

מה נשמה

Ma Nishma

COLLEGES...

Is this a Record Year?

By Celeste Morgan,

Director of College Guidance

Formerly, Director of Admissions/ Southern California region for the University of Pennsylvania

"I've heard this year is THE record year..." Such is a frequent conversation starter that takes place in the New Community Jewish High School College Guidance office. Indeed, rarely a week goes by when a major television news program or national magazine does not prominently feature an apocalyptic article on the frenzied nature of college admissions. Universities everywhere report record numbers of academically talented and extra-curricularly adept students. These students seem to have done it all. From acing 10 AP courses, to rebuilding flood-ravaged homes in India all while captaining the football team AND raising thousands of dollars for local charities. And yet, the colleges often profiled as the "dream schools" who are unthinkable rejecting these "perfect" applicants constitute a short list of hyper-selective institutions that YOU, the observer, are encouraged to view as the only schools in the nation where it is possible to receive a quality college education. At NCJHS, we beg to differ. **CONTINUES ON PAGE 6**



Celeste Morgan and Stephan Golas

Stephen Golas

Appointed Associate Director of College Guidance

Mr. Golas brings 8 years experience "on the other side" to the NCJHS College Guidance Department. He previously served as Assistant Dean of Admissions at Pomona College, preceded by admissions officer positions at Mt. Ida College and Tufts University, both in the Boston area. He received his Master's degree in education from Harvard University, and his B.A. from Brown University. At Pomona College, he represented the school on both the east and west coasts and visited a variety of high schools both public and private.

Mr. Golas' vast knowledge, not only of the college applications/admissions process, but of colleges and admissions officials nationwide, is a valuable benefit for NCJHS students. He is able to guide students in making good matches with colleges that fit their academic, social, spiritual, artistic, and/or athletic needs and/or interests. Equally as important, he is helping students prepare applications that truly reflect who they are and how well they will be able to contribute to a particular college or university. *li*

DR. MARC LINDNER NEW DEAN OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

After serving for 5 years as the Director of College Guidance, Dr. Marc Lindner has been appointed as the school's first Dean of Academic Affairs. As Dean, Dr. Lindner is working to ensure that our high quality academic program maintains its excellence. He is also managing our accreditation implementation plan and overseeing Student Life programming, which includes co-curricular programming and Town Hall meetings.

"Thanks to the good work of Dr. Neil Kramer, Dr. Howard Mendelson, and other members of the



Dr. Marc Lindner, Dean of Academic Affairs

NCJHS faculty and administration, this school year we have enhanced our weekly schedule. Working within the enhanced schedule, we're devoting even more time to academic work and we're providing more opportunities for students to evolve as "A+" human beings," announced Dr. Lindner. "Rather than 3 bonus periods, as we had last year, now there are 4. During bonus periods students may receive extra help from teachers, do homework, and in the case of AP classes, they benefit from additional instruction time." Aside from the fourth bonus period, this year there are significantly more mentor

CONTINUES ON PAGE 9

A "New Jew" Prayer for Our National Leaders - See page 3

President's Message: "Dealing with Turbulent Times"



Harold J. Masor,
President
Board of Trustees

In the Spring 2008 edition of *Ma Nishma*, Dr. Powell described New Community Jewish High School as a school of the 21st century – a high school driven by the most profound Jewish and American values ...striving for greatness as defined by the wisdom and traditions of Jewish and world civilizations. The Board of Trustees is guided in its work by these values and the wisdom of our tradition. As we strive for greatness in the 21st century we are and will be confronted with challenging local and community events, such as the unprecedented disruptions to our nation's financial system in the Fall of 2008. In recent months, many individuals have lost large sums of money, retirement funds have been devastated, and many of us are just feeling nervous about the future. And, the volatility in

market indexes has added to the general angst people feel about their own financial position.

The impact that all of this may have on our school has not been lost on our Board of Trustees. We have taken steps in conjunction with Dr. Powell, Head of School, and his senior staff to make sure that we are doing all we can to prepare for and respond to any eventuality no matter how turbulent. The school's financial position is strong. The Board operates using sound business and financial practices. In fact, even though we are doing well compared to our budget for this fiscal year, we have taken steps to reduce unnecessary costs now, and not spend money that we could save for next year. We are positioning the school to deal with the impact of the economic situation while continuing to provide our students with an outstanding education.

Often turbulent times offer powerful teaching moments. A silver lining in the financial cloud provides learning opportunities for our

students who can explore issues of individual responsibility. How did this financial crisis occur and who is responsible? How do you apply the Jewish values that we are teaching our students to these circumstances? There are many pundits on the networks trying to figure this out, but thus far, at least to me, it seems that there is a lot of finger pointing, and very little analysis and soul searching. Our children are watching our country go through its own "*Cheshbon Ha'Nefesh*" or soul search, and they are applying the values and critical thinking that we are teaching them every day at New Community Jewish High School.

As a school of the 21st century, we cannot predict what challenges or opportunities lay ahead. But we do know that our Board of Trustees is steadfast in its commitment to working together with our community to both address challenges and take advantage of opportunities. May we continue to go from strength to strength as we develop stellar students who are also "A+" human beings. ♡

Thank You for your Years of Service



Ms. Elana Rimmon Zimmerman (right), Immediate Past President, and Dr. Bruce Powell (left), Head of School, presented Mr. Howard Farber with an engraved crystal gavel in appreciation for his 6 years of service as Founding President of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Farber (center) also received

a challah cutting board designed by Mr. Benny Ferdman, Artistic Director, for the graduation of our Pioneering Class of 2006.



At her last board meeting, Mr. Harold Masor, incoming President, presented Ms. Elana Rimmon Zimmerman with an engraved *tzedakah* box in appreciation for her 2 years as President of the Board of Trustees. ♡

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Back L-R. Andrew Ligeti (History), Stephan Golas (Assistant Director, College Guidance), Ra'an'an Mallek (Jewish Studies), Jared Stein (Music), Jamie Loes (English), Michal Nitzan (Math), Yonatan Rosner (Jewish Studies), Rinat Zafrani (Health, Peer Counseling). From L-R. Sivan Lipman (Science), Lauren Arbetman (Science), Daphna Maor (Hebrew), Erin Rogers (English), Katherine Karapetian (English), Susan Stelzer (Math).





A “New Jew” Prayer for Our National Leaders

By Dr. Bruce Powell,
Head of School

Our Jewish prayer book, no matter which denomination, includes a special prayer for our United States government and its leaders. In that spirit, I would like to offer a “New Jew” prayer for our new President-elect, his

advisors, and our Congress. It is patterned after our school’s vision of the ideal graduate that connects to the Talmud. In the section called Masechet Shabbat, Rava points out that there are six sets of questions a person is asked in the hour he or she is to be judged. The themes of those questions are in quotes.

★ May our American leaders engage in thoughtful acts of world repair, acting with integrity, honesty, and wisdom. May they be “honest in business.”

★ Bless our leaders with the understanding that learning is vital to governing, and to recognize that the use of powerful knowledge must be guided by more powerful values and inspired moral imagination. May they make “a set time to study.”

★ May our leaders appreciate and accept their obligation to strengthen all facets of community life, respecting the

magnificent ideals, religions, ethnicities, and unique visions within this wonderful melting pot we all call America. May they “raise up community.”

★ May God empower our leaders to engender within our nation a sense of hope, joy, self-confidence, personal meaning, and passion for life and peace. May we be a “light unto the nations.”

