

March 1, 2017

Dear Friend,



Art projects were a popular activity in February. Our participants put the final touches on the masks they made in January out of papier-mâché. Ann from Starglazers returned to the Center and helped us design and decorate our own Passover bowls. They will be great for holding salt water for *karpas*, the dipping of bitter herbs or for charoset.

And Create Art has been in great demand. Our last afternoon session in February was particularly lively when the whole gang came in and each had their choice of projects: Passover cards, jewelry making, watercolors, and collaging filled the tables.

Brittany Arling, a student intern summarized her first experience with Hebrew Lunch and Learn: It is a place where everyone comes together. It is for any skill level. Staff member Debbie played videos of songs from Ani V'Atah to Adamah V'Shamayim that helped teach the alphabet and different prayers, and from there we became a little adventurous. We sang and danced along. Some even played instruments! There were songs that brought peace and healing, and some that were rhythmic and frivolous. Try it out this March, we think you will be pleasantly surprised!



Rabbinic Fellow Simon Stratford reminded us of the four new years in our Jewish tradition as we celebrated Tu B'Shevat. The New Year of the Trees was recognized as we dined on the seven species with a slaw, squash-chickpea soup, olives, and fig cream cheese spread. We read from Ecclesiastes Rabbah that we should, "*Be careful not to spoil or destroy my world—for if you do, there will be nobody after you to repair it*". This teaching is so timely for today. Connie gave each participant a large bag of bird seed and ideas for creating simple bird feeders out of found items you can recycle like paper towel rolls.

We look forward to celebrating Purim and the arrival of warmer weather with you this March!

Sincerely,

Fran
 Connie
 Sandra
 Sarah
 Debbie
 Cheryl
 J