

# What's Happening מה נשמע Ma Nishma

## A Dream Come True

**We are proud to announce that New Community Jewish High School (NCJHS) has found a permanent home!**

In a historic move, The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles has agreed to sell the Bernard Milken Jewish Community Campus located at 22622 Vanowen Street in West Hills to NCJHS. There are various conditions that need to be fulfilled before the transaction is complete, but we are optimistic that everything will be accomplished, including the making of significant building modifications and renovations over the next few years, to enable our final move to our new home.

Moving to the Bernard Milken Campus will allow NCJHS to expand our already stellar academic curriculum and programs. The campus, which is aesthetically pleasing and expansive, will allow us to host academic seminars, sports competitions, arts festivals and community events. The facility already has an auditorium that we will use for our rich visual and performing arts department; a modern gymnasium and recently renovated pool; "hanging out" space for students; and a library. We plan to improve the campus even further, by building state-of-the-art classrooms and a new faculty center to facilitate our "one-mind-at-a-time" approach to education.

"This transaction is the result of three community organizations – The Jewish Federation, NCJHS, and The JCC at Milken – collaborating in a quest to strengthen the Jewish community," says Dr. Bruce Powell, NCJHS Head of School. As part of The Jewish Federation's



Pictured L-R. Paul Frishman (Executive Director, The JCC at Milken), Scott Zimmerman (Executive VP, New Community Jewish High School), Harold Masor (Immediate Past President, New Community Jewish High School), Elana Rimmon Zimmerman (Founding Board Member and Past President, New Community Jewish High School), Richard Sandler (Chairman of the Board, The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles), Mike Greenfeld (President of the Board of Trustees, New Community Jewish High School), Dr Bruce Powell Head of Greater Los Angeles), Jay Sanderson (President, The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles), Carol Koransky (Executive Vice President, The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and Executive Director, Valley Alliance), Alan Rosen (President, The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles Valley Alliance).

core mission of *Ensuring the Jewish Future*, the sale of this property emphasizes the Federation's commitment to Jewish Education and allows it to devote precious resources to other pressing community needs.

The JCC at Milken will remain on the campus. NCJHS is working with The JCC at Milken to explore opportunities for collaboration and program expansion to better serve the San Fernando and Conejo Valleys. Our students are already members of the JCC. We hope that NCJHS families will also benefit from JCC programming.

"This historic transaction is the culmination of the dream of NCJHS leadership since we opened

our school in 2002, and even before. We are deeply grateful to the many individuals whose vision and tireless efforts helped bring about this result. We are also grateful to our friends at Shomrei Torah Synagogue, who welcomed us as guests to their home and helped us build our school," says Mike Greenfeld, President of the NCJHS Board of Trustees.

NCJHS is about to embark on a thrilling journey. We are honored to share this news with our community and we look forward to continuing the mission of New Community Jewish High School to educate "A+ human beings" and develop a new generation of Jewish leaders.

# Dr. Bruce Powell

## Head of School

This past summer, Debby and I treated ourselves to a 36th wedding anniversary trip to the annual music festival in Aspen, Colorado. During one of the concerts, a young musician sat nearby and was explaining to us some of the nuances of the musical presentation. At the intermission, she noticed that one of her instructors at the Aspen Music School entered the stage and was about to perform. With sincere apologies, she excused herself from our conversation and explained that “my teacher” had just taken the stage and she must go sit nearby so as to increase her learning.



Debby and I were quite moved by this talented young woman's reference to “my teacher.” There was clearly a bond, a respect, a connection that transcended what most of us see as the “normal” student/teacher relationship. Indeed, it was reverence, a sense of joy, a sense, if you will, of the sacred nature of learning and a profound appreciation for the source of that learning.

Consistent with the habits of my mind, my thoughts turned to how this interaction with the music student relates to New Community Jewish High School. For me, the connection was immediately clear and poignant – the students at NCJHS regard their teachers as “my teacher,” and likewise, the teachers refer to students as “our students.”

This expression of “ownership” is no small thing. Saying, for example, “The teacher expects me to do this assignment,” is quite different from “My teacher expects me to do this assignment.” “The teacher” is impersonal, distant, third person, the “other,” somehow disconnected from a student's life. **“My teacher,” however, cares, expects us to succeed, will be there for us, will be demanding yet kind, is part of my life, is someone who travels with me on both my educational journey and my life's journey.**

Similarly, there is never a moment in our faculty room when our teachers refer to “the students.” It is because they have a sacred responsibility to enhance their understanding of learning and life.

And, by extension, we all say, “our parents,” “our board,” “our community.” Yes, we “own” each other in a way that engenders joy, partnership, trust, learning, sometimes family disagreements, but always a respectful path to resolution.

Frankly, I like being “owned.” Our teachers consider themselves “your teachers.” And, I know for sure that the Head of School considers himself “your Head,” and our entire staff and board see themselves as “your community of support and partnership.”

Our NCJHS culture of vision, of hard not harsh, of kind not coddling, of one mind at a time, of real success in school and life, of academic excellence, is the direct result of our culture of “my teacher.” This is where it begins; and this is the engine that makes us New Community Jewish High School.



**iPads** – Students in six sections of NCJHS history classes use iPads in their classrooms to take notes and interact with our virtual classrooms and websites like Google Docs. In an effort to adapt to the 21st century student, NCJHS educators introduced this new technology to a traditional classroom setting. Students use iPads to practice and develop research skills using databases such as Questia, ProQuest, and JSTOR in the classroom. They also use iPads to create and deliver keynote presentations in class. An added benefit to using iPads is the reduction in use of paper for classes. In the future, classes could become 100% digital and therefore more environmentally sensitive.



