



The Shaloh House Jewish D? y School Newsletter

Bonding in De Gaulle

By Mordechai Lightstone

My hands, accustomed by years of training, wound the smooth black leather straps of my tefillin as I removed them after completing the morning prayers. My mind, however, was drawn not to the ancient hide that bound my soul to its Creator, but to the swarming crowd around me. I was nineteen years old and on my first trip abroad, and what better a place to spend a summer than Venice, Italy?

My flight had left New York the previous evening and, save for the boisterous singing of a few French students sporting "I love NYC" t-shirts in the row behind me, had made for a peaceful trip to Paris Charles De Gaulle airport where I was now spending a one hour stopover.

A voice from behind us chimed in: "To think people don't understand that you're laying tefillin.""This is the last boarding call for flight 832 to Bangladesh," came a crackling voice over the loudspeaker... People milled about... A family of five laden with bags and a screaming baby ran to make their flight... A businessman dressed in an expensive suit leisurely perused a paper... Such a vibrant and varied display of humanity could be found here.

Avi, my friend and traveling partner laughed. "It's funny how people react when you pray in the airport. Some don't seem to notice, others don't get it. But then sometimes a person looks, walks a little bit, and then turns back for a second glance—that's certainly a Jew. Seeing us has somehow touched that person."

A voice from behind us chimed in:

"Yeah, to think how many people don't understand that you're laying tefillin."

Continued on page 9...



EARLY FRIDAY PICK-UP: 2 PM

EVERY FRIDAY

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

NOVEMBER 2

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND - NO SCHOOL

NOV 25—26, THURSDAY—FRIDAY

Parshas Chayei Sara Whom to Marry

By Yanki Tauber

A wise man once said that the most difficult question to answer is a question that has a simple answer.

Because a simple answer is the most difficult kind of answer to accept. A simple answer seems an insult to our intelligence, a making light of our dilemma. But often the most profound question or the most pressing problem does have a simple solution.

Whom should you marry? Unless you are the head of state of a superpower at a time of global crisis,

no other decision you will make in the course of your lifetime will affect you as deeply and as irrevocably, for the better and for the worse, as this one. And no other decision will be made in as high-pressure circumstances, and in as subjective a state of mind, as this one.

What does the Torah, which the Jew regards as G-d's "blueprint for creation" and his own guidebook for life, say about what to look for in the person whom you are considering to accept as your partner in life? Something terribly simple.

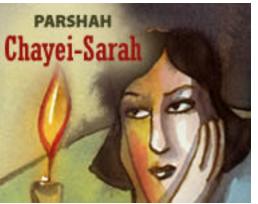
The first marriage of which we read in the Torah is the marriage of Adam and Eve. Theirs, of course, was the ultimate "made to order" marriage: G-d Himself created the bride and presented her to the groom. When Adam said to Eve, "You are the only woman in the world for me," she knew he was telling the truth. There's a mes-

sage here about how to regard your spouse once you're married, but not much guidance in how to select a husband or wife.

The next marriage described in the Torah took place a couple of thousand years later--the marriage of Isaac and Rebecca. By now, there was more of a selection--a bride had to be chosen for Isaac. Abraham decided not

to send his son to do the choosing himself, but his trusted servant Eliezer.

Eliezer loaded ten of his master's camels with goodies and gifts (a generous dowry never hurt a match) and traveled to Abraham's old hometown, Charan (good family connections never hurt, either). Then he prayed (that always helps). Then he put his plan into action.



He waited at the village well. It was evening, and the young women of the village came to draw water. His plan went like this: he would ask a maiden for some water from her pitcher. If she says, "Draw your own water, buddy," forget it. If she says, "Please, drink your fill," that's better, but still not what we're looking for. If she says, "Drink, my lord, and I will give thy camels drink also" (that's how people spoke in biblical times)--she's the one.

Reams of commentary have been written on the story of Rebecca at the well. Many profound insights have been gleaned from the Torah's 67-verse account of Eliezer's mission. But one gem of an answer shines through them all in its pristine simplicity: marry someone with a good heart.

From www.Shaloh.org/Magazine

Someone Has to Pay Retail

By Elisha Greenbaum

A friend of mine used to be mortified when shopping with his mother over her insistence on haggling over each and every item purchased. She would negotiate programs fo with everyone: storeowners, door-to-door salesmen, even the check-out clerks at the supermarket. Poor kid would be absolutely squirming with embarrassment every time his mother went through her "is this the best price you can offer?" routine.

