

## Hebrew School Happenings

Lake Success Jewish Center

Week of November 28, 2011

2 Kislev 5772

\* **No Friday Night Live! December 2**

\* **Family Havdalah: Dec. 10 4:15 pm**

\* **Family Service: Dec. 17, 11-noon**

\* **Parent Workshop/ Raising Kids, Dec.18 10:15am**

\* **Community Chanukah Lighting Dec. 21 6pm** *(please note date change)*

\* **Synagogue Chanukah Dinner: Dec. 23 6:15pm (Sisterhood Service to follow)**

### Looking Ahead to Being Jewish on Campus

*For Your  
Consideration...*

Many of us with college age students, enjoyed a Thanksgiving 'homecoming.' It was wonderful to see them, albeit for just a few days before their return to a world of final exams and research papers! Their college world is filled with new friendships and new experiences which will prepare them for a lifetime.

One of the challenges our students face on campus is the alarming (and escalating) anti-Israel sentiment voiced demonstratively and persistently. How is it possible, that among all the issues in the world, this anti-Israel passion is so strong? Whatever the reason(s), it is clear that our Jewish college students are often unprepared for the deluge of anti-Israel demonstrations they discover on campuses throughout the US. Some are persuaded by the arguments; others simply cannot offer any pro-Israel response.

There are organizations (like *Stand With Israel*) which guide Jewish students to respond effectively. I believe, however, that American Jewish parents can best prepare our young students for future campus life, by taking a more active role in Jewish life when our children are young. In other words, the time for us (I speak now more globally and not in specific reference to our synagogue community) to respond is NOW. Every time Hebrew School takes a back seat to another activity—we send a negative message. Each time there is a dinner or special program bypassed, we send a negative message. Each time a Bat or Bar Mitzvah ceremony becomes more about party and less about 'mitzvah', we send a negative message. Each time we quit a synagogue as soon as the B/B Mitzvah is over, we send a negative message. Those students who demonstrate against Israel speak with a passion and conviction which we often lack—because Israel and Jewish experience in general, do not excite or motivate us. While our Jewish institutions have to change, so do we. NOW is the time to start...