**Tefillah Kehillah Institute (TKI)** students led a spirited Kabbalat Shabbat for middle school students at Kadima Day School in West Hills (above) and Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School in Northridge (below). Students planned the session with Mr. Yonatan Rosner, Jewish Studies and TKI teacher, led and sang prayers accompanied by Mr. Jared Stein, our music teacher, led middle schoolers in a discussion about the Torah portions, and engaged the middle school students in a question-answer session about high school, offering their wisdom.



# Dance Team Performs At Ford Theatre

By **Corinne Kentor**, Junior

The NCJHS Varsity and Varsity-in-Training dance teams performed with the Keshet Chaim Dance Ensemble at the Ford Theatre on Saturday, October 9th. Lead by choreographer Kobi Rosenthal, the Keshet Chaim dancers performed a variety of pieces that integrated traditional Jewish folk dance along with modern sequences. The NCJHS teams joined the Keshet performers on stage for the finale, accompanied by a live performance of Michael Jackson's *Man in the Mirror*, performed by Miri Mesika, Rami Kelintein, and the Agape International Choir.

NCJHS teachers, Erica Goldman (Israeli dance), Dina Nelson (Modern Dance and Dance Team) and Shiri Cohen (Dance Team) are members of the Keshet Chaim Ensemble. In front of an audience of over 1,200 spectators, the NCJHS dancers represented the entire NCJHS community and, as the Keshet dancers jokingly referred to them, "the next generation of Keshet." The experience provided the students with a chance to showcase their talents in a professional setting and strengthened their relationship with an accomplished company.



# Yiddish Class Spreads Joy

The students of the Yiddish 1 class decided to apply their new Yiddish writing skills and do a *mitzvah* at the same time. The class received a list of names from the Survivor Mitzvah Project, a volunteer service organization which provides



basics needs such as medicine, heating fuel, and clothing as well as help with daily chores for elderly Holocaust survivors in former Soviet bloc countries. Most of the survivors are in their late eighties and nineties; have outlived their spouses, children and friends; and

typically they are the last Jews in their area. Students composed short illustrated letters in Yiddish for Chanukah. They will be sent to Lithuania, Belarus, and the Ukraine in the hopes that the recipients will feel less isolated. Students hope to bring a little light into the darkness.

# Jazz Band

Under the direction of Jared Stein, music teacher, our jazz band played at the recent West Hills Fall Fest and our choir sang, under the direction of W. Ellen Fleischmann. Musicians are Jackson Bell, Jory Glick, Charlie Kramer, Adam Mashiach, Bradley Reinfeld, and Arieh Zimmerman.

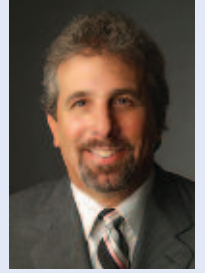


Photo courtesy of Jessica Butler

# Michael Greenfeld

**President, NCJHS Board of Trustees**

When Abraham rejected idolatry and became the father of our people, he and our other patriarchs and matriarchs began a process that formed the building blocks of our Jewish heritage. Then, with the words of our Torah, Moses amplified G-d's laws and prepared the Israelites for a difficult spiritual journey to become a holy people worthy of their very own promised land.



We at NCJHS are not unlike the Israelites who wandered with Moses those many years ago. We have bounced between two campuses and have lived a somewhat wandering existence in our own desert of the San Fernando Valley. During that time we too have become enriched both spiritually and academically, but without a permanent home.

As recent events have unfolded in our community, we all know that our days of wandering are numbered and that in a short time we will go forth into our own promised land. Although we finally know that our destination is the Bernard Milken Jewish Community Campus on Vanowen, we still have many miles in which to travel and many milestones that must be reached in order to achieve our goal.

A new sacred process has now begun and we will need everyone's help, cooperation, patience, and extraordinary efforts to make this dream become reality. Over the last nine years our faculty and administrative staff have done a superb job adapting to our nomadic culture. They have worked in a difficult environment that has had many challenges to overcome in order to provide our students with the type of programming that fulfills our academic mission. Now we are truly on the verge of taking our program of excellence and housing it in a vessel that will enhance and amplify the NCJHS experience.

I am extremely grateful for the countless hours of hard work by the members of our site committee as well as Dr. Powell and his staff in order to get us to this exciting chapter in our school's history. I must also recognize the dedication of our leaders within The Jewish Federation and The JCC at Milken who have partnered with us on a project that will ultimately become a "win-win" for Los Angeles and the Community as a whole.

The leaders of The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, The JCC at Milken and of course our own NCJHS board and staff are indeed the patriarchs and matriarchs of this new endeavor. It is with creativity, sensitivity, sacrifice and a vision of the future well-being of our Jewish Community that this project has been birthed. We truly owe a debt of gratitude to everyone involved.

We have finally broken ground on this extraordinary new project. Now it is up to all of us to build it together so that we may create a land of promise for the entire community.

B'racha,  
**Mike Greenfeld**

# Rabbi David Vorspan

## Rabbi-in-Residence

There is an anecdote attributed to a famous Orthodox rabbi:

*Two people come to a rabbi. The first asks the rabbi a question and he gives an answer. The second asks the rabbi his question. It was same question, but the rabbi gives a different answer.*

*His wife asks him, "How can you give a different answer to the same question?"*

*The rabbi answers, "I am not the same person I was a moment ago!"*

Is this true of us, as well? Do we change from day to day, week to week, month to month? If so, why do we change? Because of what we have

learned? Because someone has influence over us, or inspires us? Is the change always for the better?