★ May our leaders be critical, synthetic, and evaluative thinkers as they strive to judge and act in a complex world. May they “act with wisdom.”

★ May God bless our leaders with the desire to search for the deeper meaning in life and to determine that which is truly important. May they “understand a big thing from a small thing.”

★ And may the wings of the *shekhina* guard and protect those who guard and protect this grand vision, this unique colossus of freedom we call the United States of America. ❧

ADMISSIONS DEPARTMENT EXPANDS

The Admissions Department welcomes Ms. Michelle November (left) as our new Associate Director of Admissions. Ms. November joins Ms. Jill Zuckerman (right), Director of Admissions, and Ms. Joyce Ritch (center), Admissions Assistant, in the department which has been expanded to meet the increased needs of our rapidly growing school. “The addition of a second Admissions professional will enable us to expand the customized service and individualized attention we offer for prospective students and their parents. We pride ourselves on our commitment to being accessible to address each family’s specific questions and concerns about our admissions process,” says Ms. Zuckerman, the school’s admissions director since its inception.

Ms. November brings to NCJHS, extensive academic and professional experience in community organization and programming with outstanding passion and skills in the field of Jewish education. She served as Program and Membership Director at Stephen S. Wise Temple for 16 years and was a pioneer in the Development Department at Heschel West Day School. Ms. November received her M.A. in Social Work at Columbia University, and her B.A. at the University of California, Berkeley. When asked what she likes best about working at NCJHS, Ms. November replied, “I have spent my professional career connecting Jews to Judaism through meaningful Jewish experiences. Among the most meaningful for young people is a Jewish high school experience. NCJHS offers teens a roadmap – academically, spiritually, socially - with which they can navigate the unique challenges of adolescence. I love that NCJHS offers a safe environment for students to explore who they are and who they want to become. Our faculty catches students when they fall, embraces them, and encourages them to stretch and grow as human beings.” ❧



Who is rich?



Rabbi David Vorspan
Rabbi-in-Residence

We've been studying Pirkei Avot (Ethics of our Fathers) in my Senior Seminar. A quote from Rabbi Hillel gave us pause: "Who is rich? He who is happy with what he has!"

One of the students questioned if this was such a good thing: "How are we to progress if we're always content with what we have?" she asked.

I responded that there is a difference between being satisfied with the status quo and never working to improve and grow on the one hand, and being happy with the things we have for which there really isn't any good reason to improve, on the other.

But then I noticed that an updated version of my computer had just come out.

It occurred to me that it was a lot easier to be satisfied with what we had if we lived during the time of Rabbi Hillel. Two thousand years ago items didn't improve much. A donkey was a donkey, a fireplace a fireplace. Today, planned obsolescence leaves us with cars, computers, software, hardware, stoves, microwaves, BBQs, stereo equipment—in fact, all sorts of things that can quickly become dated.

How are we ever to be happy with what we have if newer, flashier, fancier, better versions are produced every three months?

As we discussed this problem in class, one student shared what he thought was the best response: He reminded us about Sukkot.

True, it had been months since we had departed from the Sukkah, but the memories and the lessons lingered on. Most sukkot are rather bare—a table and some chairs. No TV, VCR, phone, computer, air conditioning. And yet we are happy and content. Why? Because we are surrounded by family and friends. We have a nice meal. We hear the crickets chirp. And while there aren't any of the conveniences we're used to, there also isn't anything in the Sukkah that can become outdated.

In the Sukkah, we remember what is truly essential in life, and what are mere luxuries. During the months following Sukkot, we can draw on those memories to realize where contentedness resides: not on the shelves of your favorite electronics store, but within the people in our lives that truly give us joy.

Boys Cross Country Team



The Boys Cross Country Team, coached by Benny Ferdman and Andrew Ligeti, finished second in the Westside league and qualified for the playoffs but did not participate in playoff games which were held on Shabbat. The team won the league's Sportsmanship Award for the fourth year in a row!

Girls Varsity Volleyball Qualified for CIF Playoffs



The Girls Varsity Volleyball Team, coached by Scott James, qualified for the CIF playoffs for the first time ever! Although they did not win their first playoff game against Lucerne Valley High School, the team played 3 very close and competitive games, losing by just a couple of points each game.

Raising of the Israeli Flag



On September 28, 2008, NCJHS students, along with our EIEP Israeli student guests from Tichon Hadash, were on hand to witness the historic raising of the Israeli flag in front of the Israeli Consulate's office building on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles. Following the ceremonies, student leaders presented L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa with a school t-shirt (left photo) and chatted with Mr. Jacob Dayan (right photo), Consul General of Israel.

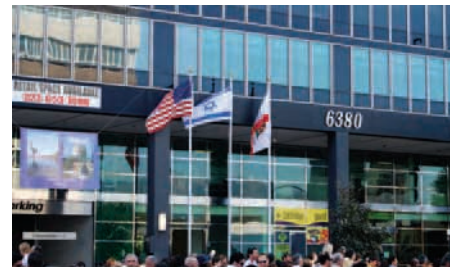
Launching Boys & Girls Swim Team This Spring

Thanks to a generous contribution from Ellie & David Sambol (NCJHS parents and Ellie is a Trustee), NCJHS will be launching both a girls and boys swim team this coming spring. Coaches will be Keren Romm and Sivan Lipman.

Girls JV Volleyball Finishes Second



The Girls JV Volleyball Team, coached by Sivan Lipman, finished second in the Westside league. The girls volleyball program has made huge strides in establishing itself as a very strong element of the athletic program. Throughout the season, NCJHS opponents, their coaches and fans repeatedly complimented both of our Girls Volleyball Teams for their sportsmanship.




Israel's flag proudly waves in front of its new home on Wilshire Boulevard.



Science Academy




Dr. Charles Meshul, Research Biologist Director at the Electron Microscopy Facility/Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience and Pathology at the Oregon Health and Science University shows Science Academy Colloquium students a human brain during his presentation on “The Amazing Brain- How disease and Experience Affects Brain Structure and Function. Other first trimester speakers included Dr. Irving Beiderman, Professor of Neuroscience at University of Southern California; Drs. John and Janice Baldwin, Professors of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara; Ian Blumenthal, Ph.D. candidate, Researcher from the Linear Accelerator Center at Stanford; and Marcie Tarle, RN, Nurse Educator. 

Peer Counseling Program




Seventeen eleventh and twelfth grade students are participating in a new Peer Counseling program this year, facilitated by Rinat Zafrani. This first semester, students are first getting to know themselves and each other. Then they are being trained to reach out to their peers who are

experiencing typical issues where a high school student needs support. Students will not be providing therapy; rather, they are learning how to actively listen to help others make a decision without giving advice. When ready, second semester, they will begin providing support to their peers.

New to NCJHS this year, Ms. Zafrani is completing her master’s degree in school counseling and her Pupil Personnel Credential at Phillips Graduate School. She received her B.A. at NYU and has worked in the Jewish community in a variety of capacities for the past 10 years. 


Wellness

Wellness is the focus of a new class at NCJHS for ninth graders. Groups of about 30 students meet for 16 classes with Health Educator Rinat Zafrani, to discuss their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Topics include peer pressure, self image, hygiene, healthy relationships, drugs and alcohol, nutrition, fitness, and sexually transmitted diseases. The goal of the class is to empower students to become responsible young adults who are able to make informed choices. 

