

Religious School News

from *Rae Koch*



At BIRS, January is *Chodesh Yisrael*, the month during which we focus on Israel, our Jewish country. Young Israeli emissaries from Afula-Gilboa, our sister city in Israel, will help bring Israel to life for our students. We will celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish New Year for trees, with special learning activities and the study of Jewish texts which will guide us to work as God's partners to protect the earth's natural resources. We'll plant trees in Israel and on our campus here in Southbury.

Throughout February we will prepare for Purim by baking Hamentaschen, reading the Megillah, creating Purim crafts and Purim plays, and performing the mitzvot of *Shalach Manot*, exchanging food gifts with friends, and *Matanot L'evyonim*, giving food gifts to the poor.

Upcoming Events

- Tue 1/5** Israeli Emissaries, Matan & Karen visit Grade 7 & join Confirmation for dinner & discussion ✨
 - Tue 1/24** Grade 7 trip to Museum of Jewish Heritage
 - Tue 1/26** Plant a tree for Tu B'Shevat
 - Sun 1/31** Tu B'Shevat Program & Seders
 - Fri 2/5** Grade 7 participates in Erev Shabbat Service
 - Sun 2/7** Catherine LeGrande shares her experience on "March of the Living" with Grade 7 students ✨
 - Sun 2/7** Hamentaschen baking with Heather Cieply
 - Sun 2/28** Purim Carnival
 - Fri 3/7** Grade 6 participates in Erev Shabbat Service
 - Fri 3/12** Grades 2 & 3 participate in Erev Shabbat Service
- ✨ We thank the Jewish Federation Foundation — Jewish Communities of Western Connecticut for making these two programs possible



Plant a tree in Israel in honor or in memory of a loved one. Order forms will be sent home with students and will also be available in the temple office. The cost is \$18 per tree.

BIRS will be accepting orders for *Heather Cieply's Heavenly Homemade Hamentaschen* now through Tuesday, February 9th. Please send your order form and payment to Valerie.

HAMENTASHEN ORDER FORM

FLAVORS (Mixing Allowed)	QTY
Almond	
Apple	
Chocolate	
Blueberry	
Cherry	
Apricot	
Poppy Seed	
Prune	
Raspberry	

Pre-Order Form & Payment due by Tuesday, February 9

Order Pick-Up, Sunday, February 28

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Any questions . . .
Call Heather Cieply at 203 264-8805



Total number of Dozens x \$ 7.50 per doz =

Please make check payable to B'nai Israel. Payment is due with order.