Does not changing reflect stagnation? Does too much changing demonstrate lack of commitment? And what does this have to do with NCJHS?

We need guidance to help direct us as to how to change for the better. For change is inevitable. Heraclitus, the ancient Greek philosopher, famously said we don't step in the same river twice. It is always changing. The world is in a constant state of flux. We must change to keep up.

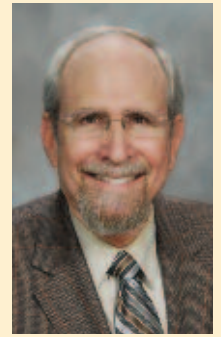
And Rabbi Hillel said, "**He who does not increase, decreases.**" We don't stand still.

There's no marking time.

NCJHS faculty help guide students by pointing them in the right direction. By making sure our students recognize the need to change, but always for the better. By taking minds growing exponentially and setting sign posts up ahead (yes, a quote from Rod Serling).

And by helping students realize that there might be more than one right answer to the same question.

Because, while the question remains the same, we change.



## Stephan Golas

### Director of College Guidance, Dean of Academic Advising



In the NCJHS College Guidance Office, we have one overarching goal: to help each of our students identify and pursue those opportunities after high school that will allow

him or her to reach their academic, extracurricular, social, emotional, and spiritual goals. Naturally, each student and her/his parents or guardians make the final choice, but before that choice is made, our office helps students explore a variety of appropriate options. Depending upon the achievements and goals of any particular student, the options may include Ivy League schools; private universities; small liberal arts colleges; University of California or California State University campuses; a public university outside of California; academic institutions or a gap-year program in Israel; or service in the United States Military or Israel Defense Forces.

Sifting through the options and identifying those that are a good match for each student is a highly personalized process, and one in

which our office is honored to participate. There are very few students who know from the outset exactly where they want to be after high school and have also taken the appropriate steps to get there. However, for the vast majority of students, the future is not quite so clear – an entirely natural, normal scenario for a sixteen or seventeen year-old person. Accordingly, in most cases, we suggest beginning the search process with the broadest possible consideration of multiple options.

Our approach often leads to discussions about colleges and universities that were not originally on the family's "radar screen," and important questions frequently arise. Is the location of this college one that would be comfortable for the student and the family? What type of Jewish life exists on-campus? Does it have research opportunities for undergraduates? What types of students attend the college, and who are they academically and socially? Can our family afford this college?

While these questions cannot always be answered definitively after one or two meetings, our office offers a wealth of experience and insight that we're told is very

helpful. The latter question regarding affordability is, of course, of particular importance for many families. To the surprise of many, private colleges and universities – with "sticker prices" that are sometimes shockingly high – can, in the end, be as affordable as public college and university options in California. This is particularly true when a student is a strong applicant to a particular private college or university and thus offered a merit scholarship for their achievements. Such an offer will not be extended to all students who apply to private colleges and universities, but it is exactly the type of opportunity that our office explores with families. This is but one example of an outcome that may be realized when a broad perspective on the college search is embraced by student and parents.

Ultimately, each student's journey through the end of high school is unique, but for our office, the measure of success is always the same. When we learn that our graduates have found challenging and fulfilling opportunities to explore after graduation – and that they are putting the values learned at NCJHS into practice – we know we have done our job well, one mind at a time.

## ADL Pilot Program

This year, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is piloting their Confronting Anti-Semitism program at NCJHS to help prepare seniors for the anti-Israel, and sometimes, anti-semitic, rhetoric and activities currently seen on college campuses around the country. Through this interactive workshop, students practice strategies for responding to various scenarios and they are given tools and resources that can be useful to them on an ongoing basis. Ariella Loewenstein, Associate Director – Pacific Southwest Region (below), uses thought-provoking questions to prepare college-bound students for difficult situations they might encounter.



**Veteran's Day** – Our Veteran's Day guest this year was Corporal Paul Cohen, an 89 year old World War II Vet. He told students about his experiences as the only Jew in his infantry unit who served in Leyte and Okinawa in the Pacific Ocean theater. Corporal Cohen was awarded the Bronze star for saving the life of a fellow soldier in Okinawa. He is currently the commander of the largest Jewish War Veterans post west of the Mississippi.

## Science Academy Colloquium

The Science Academy Colloquium is a popular after school program that provides students with an opportunity to learn about diverse contemporary scientific topics from renowned scientists. The Colloquium attracts a standing-room only crowd of students from all grades. It has been a great introduction for our students to fields of science of which they might not have otherwise been aware.

Speakers and topics have included Dennis Kelly, Director of the Coastal Dolphin Survey Project from Orange Coast College ("Sustainability in the Amazon and Galapagos"); James Domanski from the Department of Engineering at USC ("Harnessing Wind Energy on Building Structures"); Dr. Jordan Miller from the Bioengineering Department at the University of Pennsylvania ("Tissue Microfabrication"); Phillip Phan, Health Education Assistant, LA County Health Dept. ("Sexually Transmitted Diseases").