Town Hall Speakers

Our Veteran’s Day program began with a moment of silence to pay tribute to soldiers who have sacrificed for our country through service in wars. The featured guest speaker was Mr. Moshe Brodetsky, a veteran of both World War II and Israel’s War for Independence. He spoke to our student body about his experiences defending our two countries—America and Israel. When asked by a student what the most important thing he’s gotten from all his experiences, he replied, “Keep the faith and keep fighting!” Following a 6 month stay in Israel, he plans to return to NCJHS to ask students what they have been doing during the past 6 months. Mr. Brodetsky (second from right) is pictured with Principal, Ms. Ellen Howard (left), Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Marc Lindner (right), and a student who helped plan the program.



Professor Stephen M. Berk, renowned scholar and captivating speaker, visited our campus for a second time in recent years. He is Professor of History at Union College in New York, Director of the Program in Russian and Eastern European Studies, author, and esteemed lecturer who receives rave reviews from audiences throughout the country. He spoke to our students about challenges facing Israel, specifically claims made by both Israelis and Palestinians from a historic perspective, the threat from Iran, and the importance of Israel for Jews in the Diaspora. Following his talk, students gathered around him to ask additional questions. 

Q & A With Celeste Morgan, Director of College Guidance



After serving as Associate Director, for 1 year, Ms. Morgan was appointed Director of College Guidance this year.

What are the most common questions you receive from students and parents about the college application process?

A. Students are curious about procedural issues such as application components and essay topics, worried about adhering to deadlines, and concerned about how they will appear to colleges. Our department helps students organize their application process, select schools that match their profile, and brainstorm appropriate essay

topics. We partner with the English Department to review and edit students' essays. We also encourage students to do interviews with college representatives and conduct mock interviews in advance.

Parents want to be sure that their child is applying to "enough" schools and that their child's application is "good enough." They are also curious about financial aid options. For most students, we recommend they apply to ten to twelve schools so that they can have a range of options (the UCs would count as ONE school). We review students' applications to make sure that they have answered all of the questions and that their essays best reflect their passions and/or who they really are. To assist families with financial aid options, we host two sessions with an outside expert (see box on page 8).

Q. How is your prior experience as Director of Admissions/Southern California Region at the University of Pennsylvania beneficial to our students?

A. First, I have seen how colleges at the most selective levels differentiate student applicants as well as which personal factors receive the most "face time" in admissions committees. I apply that experience in guiding our students. Second, networking is an extremely important part of this profession. Relationships I have built with former colleagues on the admissions side translate into more college visits to our campus and a greater awareness of the good work we are doing at NCJHS. This year, more than 40 college admissions officers visited NCJHS to meet in small groups with juniors and seniors.

Q. What are some of the uniquenesses of the NCJHS college guidance department?

A. Our college guidance staff focus 100% on college guidance. Staff do not have other duties as is common at other high schools. Our ratio of approximately 50 seniors per college guidance counselor allows us to provide highly individualized guidance for our students. Our letters of recommendation from both teachers and college guidance counselors are highly personalized and colleges take note of this. The feedback we receive from colleges is that they felt our students appropriately applied to schools that "fit" them. A good fit equals good guidance on our part.

More information about the college application process can be found on our website at www.ncjhs.org.

NCJHS CASE STUDY PROGRAM

Each spring, NCJHS has sponsored a College Case Study evening for Juniors and their parents to participate in mock admissions-committee sessions, and ask questions of college admissions officers. This year, we are pleased to announce that we will partner with 8 local independent schools to offer a larger program. Over 50 admissions representatives from selective colleges and universities across the country will attend this program to engage in mock admissions-committee sessions with parents and students. There will also be a college fair at the end of the program. The program will allow participants to meet and get information from the admissions professionals who make admissions decisions on behalf of students in the Los Angeles area. This is THE most important college guidance-related program in the Junior year to be held on the evening of May 13th at Sierra Canyon High School. More specific details will be provided by the college guidance office in the coming months. *ℓ*

Record Year Continued from Page 1

There are approximately 3,500 colleges and universities in America. Across this larger pool of accredited institutions, selectivity varies widely. Though there are a small group of schools who "boast" admission rates of under 20%, according to the National Association of College Admission Counseling's 2006 State of College Admission Report, "the average selectivity rate, or percent of applicants offered admission, at four-year colleges and universities in the United States is 70 percent."

The truth? There's plenty of space for everyone, and opportunities await you in college beyond anything you can imagine as you sit down to write your college essay. Though the reality that the US is fortunate to have a system of higher education that can serve the needs of its population and beyond may not be sensational enough to make the evening news, it is information that we shout from the rooftops at NCJHS. By virtue of graduating from high school in America, you have already been afforded a tremendous advantage: you will have the option to go to college. With that truth in mind, please enjoy the college exploration and application process and look past the cultural pressures to select a school based on name or rank.

As we work with each student throughout the application process, one of the most important areas we focus on is the formation of a college list that truly reflects his or her individual needs and interests. Such lists often include "reach" schools, "target" schools, and "likely" schools, all in an effort to create options for the student as the application cycle comes to a close. More important than categories however, is whether or not each school, regardless of selectivity, truly fits the student's personality and intellectual goals. In many cases, this fit may be with a highly selective college or university, perhaps even one that is frequently highlighted on the news. In all cases, our students who choose to go through this process with an open mind, strong sense of self, and willingness to move beyond the hype, find themselves excited about the future that lies ahead—and truly ready to make a difference with the next four years of their lives. These students and their families are proud to say that they survived "THE" record year in college admissions, and will soon embark on the next phase of their academic and personal development at an institution that truly fits their needs, rather than the needs the media suggests they should have. Back in the College Guidance Department office at NCJHS, we couldn't be more proud. *ℓ*



MAZAL TOV!

TO THE THIRD PIONEERING GRADUATING CLASS OF NEW COMMUNITY JEWISH HIGH SCHOOL

Our third pioneering graduates are our "nation builders." In Judaism, when something happens for the third time, it is then assumed that whatever has happened is a permanent legacy. So too with our third class. It is this class that has solidified our school's status as a permanent educational institution within the greater Los Angeles community. They have fully established the "nation" of New Community Jewish High School!

THE CLASS OF 2008

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Erin Albright | Cara Dijji | Jamie Greenberg | Alexis Liebert | Gino Shemesh |
| Robert Alon | Danielle Drucker | Michael Gruberger | Kristine Lupoff | Ceevan Sherman |
| Sheree Asher | Maya Efrati | Lindsay Hadash | Alex Massman | Danielle Siegel |
| Paige Bakman | Zachary Eisenberg | Beirith Harvey | Drew Mendleson | Chava Silver |
| Eric Bard | Adam Evenhaim | Daniel Hirsty | Maxwell Mittelman | Ryan Snyder |
| Miles Beard | Hannah Farber | Glenna Horowitz | Marissa Morin | Rosalie Spindel |
| Lauren Bendik | Alex Fard | Morgan Horowitz | Melanie Murray | Rebecca Stanley |
| Edan Ben-Moshe | Jesse Fishman | Drew Jackson | Tess Neumann | Julia Steinberg |
| Jorgen Berthelsen IV | Sara Fligelman | Micah Kantrowitz | Karen Ohayon | Orel Tal |
| Caitlyn Bevans | Jasper Gadi | Carmel Kaspi | Hilary Peters | Jonathan Toker |
| Nicole Birenbaum | Andrea Gero | Alana Kauffman | Sam Preminger | Eliezer Vogel |
| Stefanie Bromberg | Tracy Gilmour | Chelsea Kauffman | Jonathan Reisfeld | Michelle Weiser |
| Audrey Bruner | Daniel Glik | Daniella Kaufman | Sarah Roberts | Deborah Wentz |
| Danielle Burstein | Lianna Gliksman | Michael Kirschenbaum | Maya Ron | Chloe West |
| Mitch Cohen | Aaron Goldman | Molly Kossoff | Danielle Sauer | Neila Woff |
| Attar Dagan | Graham Goldman | Elizabeth Kraemer | Yoni Scharf | Julia Zaga |
| Maya Dagmi | Taylor Goldman | Michelle Kricheff | Courtnie Schwartz | |
| Adam Dershowitz | Aliana Greenberg | Alyssa Landau | Benjamin Shear | |