He must have picked up something though, because now he's the one intimidating shop assistants and bargain hunting his way through life. He claims it's not Jewish to pay retail and the only thing better than 50% off, is 2 for the price of 1.

Strange then that the archetype Jew, our ancestor Abraham, turned down an even better bargain. After his beloved wife passed away, Abraham went plot shopping. He discovered the perfect piece of real estate, a burial cave in Hebron, and enquired about the purchase price.

He was offered the "bargain" of a lifetime: free land. The locals held him in such high regard that they begged him to accept the burial plot, free of charge. Incredibly, not only did he refuse this gift, Abraham insisted on paying full price on his eventual purchase (Genesis 23:9).

But why be so high-principled? Would it have made a difference had he graciously accepted their offer? Why should the way in which he assumed possession affect the end-use of the land?

What's wrong with it?

My wife Leah and I recently noticed something peculiar about the functions we organize for our synagogue. Over the years we've played around with a number of formats and systems to attract locals and members to Torah

classes and activities. When we first started, we believed that advertising free-entry was a sure catch to draw in the locals. After all, aren't we here to demonstrate the accessibility and appeal of Judaism?

On reflection, we've noticed that those lecture-series and programs for which we advertise a cover charge seem to

attract almost double the turnout than for those where we charge no entry fee, and rely on outside sponsorship to make up the shortfall. Of course we make certain to publicize that no one will ever be turned away for lack of funds, but in general we now charge at least a token fee for most activities.

Not only does this not seem to deter attendance, but I honestly believe people value their time more for having paid for it. It is almost as if when people shell out for entertainment, they give themselves the liberty to drain the cup of amusement to the full, and make certain to gain as much as possible from the lecture and classes they've paid for. Economists have some fancy formula describing how people are influenced by the "sunk-cost," but from my observation, people become suspicious when offered something for free.

Abraham was not just looking for a cheap plot in which to bury his wife; he was investing in the future. His children and grandchildren visit that burial site till today and when we pray to Gd there, and ask our zeida and bubbe to intercede on our behalf, we're demonstrating our appreciation for his priorities.

Bargain hunting for luxuries may be fun, but when it comes to the fundamentals of life: our professional pride, choice of spouse, and commitment to G-d, everyone wants to know that they've put in maximum effort to succeed, and that the final reward will be worth the price.

From www.Shaloh.org/Magazine

Toddler Room

This week we continued to learn colors and shapes!





We glued yellow circles, lemons and bananas and continued to search for yellow color around us!



We also discussed the change of seasons and made a beautiful fall project! Every day we try to alternate our activities-drawing, cutting, using glue and crayons!

Thursday and Friday were devoted to learning the 'Parashat ha Shavua'.

This week we have chosen one story from Parashat Chayeh Sarah: Eliezer looking for a wife for Yitzchak. Rivka's care for Eliezer and animals that were with him is an excellent example of loving kindness - Gemilus Chassadim - that teaches us to think about the needs of other people.



We concluded our week with great Shabbos Party with lots of songs, dance and sweets!

We wish you and your family Good Shabbos, Mora Anna, Mora Sasha and Morah Valiya

Preschool Room

Parshat Chayei Sarah kept us so busy this week. We learned and made projects about it. In this Parsha, Avraham sent Eliezer to find a wife for Yitzchak. Eliezer traveled very far and got to the well. There, he saw a very special girl, Rivka. He asked her what her name was and gave her a bracelet as a present. In school, we made a bracelet for Eliezer to give Rivka. Since they met at a well, we also made a well, that really works!

Eliezer brought Rivka to Avraham's house. We learned about the three miracles in her tent: First, she had a cloud on top of her tent; second, the candles would remain lit from one Shabbat to the next; and third, she would get a loaf of bread out of a small batch of dough. We enjoyed making tents that were like Rivka's.