**Robert Ferguson, M.S.**, Weight Loss Guru and co-author of *Fat That Doesn't Come Back*, spoke to students about "The Hidden Deceptions of Diets." Mr. Ferguson is a fitness specialist, coach to celebrities and athletes, nutritionist, author of more than 1,000 articles on nutrition and fat loss, television personality, consultant to Michelle Obama on childhood obesity in the U.S., and a former marine.



**Dr. Max More** – "Are We Wise Enough for the Future?" was the topic of Dr. Max More's colloquium presentation. Dr. More is a Strategic Philosopher from Austin, Texas. He is the Founder of Transhumanism and the Co-Founder of the Extropy Institute. He spoke about advanced technology, backward brains, and tools for tomorrow.



**Mandel Fellows** – Eight rabbinic students completing their final year of Rabbinic School at Hebrew Union College in LA and NY visited NCJHS to experience a vision-guided Jewish educational institution in action. The students are Mandel Fellows who are participating in a program designed to create vision-guided rabbinic leadership in order to build compelling congregational communities. The Fellows were joined by Professor Sara Lee, Adjunct Professor Emeritus of Jewish Education and the former Director of the Rhea Hirsch School of Education at HUC-JIR/Los Angeles. The Fellows were eager to learn how NCJHS students in Dr. Powell's Senior Seminar class interpret the vision and purpose of the school, how vision is transmitted to students, and what things students will take with them after they graduate. Students gave honest answers as they reflected on the relationship of the school community to the world and their place in it and demonstrated to the future rabbinic leaders that visionary leadership can transform Jewish communities.



**Sderot, Israel Mayor David Buskila** (front row second from left) met with students at NCJHS on his recent visit to Los Angeles. A partner with Jewish National Fund, Mayor Buskila came to the U.S. for a speaking tour to discuss the challenges that face the town of Sderot, the constant target of Kassam rocket attacks over the past few years. NCJHS was his only school visit. He met with 10th grade students and our Israel Advocacy Club. He described the challenging living conditions under which Israeli children live in his city and gratefully thanked students and their parents for supporting Israel. Accompanying Mr. Buskila was Allison Krumholz, Regional Director of the Jewish National Fund (pictured front row left).



**Trader Joes** – Business Ethics is one of the five Jewish Studies classes available to eleventh graders. Its students had the wonderful opportunity to meet with the VP and CFO of Trader Joes markets, Mr. Brian Palbaum. Initially unbeknownst to students, Trader Joes is guided by similar values to those promoted at NCJHS. As Mr. Palbaum described how the company's seven core values are the framework from which they make their decisions, one could not help but notice the shared values.



**Ed Serotta** (center), Director of Centropa, is a journalist, photographer and filmmaker specializing in Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe. He visited NCJHS, a pilot school in America to address our students. Centropa connects history and Holocaust educators from Europe and the United States to one another. Pictured next to Serotta are (L-R) Gregg Keer (11th Grade Dean, History and Senior Seminar teacher), Beverley Kamenir (10th Grade Dean, Shoah teacher), Dr. Neil Kramer (Dean of Faculty, History Dept. Chair and core Centropa teacher), and Matt Vacca (History teacher), all of whom participated in Centropa's summer training program in Europe.



**JJ the Mime** visited our American Sign Language classes to give students lessons in mime, using ASL. He is showing students how to climb a rope. JJ is a performer who recently had a show at the Deaf West Theatre. Shula Dichter is our ASL teacher.

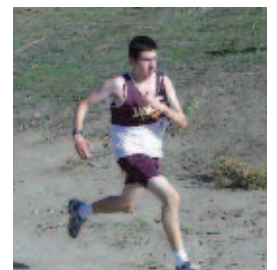
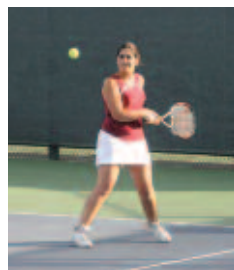


**The boys basketball team** got up close and personal with LA Laker assistant coach, Jim Clemons (top row 5th from left), and Mike Fennison of El Camino Community College (top row far right), at a recent basketball clinic conducted by the two coaches held at Crespi High School.

## New Jaguar Basketball Coach

**Matt Meisels** is taking over the reins of the NCJHS boy's basketball team for the 2010/2011 season. Meisels comes to the Jaguars from Valley Torah where he led the Wolfpack to the 2008/2009 Westside League Championships while being named coach of the year. Meisels also won a Valley League Championship for Valley Torah in 2000 and was named coach of the year.

In total, Meisels has coached high school teams to five league championships. Previously, Meisels was an assistant trainer to Magic Johnson, assisted at LA City College. He works closely with Jim Clemons and Michael Fennison in developing skills for Jewish youth throughout the state. He plans to hold more clinics this year for our teams.



## Styles For Smiles

Student leaders from three clubs – Invisible Children, Cancer Awareness, and ACOH (Acercándonos a la Comunidad Hispana) – have joined forces to sponsor a fundraising fashion show, **STYLES FOR SMILES**, to benefit cancer research, children in Uganda affected by war, and Hispanic foster children and others in need of life-changing surgeries. The Fashion Show will take place on Sunday, March 6 from 12:30-3pm at the JCC at Milken, located at 22622 Vanowen St. in West Hills. Students and faculty will model the latest clothing supplied by local boutiques and department stores. The event will also include a raffle and refreshments.