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES FOR THE CLASSES OF 2006, 2007 AND 2008

Alfred University • Allegheny College • American Jewish University • American University • Antioch College • Arizona State University • Art Institute of California • Bard College • Barnard College • Beloit College • Ben Gurion University • Boston University • Brandeis University • Cal Arts • Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo • Cal Poly, Pomona • Cal State Northridge • Cal State Channel Islands • Cal State Chico • Cal State Fresno • Cal State Fullerton • Cal State Long Beach • Cal State Los Angeles • Cal State Monterey Bay • Cal State Sacramento • Cal State San Marcos • California Lutheran University • Carleton College • Case Western University • Chapman University • Claremont McKenna College • College of Wooster • Colorado State University • Cornell College • Curry College • DePaul University • Dickinson College • Drew University • Drexel University • Earlham College • Eckerd College • Embry Riddle Aeronautical University • Eugene Lang College of the New School • Evergreen State College • Fairleigh Dickinson University • Fordham University • Franklin and Marshall College • George Washington University • Goucher College • Grinnell College • Guilford College • Hampshire College • Haverford College • Hillsdale College • Hobart and William Smith Colleges • Hofstra University • Humboldt State • Indiana University, Bloomington • Ithaca College • James Madison University • Johns Hopkins University • Juniata College • Kalamazoo College • Knox College • Lafayette College • Lake Forest College • Lehigh University • Lewis and Clark College • Macalester College • Manhattanville College • McDaniel College • Miami University (Ohio) • Michigan State University • Mills College • Mount St. Mary's College • New York University • Northeastern University • Northern Arizona University • Occidental College • Ohio University • Oregon State University • Pitzer College • Portland State University • Pratt School of Engineering • Purdue University • Rutgers University • San Diego State University • San Francisco State University • San Jose State University • Sarah Lawrence College • School of the Museum of Fine Arts • Simmons College • Sonoma State University • Stanford University • Syracuse University • Towson University • Tufts University • Tulane University • UC Berkeley • UC Davis • UC Irvine • UC Los Angeles • UC Merced • UC Riverside • UC San Diego • UC Santa Barbara • UC Santa Cruz • Union College • University of Arizona • University of Colorado Boulder • University of Denver • University of Kansas • University of Maryland • University of Massachusetts • University of Miami • University of Michigan • University of Missouri • University of Nevada, Las Vegas • University of New Hampshire • University of Oregon • University of Pennsylvania • University of Portland • University of Puget Sound • University of Redlands • University of Rochester • University of Southern California • University of Texas, Austin • University of the Pacific • University of Toronto • University of Washington • University of Wisconsin, Madison • Washington State University • Washington University in St. Louis • Whitman College • Whittier College • Willamette University • Nativ • Israel Defense Forces • Young Judaea Year Course



7353 VALLEY CIRCLE BLVD, WEST HILLS, CA
(818) 348-0048 • WWW.NCJHS.ORG

Accredited by WASC and the Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater LA • Beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of Greater LA

STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to the following students who were the Grades 9-12 winners in the Fifth Annual Jewish Students' Creative Writing Contest sponsored by Jews for Judaism. The theme of the contest was "An Awesome Act of Kindness:" **EVAN CHOATE** (1st Place), and **DANIEL PASTERNAK** (2nd Place). Seven of eight finalists were also NCJHS students: **ROEE ASTOR, KEREN BEN-MOSHE, JAZMIN ESULIN, JOSHUA KOSOF, GILA KREITENBERG, HANNAH MACIAS,** and **BRAD REINFELD.**



Last spring, the tenth grade **HONORS ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY** and **AP BIOLOGY** classes visited the UCLA Medical Center to tour several labs, including Nuclear Medicine, the Hyperbaric Chamber, and Simulated Anesthesiology. In the afternoon the group suited up like medical doctors and watched –and some actually assisted – in a real autopsy.

This summer, **STEVEN SHINBANE, BAHAR BASSERI,** and **JOSHUA ROBIN** were 3 of 15 Los Angeles high school students who participated in the 2008 Diller Teen Fellows Program in Israel, along with 200 other teens from the US and Israel. They participated in leadership and community service projects that strengthened their Jewish identity. While on an archaeological dig, Stephen and a friend uncovered an ancient urn, fully intact. It was quite a find for the site and the artifact has been sent directly to a museum in Jerusalem for cataloging. Steven, Bahar, and Josh all agree that, "To make a difference requires you to actively participate by learning, doing, and leading."



Mr. Uri Allen, former Jewish Studies teacher is currently in graduate school in Israel. He met up with NCJHS students in Jerusalem. ♡



NCJHS Financial Aid Workshops

Senior Parents and Students: please join us for part two of our financial aid workshop series on December 14th from 10am to 12noon. David Levy, Director of Financial Aid at Scripps College, will continue his explanation of the financial aid process by guiding families in completing the various financial aid forms including the FAFSA and the CSS Profile. The first part of his workshop was held on October 26th when Mr. Levy outlined the financial aid process and how the financial aid system works. ♡

GROWTH IN STUDENT CLUBS

Since the inception of the school, students have been responsible for creating clubs that meet their interests. This year, in addition to interest clubs such as American Politics, Film, Music Appreciation, Philosophy, and others, our students have created or expanded clubs that work to make our world a better place. Students are working at a professional level to both enhance community awareness about a variety of pressing global issues, and to raise funds to support various causes.

Students in the **CHEVREI TZEDEK CLUB** demonstrate their commitment to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) by researching a variety of social issues and creating action and educational programs to address the issues. Students and their faculty advisor, Mr. Etan Kelman (top right), recently participated in AIDS Walk L.A. They raised \$2,000 to support AIDS research.



Students in the **CANCER AWARENESS CLUB** recently educated the student body about cancer. Last spring the Club raised \$5,300 for the children of the Division of Hematology/Oncology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. The hospital was unaware of the students' fundraising efforts and, in addition to being appreciative of the unsolicited donation, they opened their doors for NCJHS students to spend time visiting with children undergoing cancer treatment.

The **HISPANIC OUTREACH CLUB** ACOH (Acercándonos a la Comunidad Hispana) just completed a candy collection project to benefit impoverished children.



Student leaders of the **ISRAEL ADVOCACY CLUB** attended the AIPAC Schusterman Advocacy Institute High School Summit, in Washington D.C. to learn more about the political relationship

between Israel and the United States, and how high school students can advocate for Israel. Together with other students from Los Angeles, they lobbied Congressman Waxman's staffer on foreign policy. It was reassuring to see how incredibly pro-Israel she was, and to know that our Representative is a strong supporter of Israel. Students pose in front of Capitol and were photographed by Club advisor, Mr. Yossi Korach.