We learned such a nice song about the Parsha:

(TTTO: Frere Jacques)
Rivka met Eliezer (x2)
At the well (x2)
She gave the camels water (x2)
Eliezer as well (x2)

Rivka and Yitzchak (x2)
Became man and wife (x2)
They were very happy (x2)
In their new life (x2)



Enroll now for



Please ask me about the Parsha:

- The Parsha of the week is (Chayei Sarah).
- Avraham's baby Yitzchak got (bigger) and (bigger) until he was a big (boy).
- Avraham called his helper "(Eliezer), it's time to find a wife for (Yitzchak).
- "Go find a special wife that does a lot (of mitzvot)."
- So Eliezer took not two or three, but (ten camels) with a lot of (presents) for the new wife.
- Eliezer went on a long trip until he was so (tired) and (thirsty).
- Suddenly, Eliezer saw (Rivka) at a well.
- Eliezer said, "Rivka, I's so thirsty. Could I have a (drink of water)?"
- Rivka said, "(Sure), and I'll give to (your camels, too)."
- Rivka ran (back and forth) to get water for the (ten camels).
- Eliezer saw that Rivka does so many (Mitzvot).
- So he gave her all the (presents/jewelry),
- Because she would be a (wife) for (Yitzchak).
- When Rivka came to Sarah's tent, what 3 miracles returned? (From a little dough, she got a loaf of bread, the candles stayed lit for the whole week, and the cloud came back to the top of her tent).

Our class deserves a big Mazal Tov (congratulations) this week, for we began learning the Alef-Bet (the Hebrew alphabet)! Each of us made a big Aleph-Bet tree and each week we will add an apple, or two, that fell off the tree, each with another letter from the alphabet. Please make sure to hang up the apples right next to the tree. We made a candy Aleph to start, because once we know the Aleph-Bet, we can learn Torah, which is so sweet!

Happy Birthday Eden!

Shabbat Shalom, Morah Ruti, Morah Polina, and Morah Basya

Pre K

This week I am happy to announce that the Pre-K continues to improve their social skills, learning how to share, understanding what it means to be friends with your fellow classmates, and following directions. The children continue to enjoy davening, art projects and music class.

This week's parsha is Chayei Sarah. Avraham does a huge chesed (act of kindness) by burying his wife

Sarah. Also, we are introduced to Yitzchak's wife Rivkah. She does a lot of chesed for Eliezer, Avraham's servant, by providing water to not only him but all his camels. Finally, we learn the mitzvah of davening mincha (the afternoon prayer) from Yitzchak who was davening when Rivkah came to marry him. Therefore, we focus on the mitzvah of doing chesed for each other.



We also decorated a cut-out tzedakah box with glitter. The children really enjoyed this because, every day, they listen to and sing a song about tzedakah and practice putting a penny into the tzedakah box.

Good Shabbos! From Morah Illana and Morah Marina

Enjoy some pictures from K Junior Class:





Shaloh House Update #4 (5771)

Friday, October 29, 2010

Light Candles at 5:25 pm

Kindergarten Junior

WOW! In Kindergarten Juniors this week we really learned a lot!

In **math**, we practiced writing numbers 1-10. We concentrated on numbers 5 and 6.

We're continuing to count forward and backwards through 10, and we played number bingo, one of our favorite games. We're beginning to match numbers and objects. We're counting objects and understand which numbers belong to which objects.

In **English**, we're working on letters J-K. J is for Jack and K is for King. All our friends were excited when they realized that J is the first letter of a friend in our class' name. We're practicing writing our letters J-K this week, and in individual time we're practicing writing A-K. We sang two different ABC songs, and named words beginning with letters A-K. Please reinforce at home what words begin with each letter of the alphabet. We played ABC bingo, a favorite game. This helps the children visually recognize the letters of the alphabet. We started learning a new song, "somewhere over the rainbow" and learning knew words from this song. During circle time in the morning, on Monday and Friday we're having sharing time. The children are learning public speaking skills and to express and develop their vocabulary. We're also learning to have our friends listen to us, and being able to listen to others. Please reinforce this at home. Ask your child how his day was; ask specific questions to get more details.

Each morning we sing a weather song, and days of the week in Hebrew and English. Learning the days of the week helps the children understand the sequence of the week. In one week there's seven days. There are two resting days, and five days we go to school. Monday is the first day of the school week and Friday is the last day of the school week. We're also learning our seasons. The season is changing now and the leaves are changing colors. Also the animals are hibernating.

