

CHAI MARKS

BY MS. AMI OLSTEIN

“LUCKY LIVE HAWAII...SCHOOL OF JEWISH STUDIES CELEBRATES TU B'SHEVAT IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS!”

While most Jews on the mainland are not able to spend much time outside for Tu B'Shevat due to cold winter temperatures, that wasn't the case in Honolulu on Sunday February 8th as SJS students enjoyed a beautiful morning at the Hawaii Nature Center.

After a guided hike students and staff enjoyed a variety of delicious fruits associated with the holiday. And after creating nature cards with leaf skeletons they found on the trail students helped lead a morning worship service giving thanks for the beautiful place in which live.

Our remaining special programs include opening Oahu's Israel Day Festival on April 26th and our Mitzvah action day in May which will be the final installment of our series on Tikkun Olam.



GREETINGS FROM THE GAN

Shalom! In January and February, children at the Gan enjoyed learning about plants through planting activities, nature walks, a visit to the Wahiawa Botanical Gardens and a Tu B'Shevat Celebration. However, the children's love for nature will not end there. Our School Beautification Committee has recently prepared an area for a vegetable garden and another area for a butterfly garden. The children are very excited to put their green thumbs to work. We are hoping to raise \$200 for these projects. If you would like to make a donation toward either one of these projects, please contact Momi Martinez at 595-7451.

Even though our butterfly garden will not be in full bloom when we study creepy crawlies in March, we will observe the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly and the life cycle of frogs. The children find God's creatures very fascinating, especially when they are able to witness each stage of life unfold before their very own eyes!

Queen Esther's story will come alive in March as we celebrate Purim with a fun-filled Parade & Carnival followed by a performance for the Temple Seniors.

In April we will begin with a Model Seder in commemoration of Passover. Our theme of the month will be Community Helpers and we will go on a City Bus tour to the bus depot and through a bus wash. We will also have our in school "Trip to Israel." It is the children's favorite special day of the year. The courtyard and Weinberg will be transformed into an airport. The children will be assigned stations to work at. When we "arrive in Israel," we will be able to visit the Dead Sea, Sea of Galilee, Wailing Wall, and an open market. We will also have special Show-and-Tell days in which a few parents have volunteered to share about their work. If you are interested in sharing about your career with us, we would love to have you! Please call Momi to schedule a visit.

For our annual mitzvah, we will be having a Hop-a-Thon on April 24 to raise \$1000 for children with muscular dystrophy. Prior to our Hop-a-Thon the children will learn that we are all special and unique in our own ways. A representative from MDA will introduce and allow the children to use child-sized tools used by children with physical challenges (crutches, leg braces, walkers and/or wheel chairs).