SAFES (Student Alliance For Environmental Sustainability) president holds a carbon offset certificate from Carbonfund.org presented to NCJHS to offset 40 tons of CO2. SAFES is committed to causes that protect and help the environment, such as the school recycling program. ♡



DR. MARC LINDNER NEW DEAN OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Continued from Page 1

meetings, grade-level meetings, and town hall meetings. Each mentor meeting involves groups of 10-15 students and a mentor teacher. A variety of issues relevant to NCJHS students, with an overlay of Jewish values, are discussed. Grade-level meetings are used for discussion of grade-specific programs (academic, co-curricular, and experiential) and concerns.

Town Hall meetings are for the entire student body. Student involvement in these meetings has been enhanced this year, giving them an opportunity to speak in a public forum to an audience of over 450 people. At our first Town Hall meeting of the year, three students, Ava Rubin, Cara Coren, and Rachel Kipnes delivered prepared remarks about their personal interpretations of being an "A+" human being. On a number of other occasions, students delivered speeches about issues relevant to the 2008 US Presidential election—the economy, health care, and national security. Student speakers on these issues were Greg Zuckerman, Ben Feldman, Zack Foster, Evan Zimmerman, Adam Askenaizer, and Kenneth Schneider. At another Town Hall, students from Mr. Shpall's AP Government class delivered speeches in favor of one of the US Presidential candidates. Among those presenting were Keren Ben-Moshe, Edon Alkalay, Roeve Astor, Rachel Wallace, Ava Rubin, and Cory Levy.

In the end, more time for academic work and character development is proving helpful in our ongoing quest to maximize the comprehensiveness and profundity of each NCJHS student's education. ♪

Technology Update

NCJHS now has about half of our classrooms outfitted with ceiling projectors so that teachers can project from their computer or internet during lessons. We have recently added ceiling projectors to 4 additional classrooms on campus. Our Workspace for students, parents, and teachers has really blossomed over the past year and now has over 70 "Virtual Classrooms" where teachers post material for their classrooms. Some teachers post their handouts and homework assignments. Other teachers are using their classroom websites for innovative projects such as: Classroom WIKIs where students create and edit each other's writing; recordings and/or presentations of lessons that students can review; language assignments where students listen to snippets of discussions in foreign languages and record themselves speaking in foreign languages; online discussion boards where students can post questions for teachers and/or classmates and get help. Our Tablet PC program continues to evolve. Several faculty use Tablet PCs in their classrooms which allow them to "write" directly on their laptop screen and project it on to the whiteboard. Teachers can then save their lesson notes and post them on to their online, "Virtual Classroom." ♪

Welcoming New Parents



Michael Greenfeld (Board Executive V.P.) holds *havdallah* candle while his wife, Cantor Judy Greenfeld (on guitar), leads the singing of blessings at the annual New Parent *Havdallah*. Held in June, this event brings new parents together in an intimate outdoor setting prior to the beginning of the upcoming school year. Faculty and staff are also on hand to mingle and introduce themselves to parents.



The New Parent Orientation welcomed new parents into the NCJHS community and explained the responsibilities of being a member of our community. Held while 9th graders were away on their retreat in late August, Dr. Powell began by relaying some of the same values-laden information he shares with the 9th graders and how parents can further promote these values. Principal, Ms. Ellen Howard, talked about parenting teens, school homework, and making friends, a common concern of high school students. Ms. Tammy Shpall, 9th Grade Dean, described the retreat program. Parents were then divided into smaller groups to meet each other and ask questions. Group facilitators were current and alumni NCJHS parents who also talked about the school's support system, getting involved in school activities, communication, and other school logistics. ♪



Biotechnology & Jewish Ethics

Students in the Biotechnology class engage in cutting-edge scientific exploration of DNA science. They perform labs to learn how to use DNA information to help humankind, similarly to the way insulin was created to help diabetics. Students gain a working knowledge of this cutting-edge science while simultaneously understanding the moral responsibility that comes with it. Some issues discussed include cloning, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and DNA fingerprinting. A highlight of the course is a visit by Rabbi Elliot Dorff, Rector and Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at American Jewish University, who speaks to students about ethics and biotechnology. ♪

Experiential Education



10th Grade Class Trip

The 10th grade class trip was a thrilling 3-night outdoor First Aid Rescue Adventure at Camp Whittier in the Santa Barbara mountains. Students were certified in First Aid and used their

skills in exciting rescue scenarios, as pictured above. Students received hands-on instruction from expert staff and learned how to respond to emergency calls and treat and transport volunteer patients (each other) with realistic looking wounds. The culminating event was a staged drunk-driving multi-casualty bus crash. "The combination of fun, excitement, and real life skills is highly effective in promoting team-building and class unity as well as student confidence," says Mark Shpall, Director of Experiential Education.

9th Grade Retreat

One by one, ninth graders helped each other scale the 50 foot climbing wall at Brandeis-Bardin in Simi Valley, site of the annual Ninth Grade Retreat. The 2-night 3-day retreat is held the week before school starts to introduce students to each other, faculty, and NCJHS culture. Team building activities, such as the climbing wall, break down barriers that naturally exist when a new group of teenagers meet for the first time. The first day of school for the students begins with hugs rather than apprehension.



L-R. Mr. Yisrael Vilozny, Head of Upper Division at Tichon Hadash in Tel Aviv, Mr. Yoav Ben Horin, Director of Global Jewish Education, Ms. Beverley Kamenir, 10th Grade Dean

the best experience of my lifetime!" "I can't find the words to express how I feel." "You're my best friends forever." "We are all Jewish brothers and sisters." "I could be myself everyday because no one judges you." "We came out of this experience with so much more than we came in with." NCJHS students depart for Israel in February for their 3-month stay.

Extended Israel Exchange Program

The send-off assembly for our Israeli buddies who were here for 3 months as part of the Extended Israel Exchange Program was heart-wrenching for students and faculty alike. One by 1, or 3 at a time, both American and Israeli girls and boys stood up in front of their class of 117 + 16 Israelis and tearfully proclaimed, "This was the


Argentina Exchange Program Launches



At the mouth of the breathtaking Igazu Falls near Buenos Aires, student pioneers of the Argentina Exchange program watched the water cascade down hundreds of feet in La Garganta del Diablo, or the Devil's Throat. Students from partner school Tarbut High School, will visit NCJHS early next year to complete the exchange.

11th Graders Visit The South



Just two weeks following our country's historic election of an African American President, our eleventh graders met face-to-face with reverends, black and white, who were on the front lines of the struggle for civil rights in America. Our students learned about the reverends' actions, their friendship with Dr. Martin Luther King, and their thoughts about our President-Elect. This experiential trip brought to life what students are learning this year in U.S. History, including an examination of the influence of Jews on the U.S. Civil Rights movement. Students, their Dean, Gregg Keer, and 8 other teachers, including Keren Romm, Director of Jewish Life, went from Atlanta, Georgia, to Memphis, Tennessee, with stops in Alabama and Mississippi along the way, talking with and learning from these remarkable American heroes. 

We are pleased to announce

THE EXPANSION OF OUR GLOBAL JEWISH EDUCATION ISRAEL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

with the addition of a third school, Gymnasia Herzliya, in Tel Aviv. The first group of Israelis arrived for their 2-week stay beginning the week of Thanksgiving.