Hay is our alef bais letter this week. Har and havdala start with hay. Hay makes the sound h-h-h, and we enjoyed being a "hopping hay", and forming other alef bais letters with our bodies. We've been learning how to write our name in Hebrew. Some of the children have mastered this skill already. Writing and recognizing alef bais letters is part of our daily schedule.

In **parsha**, parshas Chayai Sara, we learned about Eliezer traveling to Charan to find a wife for Yitzchak, and Rivka doing the chessed by giving Eliezer and his 10 camels water to drink. We also learned how the cloud, candles always burning, and fresh bread returned when Rivka came into the tent.

Ask your child: What did Rivka wear? (Jewelry-bracelets and necklaces)
Why is getting water for 10 camels a chessed? (Many answers)

We are working hard to walk on the right side of the stairway so everyone is a quiet, safe group.

Please note: In the morning each child has a great opportunity to receive individual one on one time with a Morah when they come on time to school each day.

We would like a connection between home and school. Please send in mitzvah notes-a good deed they did at home. **Our tree is still lonely-only one mitzvah note.**

Good Shabbos! From Morah Tovah, Morah Esther, Morah Sarah and Morah Lilia

Kindergarten Senior



Parshas Chayei Sara

Mazal tov to our beloved teacher Esther who celebrated her birthday this Thursday!

Recognizing the Good – Hakoros HaTov

Although most of the children have already mastered the aleph-bais, each week we "specialize" in one letter and learn many modern-Hebrew words beginning with it. Many times, we also learn a new Jewish concept beginning with that letter.

Our letter this week is "Hey," the first letter of "Hakores HaTov" – "recognizing the good" – being thankful for all we are given.

In our **parsha**, our matriarch Sara passes away. People from near and far came to pay their respects to Sara, because they were so grateful to her. Why? Because she taught thousands of women about H-shem. (Avraham taught the men; Sara taught the women).

In our class, we also talked about what we ourselves are grateful for, and we showed our HaKores HaTov for our teacher Esther, by making her a surprise party on her birthday. We made paper flowers, a vase, and blew up giant balloons. We were very proud of our work.

English

We have two wonderful learning groups for English studies. Group One is continuing work on sounding out the letters of the alphabet and recognizing lower-case letters as well as writing them. This week, we read a book with the short-vowel "a" sound called "Sam and the Sap." Group Two children read a book utilizing a variety of vowel sounds and tricky consonants, called "Lost in the Dump."

We want to remind parents that we offer intensive, one-on-one instruction in both reading and math from 8:15 to 9 a.m., so please bring your children at 8:15 a.m. so they can take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Math

In math, we are all now counting up to 20, forwards and backwards. Group One focused on finding numbers missing from a series. They also worked on adding small numbers the sum of which is less than 10. Group Two worked on adding numbers the sum of which is less than 20. They also began learning the concept of "minus" this week.

Hebrew

This week, we started our second vowel sound, patach. We began reading words with both vowel sounds, komatz and patach. We completed worksheets and activities.

In Hebrew vocabulary, we added a new page to the Hebrew dictionaries we are creating and we focused on new Hebrew words beginning with the letter "Hey." In conversation skills, we practiced saying the names of the different colors, and played a game requiring us to remember the Hebrew names for the major colors.

Judaic Studies

This week we continued to learn wonderful character traits from our ancestors. In this week's parsha, "Chaye Sara," Avraham wants to choose a wife for his son, Yitzchak. Avraham tells his servant Eliezer to return to Avraham's family of origin, situated in Charan, and to choose a wife from that family. Interestingly, the rest of Avraham's family who were in Charan were idol worshippers! But Avraham reasoned that – since they had good character traits – this was the most important foundation. A girl with good character traits could always be taught about H-shem and the Jewish way of life.

With wishes for a wonderful Shabbos, Morahs Esther, Shulamis Yehudis, Sara and Lilia

...Continued from page 1

Avi and I simultaneously turned around. In the row of chairs behind sat the source of the voice—a middle-aged man sporting a blue Hawaiian shirt, shorts and dark shades perched above his forehead, and now pleasantly smiling at us. A moment of silence passed between us as we took each other in. Three Jews bumping into each other in an international European airport; there had to be some inner meaning behind it all.

"Do you want to put on tefillin yourself?" I finally asked, my voice cracking slightly.

He looked into my eyes for a moment, and then shook his head.

"No..."