“This is our way of engaging in *tikkun olam* on a larger scale and really healing the world,” says Sarah Lawler, president of Invisible Children and the event’s chair. “This is a joint effort that we hope will start a tradition at our school and continue in future years,” continues Lawler. Other event organizers are students Maya Tuvia, president of ACOH, Sydney Stupp, president of the Cancer Awareness club, and Samantha Rische, VP of Invisible Children. Faculty Advisors are Jaimi Leess, Anat Niv, and Andrea Fuentes. Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Marc Lindner, oversees student life on campus.

## National Honor Society Inductees

Congratulations to our new inductees into the National Honor Society. **Class of 2011:** Max Bernstein, Ann Fogler, Laurel Levitan, Gavriela Moskowitz, Justin Pennish, Shaina Roberts, Emily Schenkel. **Class of 2012:** Etai Evenhaim, Lee Feldman. **Class of 2013:** Aaron Abosch, Joshua Bernfeld, Max Farber, Caroline Jones, Adam Lenarsky, Maayan Lev, Jeremy Packer, Sarah Pike, Annie Pill, Arielle Pollock, Judith Workman, Arielle Younai. Club leaders for this year are Justin Pennish (president) and the Executive Council comprised of Ariel Prince, Corinne Kentor, Danny Hirsch, Aaron Abosch, Jason Tinero, Hannah Taylor, Etai Evenhaim. Faculty Advisor is Dr. Howard Mendelson.



## Fight Blindness

By **Jacqueline Zelener and Charlie Kramer, Seniors**

On Sunday, October 24th, NJCHS's Club Hand in Hand gathered a team of students to walk at the 4th annual VisionWalk Los Angeles at UCLA. The Foundation Fighting Blindness put on the VisionWalk to raise funds for research developments and treatments for people with visual impairments. Funds raised by Hand in Hand supported this meaningful cause.



Student, Charlie Kramer, is affected by a blinding eye disease, Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP). RP causes one to progressively lose his peripheral vision and have night blindness. The Kramer family has been involved with The Foundation Fighting Blindness for the last five years, and continues to help find a cure for visual impairments. Also participating in the event was the NCJHS Advanced Jazz Combo, conducted by teacher, Jared Stein.

## AIPAC High School Summit

By **Alex Thomson, Senior**



Six student delegates from our Israel Advocacy Club traveled to Washington D.C. for the AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) High School Summit in October: Alex Thomson, Arielle Younai, Jen Weintraub, Laurel Levitan, Arie Pollock, and Shanee Fischer, accompanied by Faculty Advisor, Orit Shwartz. Students participated in workshops where they learned about the Middle East Conflict, how to lobby politicians, and how to advocate for Israel on and off campus.

After arriving in Washington D.C., the delegation toured the city including a stop by the White House, Treasury Building, Lincoln Memorial, and the Washington Monument. Following an intense two days of seminars, the students lobbied Senator Barbara Boxer's Foreign Relations aide on an Iran Sanctions bill, a Foreign Aide Appropriations bill, and the Middle East Peace talks. Students made a quick stop at the Capitol Building where Jonathan Powell, Deputy Speechwriter, Speaker of the House, gave the students a tour of the Speaker of the House's Balcony and enjoyed a surprise meeting with Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The students are educating the school about what they learned and teaching others about advocating on Israel's behalf.

The first two issues of this year's **The Prowler**, the student newspaper, is out. Pick them up in the school office. Co-editors are Corinne Kentor and Ariel Prince.

## Advancement

### Thanksgiving

**O**ur thanks goes out to you, our generous families, friends, grandparents, alumni and community supporters. Your demonstration of community has put us well on our way to surpassing our 2010/11 Annual Campaign goal. We know it is just a matter of time before each and every member of our parent body steps forward to be counted among us by their contribution and we achieve our ultimate aim of **100% NCJHS family participation**. Please remember, it's not the size of the gift, it's the spirit with which it is given that really counts.

**Thanks** to our unstoppable Annual Campaign Co-Chairs, **Ira Cohen, Jodi Perlman** and **Ellie Sambol** who are leading the way, guiding our Committee to great achievements. Kudos to Board of Trustees Advancement V.P., Susan Hirsch Goldfarb, and to our entire Annual Campaign Committee including grade level chairs: Lynda and Scott Adelson, Debbie and David Pill, Mary and Ira Tochner, Lisa and Eric Geismar, Linda and Lewis Landau. A very special thank you to our Grandparent Co-Chairs, Gloria and Dr. Sheldon Getzug, and alumni co-chairs, Drs. Helen and Ron Grusd.

**Haven't had the opportunity to make your Annual Campaign gift yet?** We've made it simple. Contact the Office of Advancement at (818) 449-8900 or visit [www.ncjhs.org](http://www.ncjhs.org) and click DONATE NOW!

**New:** ACH withdrawal: Ask us how you can have your donation automatically withdrawn from a designated checking or savings account each month.

#### It's Just This Easy:

TOTAL GIFT	12 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	10 MONTHLY PAYMENTS
\$10,000	\$ 833.33	\$ 1,000
\$ 5,000	\$ 416.66	\$ 500
\$ 1,000	\$ 83.33	\$ 100
\$ 500	\$ 41.66	\$ 50
\$ 250	\$ 20.83	\$ 25
\$ 100	\$ 8.33	\$ 10

### A Quick Fundraising Glossary

#### Annual Campaign Funds / The school's checking account:

The Annual Campaign raises money for the school's operating budget. Examples of its impact is seen in our stellar academic, arts and athletic programs, our technology, equipment, *Shabbatonim* and facility – and everything else from security to light bulbs.