Our Israel Exchange programs are generously supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles LA-Tel Aviv Partnership Program, the J. Samuel Harwit, Z"L, and Manya Harwit-Aviv Charitable Trust, and the Jay C. and Freya Miller Foundation.

FACULTY NEWS



DR. NEIL KRAMER (left, Dean of Faculty, History) introduces his “Senior Seminar” class to Mr. Edward Serotta, Founder and Director of Centropa, and resident of Austria. As one of Centropa’s pilot American Jewish high school teachers, Dr. Kramer participated in Centropa’s Berlin

Summer Institute. He and other teachers worked with archivists, researchers, and filmmakers so that their resulting digital media products could be produced in a way that was optimally useful for teachers. Dr. Kramer uses Centropa materials to expose his students to the complex choices and challenges facing European Jews in the Danube Valley between the revolutions of 1848 and the fall of Communism. To learn more about Centropa, please visit www.centropa.org.

JENN WALLACE (Science) and **DANIEL TUREK** (Math) bicycled 2,569 miles south along the U.S. Continental Divide, from the Canadian Border down to Mexico! They camped, collected ground water, and periodically stopped into towns to re-supply their food, for a total of 60 days. It was a beautiful and life-changing experience for both of them!



Following in the footsteps of former and founding Executive Administrator, Ms. Evi Klein, would be no easy task for anyone. For **JAMIE BETH SCHINDLER**, it is a welcomed opportunity. She and her husband Sam Schindler moved to California in 2007 for him to assume a teaching position here in our History Department. After having been welcomed into the NCJHS community as the spouse of a faculty member last year, she is thrilled to now be part of an organization “where everyone really wants to be there everyday. It is both professionally and personally

rewarding,” says Ms. Schindler. She is the liaison to the Tuition Assistance Committee, Alumni Coordinator, liaison to the Board of Trustees, liaison to the school’s Mitzvah Committee, and executive assistant to the Head of School. She has spent her professional career in the nonprofit sector working in the arts and education. She is currently working towards a graduate degree in Higher Education Administration from Baruch College, City University of New York. She earned a B.A. at George Mason University in Virginia.

On September 21, 2008, we bid a tearful good-bye to **MS. EVI KLEIN**, our Executive Administrator for more than 8 years. She recently married her high school sweetheart, Myer Herszberg, and moved back to her hometown in Australia. Ms. Klein was the second NCJHS employee. She worked closely with all school employees, students and families as well as with many of our outside vendors. Her sincere dedication to our school, immense pride in our accomplishments, and loving devotion to our students and their families contributed greatly to our success over the years. Dr. Bruce Powell presented Evi with the “*Eshet Hayil*-A Woman of Valor,” prayer husbands recite to their wives on Shabbat. In addition, we have established in her honor, the Evi Klein *Eshet Hayil* Scholarship Fund. ♡



DR. BRUCE POWELL, Head of School, and **ELANA RIMMON ZIMMERMAN** (Immediate past President) were 2 of 7 participants at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem last summer for a special program for Heads of Schools and board presidents on the topic of Jewish Pluralism in our community high schools. Heads of schools from Australia to New York attended this 8-day study session where they learned Talmudic sources of pluralism and brought current cases from their schools to the group for discussion.

RABBI TSAFREER LEV (Director of Jewish Studies) has been appointed to the Board of Directors for Encino Hospital. During the summer he taught two Master’s classes at American Jewish University.

RABBI BENJAMIN RESNICK (Jewish Studies) and his family spent a week at Camp Ramah Ojai and a week at Camp Alonim this past summer where he served as Rabbi-in-Residence.

SUZY JONES BOOKBINDER (Director of Advancement) and her husband, Stephen, were the co-chairs of the Camp Ramah Winter Event honoring Ilana and Mark Meskin.

DR. BILL ARON (Photography) participated in an interfaith colloquium on spiritual imagery at the Pacific Asia Museum, sponsored by Fuller Seminary, showing his photographic work. He also spoke and showed his work in Oklahoma City at the Oklahoma City Jewish Community. He is intensely involved in a project which focuses on cancer survivors who have not let a diagnosis of cancer prevent them from living their lives to its fullest. The ensuing book and exhibition will serve as an inspiration to others who are diagnosed with cancer as well as to the people in their lives who are affected by that diagnosis.

SAM SCHINDLER (History) and **MATTHEW VACCA** (History) attended a week-long workshop in June at Emory University on the study of modern Israel.

ROGER BLONDER’S short film, “Wonder Water Web,” was invited to screen in the 2009 Wild & Scenic Touring Film Festival which will screen in 100 theaters throughout the US next year. It was also invited to screen in the EcoFocus Film Festival in Athens, Georgia in October.

Mazal Tov to **DINA NELSON** (Dance Team, Modern Dance) on her acceptance to dance with the Keshet Chaim Israeli Dance Company. She joins **ERICA GOLDMAN** (Israeli Dance) who has already been dancing with, and choreographing for, the company for some time.

W. ELLEN FLEISCHMANN (Choir, Musical Theatre, Drama) was recently re-certified in SCUBA, and went on a Southern Caribbean cruise. She also recently acquired her Life Insurance License and passed the Series 7 and Series 66 securities examinations. ♡

ADVANCEMENT

GRANTS UPDATE

We gratefully acknowledge the **S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION'S** December 2007 grant for general operations, which continues to support need-based scholarships; this \$10,000 grant will help us achieve our important goal of removing financial barriers for all qualified students who want to attend New Community Jewish High School. 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.

Our appreciation goes to the Trustees of the **J. SAMUEL HARWIT, Z"l, AND MANYA HARWIT-AVIV** Charitable Trust for its continuing support of our Israel Exchange Program. Earlier this fall we received a \$25,000 grant from the Trust, part of a \$100,000 commitment to help operate and sustain this essential Israel experience for our students.

The Israel Exchange programs also received a generous grant of \$2,000 from the **JAY C. & FREYA MILLER FOUNDATION**, to be used to underwrite scholarships for Israel program participants.

We thank the **AVI CHAI FOUNDATION** for its continuing support of our Shabbatonim program. Each year since 2005, AVI CHAI has joined with NJCHS to provide extraordinary Shabbat experiences for all of our students. We anticipate that once again this year new NJCHS students who came to us from public and secular private middle schools will receive several specially selected Judaic books from the **AVI CHAI FOUNDATION'S STARTER LIBRARY PROGRAM**.

Parent Partnership Annual Campaign



(L-R) Ms. Marcia Weingarten, President, Parent Organization, Mr. Garry Fishman, Ms. Melinda Feldman, Ms. Ellie Sambol, Parent Partnership Campaign Co-Chairs

The 2008-2009 Parent Partnership Campaign is underway to support *Today's Promise and Tomorrow's Sustainability*. We anticipate 100% participation from our parents, grandparents, board, faculty, staff and alumni to achieve our goal of \$325,000.

Our Parent Partnership Campaign is led by Melinda Feldman, Ellie Sambol, Garry Fishman, Marcia Weingarten as Parent Organization President and Susan Hirsch Goldfarb as Board of Trustees Advancement Vice President.

The committee members include Jeri and Ira Cohen, Judy and Dr. Neil Einbund, Jacqueline and Keith Elkins, Molly and Mark Goldberg, Karen and Danny Howard, Marcie and Stuart Lipsett, Jodi and Greg Perlman, Cynthia and David Roberts, Michael Rubin, Phyllis and Mark Shinbane, Ellen and Ron Tinero, Mary and Ira Tochner, Rita and Jeff Weiss, Elana and Scott Zimmerman, Sandra and Harry Zimmerman, and Judith and Daniel Zuckerman.