He had a story, though. "I live on a small island off of Florida. Very few people live there, and even fewer Jews. But then there's the rabbi across the street. He's the best neighbor one could ask for. His kids have tzitzit; they're so well behaved... I watch them with pride. But where I'm at in life, I'm not up to putting on tefillin. When I grew up, my grandfather was orthodox; he laid tefillin everyday and then went to his kosher deli. But where I am at now..."

"Look, we're connected together no matter what. It may not be how you guys want—but when I got off the plane from Miami, my wife asked me where I wanted to sit. I saw you two and said, 'I'm sitting with my boys."

He removed his hands and walked towards a lady standing off in the distance, the two of them turned to us, smiled,

and then merged into the swarming crowd, seemingly forever lost in the sands of time.

Things felt odd, as if they ought not to have ended this way. After all, I had so many questions that had been left unanswered: Who was he? What he did for a living? Had his grandfather worked in the deli, or only eaten there... I hadn't even asked for his name!

In a perfect world, I told myself, we would have put on tefillin, cried a little, laughed a little, then stayed in touch. Reality had seemed to leave me alone, my tefillin still in my hands, in the center of a swirling mass of travelers.

His last words ran through my mind. "Look we're connected, together, no matter what."

True, doing a mitzvah together would have bound us as one, but perhaps he was right, we were connected no matter what. There was the bond of one Jew to his fellow, and, what was more, there was the effect that our very presence in the airport seemed to have on him—hadn't he walked over and initiated a conversation with us? If the tzitzit of his neighbor's children had swayed him to speak to us, then perhaps our conversation with him would bring him to do even more next time!

True I hadn't even asked for his name. Yet somehow even with out names I know him. He was right, we are connected.

From www.Shaloh.org/Magazine

Elementary School NEWS

Judaic Studies

Yael Meyers 1st Grade

Judaics class in first grade has gotten off to a great start.

We spend 2 periods a week learning about Tefilah - Davening. We are start-

ing to practice for our Siddur Play which will take place on Thursday, November 18th, at 9 am. We hope all parents will be able to make it. Two periods a week are spent on Jewish laws and customs. Our current topic is the Jewish months and the corresponding Jewish Holidays. Twice a week we learn the weekly Torah portion or Parsha. Each child has a Parsha folder where they draw scenes from the story and have a song. Please take some time on Shabbat to sit and look at it with your child. After Shabbat please sign the planner that your child shared the Parsha with a family member. Thank you.



Dvora Green

2nd, 3rd and 4th Grades

Grades 2, 3 & 4 have been busy at work, learning so many different Judaic topics, experiencing the topic at hand, and enjoying the lessons too. We have chosen several practical, relevant topics that have included several new Hebrew terms and Judaic rules.

We started out learning the laws of honoring our fathers and mothers (parents will be happy to know J), with stories, words from the Torah, and general examples of honoring our parents. We then went on to learn the laws of washing our hands before eating bread and the laws of eating a meal (including eating like a mentch). We demonstrated actual hand washing, and set a mock table, to help us with visual learning. We also learned the laws of kosher, not only meaning good for a Jew to eat, but more of an inclusive translation: "fit for use by a Jew." This includes a kosher mezuzah, kosher tefillin, and a kosher succah etc. We then went into the kosher signs for animals, fish, and birds, and drew pictures to make sure we understood each one.

The next topic we covered was the intricate laws of making blessings. We got to see a PowerPoint on the meaning and power of blessings which was a special treat. We now know what to concentrate on as we say our blessings. Also, on the 11th of Cheshvan, the yartzeit (day of passing) or our fore-mother Rachel Emainu, we saw a special PowerPoint about her grave and went on to make a beautiful art project, a pop-up picture of her famous grave, Kever Rachel which stands until today, and is a major tourist attraction in Israel. All in all their Judaic knowledge has been enriched so much in this short period of time! Keep up the good work!

Rabbi Ilan Meyers

5th Grade

Over the past several weeks, students in the fifth grade have been grappling with (and mastering!) some of the most intricate yet basic laws of Netilas Yadayim - washing hands for bread. Students have been studying such laws as what type of vessel may/may not be used for washing as well as what kind of stain or bandage on one's hand would constitute a separation for washing.