#### Endowment Gifts / The school's savings account:

Endowment gifts help NCJHS plan for the future. Revenue (interest income) from our endowment is used to support students, structures and programs, keeping the principal intact, and the school strong, for many years to come.

#### Planned Giving / A retirement account:

Gifts to the school through a trust, annuity or insurance policy plan are usually established to generate income for the school as part of a donor's overall financial planning, or to establish a memorial after one's lifetime. The most common gift of this sort is a bequest. The significance of a life can be preserved through scholarships, named buildings and sponsored faculty positions or programs.

### Legacy Circle

**"We believe in Jewish education. Not just for our family. Not just for now, but for all qualified students and for all the generations to come. That's why we made a commitment to the NCJHS legacy society with a pledge from our estate."**

– Bud & Judy Levin, NCJHS Legacy Society Chairs

**J**oin Bud and Judy today by signing

a Letter of Intent – an expression of your intention to

include New Community Jewish High School in your estate plans. You need not

specify an amount. In doing so you send a very important

message that the circle of caring and community never ends,

that commitment to teaching Jewish

values & tradition is a bond that is passed

from generation to generation in a never-ending chain of support. For

information about the Letter of Intent, please call our Advancement Office at

(818) 449-8900.



### Jim Joseph Foundation

NCJHS is one of five Jewish day high schools that receives tuition subvention funds through the Jim Joseph Foundation's High School Affordability Initiative in cooperation with BJE and The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

This grant benefits families who might, otherwise "give up" on the possibility of accessing day school education. This generous grant helps to make Jewish day schools, like NCJHS, an affordable option. Importantly, this grant begins "New Jew's" long-term process of endowment development for future generation of students.

*The Foundation is devoted exclusively to supporting education of Jewish youth; Jim Joseph believed that focusing on young people was the best way to preserve a strong Jewish faith and proud heritage, thereby ensuring success of the Jewish people for the future.*



### S. Mark Taper Foundation

We gratefully acknowledge the S. Mark Taper Foundation for their \$10,000 grant for general operations to provide need-based scholarships. The S. Mark Taper Foundation, founded in 1989, is a private family foundation dedicated to enhancing the quality of people's lives by supporting nonprofit organizations and their work in our communities.

We mourn the loss of major donor, **Harvey Greenberg** (November 2010)

# Admissions Corner

**Q:** How rigorous is your academic program?

**A:** Our academic program is on par with the nation's most prestigious independent high schools. Our curriculum prepares all of our students for a college/university education. Our alumni attend schools throughout the nation.

**Q:** My 8th grade son has never attended Jewish Day School and has limited Hebrew skills. Are there other students a New Jew with the same school background?

**A:** Here are some enrollment statistics that may surprise you:

- 16% of our current 9th grade class attended private, non-Jewish middle schools
- 35% of our current 9th grade class attended public middle schools
- 49% of our current 9th grade class attended Jewish middle schools

We offer Hebrew classes at all levels, ranging from a class that teaches the basics for those with no prior knowledge of Hebrew to an advanced literature class.

**Q:** My 10th grade daughter is unhappy at her current school. Does New Jew accept transfer students?

**A:** This year we warmly welcomed almost 30 transfer students from public schools and private schools.

**Q:** Do you have application deadlines?

**A:** Applications for 2011-2012 are due on or before February 1, 2011 and may be downloaded from our website: [www.ncjhs.org/admissions/howtoapply.php](http://www.ncjhs.org/admissions/howtoapply.php)

To learn more, please contact:

**Jill Zuckerman,**

*Director of Admissions*

at [jzuckerman@faculty.ncjhs.org](mailto:jzuckerman@faculty.ncjhs.org)

**Michelle November,**

*Associate Director of Admissions*

at [mnovember@faculty.ncjhs.org](mailto:mnovember@faculty.ncjhs.org)

## Faculty News

**Dina Appleby** (Hebrew teacher) and her husband Jerry are this year's Masorti Foundation honorees from Temple Aliyah in Woodland Hills. The Foundation supports Conservative Judaism in Israel and annually honors members of six local Conservative temples.

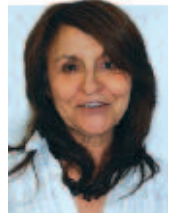
**Dr. Bill Aron** (Photography teacher) will have his work on exhibit at the Skirball Museum, opening January 4, 2011. He has been collaborating with another artist, Victor Raphael, in gold leafing selected areas of photographs. Dr. Aron makes the image; Mr. Raphael gold leafs it. Their collaboration produced about 30 pieces in the show.

**Becca Bodenstein** (Director of Jewish Life, Judaism and the Environment teacher) makes presentations at synagogues and to community groups around town about Judaism and the Environment. She will be a presenter at the Hazon Food Conference in Sonoma County, CA at the end of December. She was recently featured in *the jew & the carrot* blog, *Ready. Set. Garden* on Forward.com.

**David Marcus** (Business Manager) is one of the 13 members of the Direct Client Advisory Council of TIAA-CREF, the nation's largest retirement plan administrator serving those in the academic, medical, cultural and research fields. The Advisory Council represents 13,000 educational institutions nationwide. Council members share their expertise and knowledge, advise the company about new products they are testing, and give stakeholder input. Mr. Marcus, who has extensive background in business management and human resources, recently led a webinar for Council members about what it is like to start a school and the stages of its growth.