To make a contribution, please contact the Office of Advancement at (818) 449-8900. ☺



Mazel Tov to **JONI GREENBERG**, our honoree at the Jewish Federation's annual Organizations Assembly. Ms. Greenberg has been actively involved in fundraising for NCJHS, chairing annual galas as well as the Parent Partnership annual giving campaigns. She has truly made a difference for NCJHS, and this year has been appointed to the Board of Trustees. Celebrating with her at the Marriott Hotel breakfast were (L-R) Jeri Cohen, Judy Rosen (Campaign Associate), Joni Greenberg, Susan Hirsch Goldfarb (Advancement V.P.), Melinda Feldman (Trustee and Past President, Parent Organization), Jill Zuckerman (Director of Admissions), Suzy Jones Bookbinder (Director of Advancement), Elana Rimmon Zimmerman (Immediate Past President). ☺

Hands in Friendship Tribute Cards



Student art adorns the front of our beautiful new tribute/memorial cards. They are being sold in packages of 10 cards for \$150. Please contact the Office of Advancement at (818) 449-8900 to purchase a package of beautiful cards for your use throughout the year. ☺

Save the Date

Mark your calendars now for GALA 2009, which is being chaired by Lauren and Anthony Raissen & Felice and Doug Williams. Spend Mother's Day, May 10, 2009, with your friends, family and **THE BEACH BOYS** at New Community Jewish High School's annual Gala. The evening will begin at 5 pm with a delicious buffet reception at the beautiful Orpheum Theatre in downtown Los Angeles. We are thrilled to be honoring UCLA Head Basketball Coach, Ben Howland, as well as two of our founding board members, Dave Aberson and Scott Zimmerman. After a meaningful program, we will all be entertained by the timeless classics of The Beach Boys. This event promises to be another night that will leave people talking about NCJHS. You won't want to miss this fabulous evening! ☺

From Generation to Generation

Now is a great time for families and community members to support New Community Jewish High School.

Thanks to recent federal tax legislation any taxpayer age 70½ or older may make a direct distribution of up to \$100,000 per year to a qualifying charity from his or her IRA, without triggering tax consequences. The Pension Protection Act (PPA) of 2006 and the subsequent extension of PPA provisions through the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 allows these qualified owners of IRAs to give as much as \$100,000 from their IRA to charitable organizations without recognizing any income on the distribution—a distinct advantage over taking an itemized deduction for such contribution. This change is helpful in two ways:

- You may avoid income tax on the normal minimum IRA distribution required for those over 70½
- Tax-free rollover can enhance other tax planning strategies that can help minimize income and estate taxes

How does the IRA Rollover work?

Taxpayers age 70½ and older are required to take annual distributions from their IRAs. The distributions are generally included in the taxpayers' adjusted gross income, and can increase Federal taxes owed. The IRA Rollover permits taxpayers to make distributions directly to qualifying charitable organizations from their IRAs without including them as part of their adjusted gross income, and consequently, without paying taxes on them. The rollover provision is not permanent but does allow for charitable gifts to be made from IRAs for calendar years 2008 and 2009.

Distribution Limit: A donor's total combined IRA tax-free rollover distribution cannot exceed \$100,000 in any one year.

Eligible Charities: Distributions from an IRA must go directly to a public charity, such as New Community Jewish High School.

Eligible Retirement Accounts: Distributions can only be made from traditional IRAs. Charitable donations from 403(b) plans, 401(k) plans, pension plans, and other retirement plans are ineligible for the tax-free treatment. However, it may be possible to establish a new IRA and rollover some assets from other qualified retirement plans into the new IRA.

Please note that the Pension Protection Act of 2006 has been extended!

Given the guidelines of this legislation for utilizing retirement assets to make charitable contributions, the timing may be right for you to consider making a meaningful gift to New Community Jewish High School. Your tax advisor will be able to help clarify the specific features and limitations of the charitable IRA provision as well as help determine if it makes sense for you.

**Please call Suzy Jones Bookbinder,
NCJHS Director of Advancement
at (818) 449-8900
to answer your questions about
this charitable IRA opportunity**

For many family members and community leaders, making a gift to New Community Jewish High School from an IRA is more than *zedakah*, it's smart tax planning!



Parent Organization



Marcia Weingarten,
President

Welcome from the NCJHS Parent Organization. During the year ahead, we look forward to working together for the benefit of our children and our school. As parents, we have chosen to have our children attend New Community Jewish High School. We make that choice for a variety of reasons, including academic excellence, quality of faculty, values-based education, small class size, and leadership, among other factors. This is a major decision for many of us, and a natural choice for others. We have made a commitment

consistent with long-standing Jewish traditions. And, from the input we receive from our fellow parents, we feel confident that we have made a good choice!

NCJHS is our partner in helping to develop and reinforce important values that we hope our children will carry with them throughout their lives. As parents, we are eager to support our teachers and staff in their efforts, and we stand ready to assist when called upon. The Parent Organization coordinates volunteers for school functions, provides support for school activities, and promotes teacher and staff recognition, as well as helps to raise funds to enhance school programming. We are grateful to the many parents who step forward to serve on our board, on various committees, and are available when we are asked to assist in a variety of capacities.

This year, for the first time, we are creating support arms for our sports and performing arts programs. We continue to meet and greet prospective parents at Open Houses, welcome new families into our NCJHS community, provide spirit wear for all to show their "Jag pride," treat our staff to an occasional thank you lunch, and look forward to assisting with graduation in the spring. We provide agendas for students at the beginning of the year as well as gifts for our graduating seniors. NCJHS is not only a school that provides a focused community for our children, but it also serves as a broader avenue of community and connection for us as parents. We are grateful to the parents and staff who assist when called upon to offer support to families in our community in times of need.

Our thanks to members of our Parent Organization Executive Committee and committee chairs for the 2008-09 school year: Rona Berger, Melanie Tasoff, Jeri Cohen, Charlene Pemstein, Cheri Glick, Laura Kieffer, Ruth Hurwitz, Sandy Langford, Pam Kreitenberg, Leslie Eisner, Suzee Cohen, Lauri Albany, Jill Sanders, Robert and Marcy Malsman, and Melinda Feldman. We invite you to join us!

School-Wide Learning Results (ESLRs)

Students engage in thoughtful acts of *Tikkun Olam* (world repair), and act with integrity, honesty, and wisdom.

Students understand that learning is a life-long enterprise, and recognize the vital interaction of knowledge and Jewish values.

Students appreciate their obligation to participate in and strengthen all facets of community life, and to respect the religious practices and ideals of others.

The school engenders in its students a sense of hope, joy, self-confidence, personal meaning, and passion for life based upon their understanding of Jewish tradition.

Students achieve critical, synthetic, and evaluative thinking skills and strive for wisdom in their judgments and choices in life.