Language Arts Merlyn Carey

Election Count Down

Posters are hung, speeches are practiced, and in two days Shaloh House will have a new student council. Formal and informal debates are springing up over what issues need to be addressed, and even more importantly how can the issues be addressed. Long lunch and recess times are popular with the voters- though the electorate is also demanding to know where the time will come from, as giving up class time is not a popular choice.

We are also seeing public service announcements from those not running, yet want to make sure that their issues are being addressed.

Talks in the hallways and overheard at recess and lunch also have voters pushing candidates on which issues are campaign promises, which are ideas to bring up, and what are impossible claims. I always knew that we are lucky enough to help shape our future leaders, at this rate- I'm rather sure that Shaloh House will have several national leaders among our alumni before too long.

Science

Michael Kahn

1st Grade

In Science class we are classifying fruits and vegetables in first grade.

2nd Grade

We are learning about air and sound in second grade.

3rd, 4th and 5th Grades

We are beginning our famous science projects in the upper grades.

School Happenings

Stop and Shop Update

The A+ learning program is up and running at your local Stop and Shop. By logging onto the Stop and Shop website and registering your card- nearly everything you buy will turn into a donation to Shaloh House as well. There is no charge to the cardholder, but a percentage of sales made by members is split between all involved schools.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions about this great fund raising opportunity. Merlyn Carey

Join Shaloh House School PTO

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to having another exciting school year!

As you might know, last year we officially formed PTO and would like to continue this tradition during this year. The PTO offers numerous opportunities for parents to be involved in the life of our school. Room Parents are the hearts of our organization. This is a great chance to meet other parents and to participate in a personal way in your child's education and school experience. The time commitment is minimal: occasionally being a part of an e-mail chain or assisting at an event of your choice.

However, you do not have to be a Room Parent to be a PTO volunteer! Volunteers are needed for assisting with our family and school events, planning teachers appreciation breakfast and some other activities. We ask each family to pay PTO dues of \$36.00 annually which are used for teacher appreciation gifts, for school events and "wish list" items. This is a tax deductible contribution. You can pay with the check or cash and mail it or bring it back to Shaloh House front office.

It will be our pleasure to discuss PTO and opportunities for involvement. Please contact Luba Aronchik, PTO Chair at 617-257-0677 or laronchik@verizon.net

Sincerely, Luba Aronchik

SHALOH HOUSE PTO Volunteer Opportunities 2010-2011

Getting involved with the Shaloh House PTO is a great way to meet new people and build community.

Name:
Telephone number/e-mail:
Child(s) name/room number(s):
Please check all committees that you would like to get involved with:
L. Room Parent: Assist in Coordination of classroom communication, planning classroom get together, and organization of teachers' gifts.
Room Parent (Please insert room number here)
2. NSTAR Fundraising: November 1,
tasks to be clarified
3. Family Fun Night: January 9, 5:00-7:00 pm
shop for food/supplies set-up clean-up
1. Invention Convention: January 19,6:00-7:00pm
set-up clean-up

Mazel Tov



on your Birthday

Birthdays this week 15 Cheshvan—21 Cheshvan:



Students:

Shalom Moshe Weisenberg Benjamin Vyshedsky

Staff:

Esther Milyutina



Please support our advertisers



Gil Regev Financial Services Professional



New York Life Insurance Company Licensed Agent

T. 781 398 9817 The Company You Keep®



Your ad could be here

Mass Capital Mortgage Corp

Yakov Krivoy 617-233-8281 Michael Pipko 508-479-5752

License MB 1190 (MA), MBB 0505720 (Florida)

International Food Store

187 Sutherland Road. Brighton



The Best Produce in Boston!

OZ Drain

Oleg Zlotin (978) 360-8280



& Plumbing Repair

For only \$20 Your ad could be here!

Shaloh House would like to thank

International Food Store

for their generosity and top quality fruits and

vegetables that our children enjoy daily. Please visit the best produce store in Boston

Email ShalohUpdate@gmail.com Or call 617-787-2200 for details

Call me for all your plumbing needs

????

NEXT WEEK AT SHALOH HOUSE

TASTE OF HEAVEN

CHALLAH BAKING & TORAH CLASS FOR MOTHERS WITH DAUGHTERS

EVERY THURSDAY FROM 6:00-8:00 PM

DONATION \$5 TO COVER COST OF THE INGREDIENTS