**Gregg Keer** (11th Grade Dean, History and Senior Seminar teacher), **Beverley Kamenir** (10th Grade Dean, Shoah teacher), and **Dr. Neil Kramer** (Dean of Faculty, History Department Chair) participated in the Centropa Summer Academy. Mr. Keer writes: "The Centropa Summer Academy was the most eye-opening and impactful two weeks of learning I have had as an educator. Led by Director Ed Serotta, the academy guides and presenters showed real passion for and limitlessly enthusiastic insight into Central European Jewish life before, during, and after WWII. During the trip, we visited three cities – Prague, Vienna, and Budapest – in which we wended through the streets and had meetings in government halls. We also engaged in learning sessions with experts, museum specialists, and fellow instructors from around the world as we became more familiar with the film and educational resources provided by the Centropa website. Some of the highlights included walking through the synagogues of Prague, conversing at lunch with survivor Herbert Lewin and seeing dozens of elderly Jewish Austrians (this was perhaps the most powerfully affirmative event), the moving speech of Hannah Lessing (Secretary General of the General Settlement Fund and National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism) at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, and hearing from an irrepressible Hungarian Jew in the Great Synagogue on Dohany Street in Budapest."

The recent 2010 PEJE Assembly (Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education) for Advancing the Jewish Day School Field: "Harnessing Our Power" in Baltimore was well attended by NCJHS staff and members of the Board of Trustees: **Dr. Bruce Powell**, *Head of School*, **Betsy Berger**, *Director of Advancement*, **David Marcus**, *Business Manager*, **Mike Greenfeld**, *President*, **Jodi Perlman**, *Trustee*, **Scott Zimmerman**, *Trustee*. There were over 1,000 attendees representing 250 schools and 40 Jewish federations, foundations, and central agencies for Jewish education from across North America and internationally.



Appleby



Aron



Bodenstein



Marcus

# Alumni

**2006 Adam Feldman** (University of California, San Diego), went to Israel on Birthright. He is finishing his degree in Economics with a minor in International Studies and Accounting. He interns for UBS in La Jolla. After graduation, he plans to pursue getting his CPA designation. **Samantha Greenfeld** transferred from the University of the Pacific and continues her studies at Otis College of Art and Design with a focus in Visual Arts, specifically painting, photography and graphic design. She spent the summer working for BTS communications as a graphic artist and frequently consults with their artists. **Sarah Kneeland** is employed full-time at Roman Sales, a tech firm in Encino. **David Mayman** (BFA, University of the Pacific), is a Graphic Designer at Gensler in San Francisco. His band, *Exhausted Pipes*, plays gigs in NorCal and some of his music can be heard on YouTube. **Caitlin Meskin** (BA, Ohio University), teaches high school biology, chemistry and physics to students with mild mental disabilities, specific learning disabilities, and emotional behavior disabilities at Doss High School in Louisville, Kentucky. She has a teaching license in special education; mild to moderate disabilities and moderate to severe disabilities. **Amy Stein** (BA, University of Colorado, Boulder), is currently a Production Assistant on the hit show JUSTIFIED on FX. She also works at Michael Kors in Topanga Plaza. **Talya Vogel** (B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara), works at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders in Research and Development. She is in the process of co-authoring a soon-to-be-published article and has been asked to present the research at a psychology conference in Seattle and San Francisco this winter and spring.

**2007 Paul Felkai** (University of California, Merced) is an intern this semester at Intel in Silicon Valley working in power and performance testing for mobile technologies and devices. **Michal Kogen** (University of California, Irvine) teaches Hebrew school at a local shul and is active in the Kapa Alpha Theta sorority. She is

working on a research project at UCI for a Professor in the area of comparative politics. She spent a semester junior year in Jerusalem at the Rothberg School at the Hebrew University and lived with two New Jew alums! **Alie Kussin-Shoptaw** (Whitman College) spent a semester in Tasmania, Australia. At school, she was selected to lead the fall weeklong backpacking freshmen orientation. During school breaks, Ali works with the GLBTQ population in West Hollywood and with traumatized foster youth in Ventura County.

**2008 JJ Berthelsen** (University of California, Los Angeles), is majoring in political science, minoring in Scandinavian Studies with his eye on law school. He is co-president of the UCLA chapter of Challah for Hunger. Last summer he went on an adventure trip to Fiji followed by a Hillel-sponsored leadership conference at Washington University in St. Louis. JJ and **Drew Jackson** are starting a website designed to invigorate campus student life. **Jesse Fishman** is our new assistant coach for the Boys Varsity Soccer team. **Sarah Roberts** (University of California, Santa Barbara), is in Barcelona this semester and having a great time attending classes and traveling.

**2009 Bahar Basseri** is one of two Presidents of Pierce College Hillel. As an intern, she works to strengthen Jewish life on campus. She is attending the General Assembly in New Orleans with students from around the country. **Tovah Bigeleisen** (University of California, Davis), taught sailing this summer in Oxnard and San Francisco. She continues her studies in design, and sails for the Davis Sailing Team and has taken on the position of the team's treasurer. **David Feldman** is starting basic training in the Israel Defense Forces for which he has made a 3½ year commitment. He lives on Kibbutz Malkia which is the far northern end of the country, walking distance to Lebanon. **Jake Ferdman** (California State University, Humboldt) is no longer just riding waves, he's making waves on his campus. He launched the new club, "WorldPool," dedicated to "activating minds, voices and bodies to creatively, constructively and collaboratively embetter the

world." Studying art and journalism, Jake received a coveted graphic arts internship at the campus Multicultural Center. **David Greenfeld** (University of California, Berkeley) is applying to Berkeley's Haas school of Business. He works as the campus Head of Marketing for Xtreme Trips and also serves as Vice President of Marketing for the Jewish Business Association. He is a very active member of Sigma Chi fraternity. His Hip-Hop group, *Lyfestile*, has a couple of music videos on Youtube as well as many songs that can be heard on his website. **Rebecca Powell** (University of California, Berkeley) is founder and director of the Jewish a capella group *Kol haDov* (Voice of the Bear). She also sings in the Berkeley women's chorale and is a Hillel leader.

