.*

## **How will my child meet other students from the congregation other than those in the Machane Jehudah program?**

*Each of the 8 family-based programs during the school year will be open to all students of the congregation. We anticipate making those programs "requirements" of the Sunday-morning program, as well. In this way, all our students will mix and mingle – as will parents – on a consistent basis. Also, we hope Shabbat will grow to be a time when many of our families join together at B'nai Jehudah to pray and to socialize.*

## **Does Machane Jehudah cost the same as the traditional Religious School?**

*Almost the same, our traditional Sept-May Sunday-base Religious School program costs \$380. The fee for Machaneh Jehudah, which includes summer transportation and the Family Education days, will cost \$425 (if enrolled by March 15 with a \$100 deposit) Or \$475 (after March 15th). As always, scholarships are readily available based on need.*

**If you have question about our new "summer+family learning" model, contact Rabbi Shuval-Weiner (913-663-4050 x220; rabbiasw@bnaijehudah.org). To speak about our traditional "Sunday-morning" model, contact Shelley Hedrick (913-663-4050 x218 ;**



# MACHANE JEHUDAH

Experimental Alternative Jewish Learning

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Secular School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child Resides With  Mother  Father  Both  Other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

Parent 1	Parent 2
Name: _____	Name: _____
Home Phone: _____	Name: _____
Office: _____	Office: _____
Cell: _____	Cell: _____
E-mail: _____	E-mail: _____

Fee Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make checks payable to The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah)

Charge my  Visa  Mastercard

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ OK to Pickup?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ OK to Pickup?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ OK to Pickup?

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION:**

Child's Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital Preference: \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Insurance Co: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy # \_\_\_\_\_ Group # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Policy Holder: \_\_\_\_\_

### **CONSENT FORM**

The undersigned, parents (or legal guardian) of: \_\_\_\_\_ hereby consent to his/her attending The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah - Machane Jehudah Program.

The undersigned further consent for their child, above named to receive emergency medical care if it becomes necessary in the event the undersigned cannot be reached by telephone.

With respect to the child's participation in The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah - Machane Jehudah events, the undersigned released The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah and its officers, agents and employees, including voluntary assistants, from any and all liability for personal injury to the above-named child and agree to hold The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah and its officers, agents and employees, including voluntary assistants, harmless from any and all claims for personal injury to the above-named child, including, without limitation any claims based on negligence.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_