Students strive to search for the deeper meaning in life and determine that which is truly important.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Harold Masor	President
Elana Rimmon Zimmerman	Immediate Past President
Michael Greenfeld	Executive V.P.
Scott Liebert	Finance V.P.
Faith Cookler	Secretary
Marty Lasker	Board Development V.P.
Susan Hirsch Goldfarb	Advancement V.P.
David Aberson	Trustee
Howard Farber	Trustee
Melinda Feldman	Trustee
Linda Fife	Trustee
Dr. George Fischmann	Trustee
Joni Greenberg	Trustee
Earl Greinetz	Trustee
Eddy Klein	Trustee
Ellie Lainer	Trustee
Mark Lainer	Trustee
Linda Landau	Trustee
Judy Levin	Trustee
Ellie Sambol	Trustee
Ken Warner	Trustee
Scott Zimmerman	Trustee
Marcia Weingarten	President, Parent Organization

Dr. Bruce Powell, Head of School

Rabbi David Vorspan, Rabbi-in-Residence

Ellen Howard, Principal

Jill Zuckerman, Director of Admissions

Michelle November, Associate Director of Admissions

Suzy Jones Bookbinder, Director of Advancement

David Marcus, Business Manager

Jamie Beth Schindler, Executive Administrator

Newsletter Editor: Cheri Mayman, Director of Marketing

Photography by: Cheri Mayman & Rabbi David Vorspan

Additional photographs submitted by: Orr Moshe, Rebecca Powell,

Steven Shinbane, Wesley Abelson, Bahar Basseri, Jenn Wallace,

Sam Schindler, Cory Levy, Louis Raynor, Dr. Bill Aron,

David Weingarten

Design & Printing by PMF Productions

7353 VALLEY CIRCLE BOULEVARD, WEST HILLS, CALIFORNIA 91304

(818) 348-0048 www.ncjhs.org

Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges
and the Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater L.A.
Beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of Greater L.A.

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.

ALUMNI LUNCHEONS

Dec. 18 & Jan. 5
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
NCJHS Chapel

RSVP to Jamie Beth Schindler
(818) 449-8911
jschindler@faculty.ncjhs.org

URI ALLEN (Former Jewish Studies teacher) writes: “While in Israel studying at Melamdin, a two-year graduate program at Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, I recently met up with **KATIE FREEMAN** (Class of '06) at a Jerusalem cafe. She had a day off from the army and I had a break from classes. The primary purpose of the visit was to give to Katie the \$600 raised by our school community last spring to help her army unit. Although I never knew her as a student, I felt proud to be sitting with an NCJHS alumna / IDF soldier. A few weeks later, I ran into **KRISTINE LUPOFF** (Class of '08) who is in Israel with the Young Judaea Year Course. Chance meetings like these show that the work that is done at NCJHS has a strong impact on the students. It is evident that they are incorporating the lessons and values of NCJHS into their lives in serious and meaningful ways. It is an extreme pleasure to be connected to the NCJHS family and to know that it still continues even after employment has ended. I am thankful for the opportunities I had at NCJHS to affect student’s lives. I am changed because of them.”

CAITLIN MESKIN (Class of '06) is a Junior at Miami University of Ohio. She is studying special education and is getting a dual license in Mild to Moderate and Moderate to Intensive for grades K-12, but she would like to teach at the high school level. She is teaching in the 6th and 8th grades all day and takes her classes at night as part of her methods field block. She is active in “Best Buddies,” where college students are paired with and become friends with an individual in the community with special needs. In the spring, she will be studying in Israel at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Rothberg International School exploring Jewish Education and the special education system in Israel.

ALEX POPPER (Class of '06) is a Junior at Carlton College in Minnesota. He is currently in Israel for the term studying at the University of Haifa. Last summer he interned with the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS).



MAYA EFRATI (Class of '08) and **DEBBIE WEISER** (Class of '07) are attending the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel. While on a recent school trip, they randomly bumped into a student in a Bedoin tent wearing an NCJHS sweatshirt! He was part of one of our Israel Exchange Programs last year.



After spending last Summer interning in India, **ELAN FELDMAN** (Class of '06) continues his study of economics at the Shanghai University of Economics and Finance, which also gave him the opportunity to visit Tibet. He is a Junior at Claremont McKenna College. This fall his brother Ben, (Junior), their parents and older brother, Jared, visited him.



NICOLE ORAN (Class of '07) is majoring in anthropology with an ethnic studies minor at Lewis & Clark College in Portland. During her 2 months in Hohoe, a village in Ghana, Africa last summer, she taught 25 energetic, joyful kindergartners who live in an orphanage. They gave her a new deep-found appreciation for her teachers over the years and helped her realize that teaching is her passion. She also raised funds to provide the children with food, clothing, and educational supplies. She will return to Hohoe for 3 months next summer to continue to teach and provide children with resources and opportunities.

SHIRA SHANE (Class of '06) is a Junior at Stanford University. She traveled to India last summer to participate in an overseas seminar to study the life of Gandhi. Next summer she plans to return to Tanzania for the second time. Following is an excerpt from Shira’s open house speech for prospective students and families.

“I was ready for Stanford. I knew how to write, how to pursue my major and my minor, where my interests lie, and most importantly, who I am. At Stanford, students are expected to know how to write from the beginning. Writing was required to get my way through just about everything. Yet whenever I received assignments, I didn't find myself panicking like many of my peers. I am thankful that the NCJHS English Department cared enough to make sure that their students acquired important writing skills before graduating. I felt prepared, not only in English, but also in pursuing my major, Human Biology (“humbio”). To my pleasant surprise, when I sat through my first humbio lecture, I immediately felt like I was back in my ninth and tenth grade biology classes learning the same material, just in a bit more depth. NCJHS’s science program is so thorough and rigorous, that I still use my high school biology books and notes to study for my humbio midterm and finals.

Though I was clearly prepared for a high level education, I think the most important thing that NCJHS prepared me for was helping find out who I am. I remember when speaking at open houses as an NCJHS student, parents would express concern that a Jewish private school lacks diversity. Though a private Jewish school doesn't have the same religious diversity or ethnic diversity perhaps as non-Jewish schools, I would argue that it's more important to first understand who you are and then put yourself in a diverse setting. Many students upon entering college feel very lost and out of place in the face of so much diversity, because they don't know who they are. Yet because of my Jewish education, and through some trial and error of course, I knew which communities I fit into. From my high school classes on Jewish laws and ethics, and the values that NCJHS and my parents had instilled in me, I would fit into a moral community. From social functions, good friends and teachers I fit into a social community. From *Tikkun Olam* projects I participated in at NCJHS, I knew I belonged in an active community. Because I left high school knowing who I am and what my values are, I entered one of the most diverse places in the world with the ability to make friends, join clubs, a sports team, a sorority, do well in school, and grow into the person I am today.”

7353 Valley Circle Boulevard
West Hills, California 91304

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 14	College Financial Aid Workshop
December 18	Alumni Lunch
December 21-29	Hanukkah
December 22-Jan 4	Winter Break
January 5	Alumni Lunch
January 14	Shpiel-a-Rama
January 30	New Student application deadline
February 9	Tu B'Shevat
February 9	Arts Fest
March 10	Purim
March 22, 23, 24.....	Spring Musical
March 26-29	All School Shabbaton
April 4-19.....	Spring Break
April 9-16.....	Passover

OPEN HOUSE

January 25, 200910:30 am

ADMISSIONS

For information about admissions or to request an application for admission, please call the Office of Admissions at (818) 348-0048.

SAVE
THE DATE

Presenting an evening of
Celebration, Excitation and
GOOD VIBRATIONS

featuring

The
Beach Boys

2009 Gala Honoring
Dave Aberson, Scott Zimmerman
& UCLA Coach Ben Howland
Mother's Day, Sunday May 10, 2009
5:00pm • Orpheum Theatre, Los Angeles

Invitation to follow
For more info call the Advancement Office
818-449-8900