**2010 Ben Berger** is spending a year living in Israel taking the Young Judea year course. He volunteers at a high school tutoring students in English. He took part in the first ever Susan G. Komen race for the Cure in Israel and was interviewed by the *Jerusalem Post*. **Seth Fishman** (Indiana University) recently pledged the ZBT Fraternity. **Andrew Cohen** (Wesleyan University), is studying film and recently visited New York City with his Studio Art Drawing class to draw statues at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He is president of his pledge class for AEPi, and is trying to help the new frat get established on campus. **Karen Kaye** (Allegheny College), is involved in the Orchestis Tap Dance Company, the Art Club, the Movie Club, and Hillel. **Ally Langford** (University of Redlands) voted for the first time in November and appreciates the gift it is. She attributes her understanding of the meaning of voting to her great NCJHS teachers. **Zach Russo** (Indiana University), is a Founding Father at the AEPi Chapter at IU. **Michael Sambol** (University of Denver) joined an international water polo club team and was chosen for the position of goalie. He joined DU's Hillel and is enjoying his class in Japanese. He plans to study abroad in Japan during his junior year. **Gadi Shemesh** and **Hershel Weintrub** recently started their basic training in the Israel Defense Forces after a six-week prep course administered by Aish Machal.

## Parent Organization

**Melanie Prince, Parent Org President**



On behalf of New Community Jewish High School Parent Organization (Parent Org), I am honored to welcome you to the 2010-2011 school year. My family has found a second home at New Jew through the warmth and devotion of students, faculty and parents alike. It has fulfilled our desire for an education that is based upon Jewish values and the continued development of moral character through *tzedakah* and *hesed*. I commend you, our parents, on your decision to have your child attend this wonderful school and I invite you to get involved with our extraordinary parent community.

An all-embracing sense of community weaves together children and teachers, administrators and parents. Through our Faculty Appreciation Committee we are able to provide our terrific staff with a much deserved back to school luncheon and a second semester breakfast. Our Community of Caring Committee comforts families during times of need. Through our sales of Spirit Wear to students and faculty, we enhance our sense of unity. We lovingly welcome our new families through our New Parent Outreach Committee and stand proudly as Parent Ambassadors at Open Houses and orientations.

The Parent Org is dedicated to helping all New Jew parents become informed and contributing members of the school community. I hope you'll find that involvement is a wonderful way to enrich our school, and at the same time, connect to other parents. Our mission is to foster a partnership amongst parents, teachers, and administration, working hand-in-hand with the school to enhance our children's lives. The Parent Org strives to realize this goal by sponsoring programs that address educational and social issues.

Your involvement at any level is greatly valued. Whether you chair an event, serve on a committee, attend a function, or suggest a new initiative, your participation plays a critical role in strengthening our community and your child's experience at New Jew. I am grateful to the many dedicated parent volunteers who I have been fortunate to work alongside with to date. I am looking forward to meeting many of you, as we together strive to build and strengthen our New Jew community.



**Road Ready** – In collaboration with the Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station and the California DMV, the Parent Org. recently hosted an important traffic safety seminar called, "Is Your Teen Road Ready?" This event helped teens and their parents understand the laws, license requirements and restrictions that apply to young drivers. Two teens provided compelling commentary about the horrific consequences of unsafe driving. The event was well attended and two lucky families won free driving instruction donated by local driving schools.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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 Melanie Prince .....*President, Parent Organization*  
 \**Founding President*

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 Rabbi David Vorspan .....*Rabbi-in-Residence*  
 Ellen Howard .....*Principal*  
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7353 Valley Circle Boulevard  
 West Hills, California 91304  
 (818) 348-0048 • [www.ncjhs.org](http://www.ncjhs.org)

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## MISSION

The mission of New Community Jewish High School is to raise up a new generation of Jewish leaders for whom Jewish values and tradition shape and guide their vision, and for whom knowledge creates possibilities for moral action, good character and shalom.

## Calendar of EVENTS

Dec 18-Jan 2 ..... Winter Break  
Jan 3 ..... Alumni Lunch  
Jan 20 ..... Tu B'Shevat  
Feb 1 ..... New Student Applications Due  
Mar 20 ..... Purim  
Mar 31-Apr 3 ..... All School Shabbaton  
Apr 10, 11, 12 ..... Spring Musical  
Apr 16-May 1 ..... Spring Break  
Apr 18-26 ..... Passover  
May 1 ..... Yom Hashoah  
May 9 ..... Yom Hazikaron  
May 10 ..... Yom HaAtzma'ut  
May 17 ..... Arts Fest

### OPEN HOUSE

January 30, 2011 ..... 10:30 am

RSVP online at [www.ncjhs.org](http://www.ncjhs.org)  
Or call Office of Admissions at  
**(818) 348-0048**



**NEW** COMMUNITY  
JEWISH HIGH SCHOOL

**SUNDAY  
MAY 15  
2011**

**Save the date  
NCJHS GALA EVENT**