



HIGHLIGHTS OF YEDEI CHESSED



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48 Scotland Hill Road, Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
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12th Annual Weekend Retreat

Magic Moments - that should carry everyone throughout the upcoming year! Yedei Chesed's annual Weekend Retreat was exciting and inspiring. Outstanding speakers provided "chizuk" to parents who assume an extraordinary responsibility of caring for and raising their children with "specialized needs" as Dr. Glicksman so aptly phrased it. Parents encouraged parents; the volunteers hugged and cared for the children with incredible devotion. Judge Butler captivated the crowd with his awe-inspiring storytelling. Rabbi Rabinowitz struck a chord in all those present when he touched on the myriad of issues and questions that the families contend with on a regular basis. A fabulous weekend was enjoyed by all; magnificent hotel accommodations with no detail omitted; fabulous dining; swimming; exciting and thought provoking guest speakers; as well as support groups for all.

No one seemed to want the weekend to end. The Yedei Chesed staff, especially Mrs. D'vora Adler, went all out to ensure that this magical weekend would be truly special and unique to every parent and every child; a goal most definitely achieved. It was truly magic!



🎵 Chanukah At Yedei Chesed 🎵

Come join us as we relive Chanukah at Yedei Chesed.

The **Medicaid Service Coordination** consumers and **Early Intervention** children received Chanukah presents from their service coordinators and therapists. Gifts were specifically chosen with each person's interests and abilities in mind. The children and young adults were thrilled to receive the gifts!

The bachurim living on **Albert Drive** and **College Road** each hosted a party on another night of Chanukah for each other. Parents, friends, old and current staff members were

invited to attend. Especially heartwarming was the singing and dancing by the staff and the boys. The boys enjoyed taking a turn to sing on the mike. Albert Drive had a magician come to perform a show that was enjoyed by all. All in all, there was a very warm feeling of family and belonging by both parties!

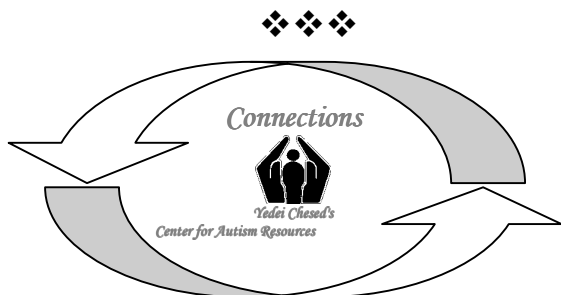
The girls living on **Thomas Court** had Anat Calfon come to lead the singing and dancing one night of Chanukah. The staff and consumers had a wonderful time dancing together! Eating the potato latkes they made on their own was delicious and a lot of fun. They also baked Chanukah cookies one day and enjoyed lighting their menorahs and singing around the candles every night!

The **Sibling Support groups** met again and enjoyed activities in the spirit of Chanukah. The youngest group (1st-5th graders) had fun doing a sand art activity in the shape of a small glass flask resembling the small flask of oil that lasted 8 days. The middle group (6th-8th graders) created dried fruit, chocolate and nut arrangements to deliver to the elderly women at the Fountain View Retirement Home. The girls also created beautiful handmade Chanukah cards and decorated gift bags to match. The packages were delivered to about 20 women and the girls even sang Chanukah songs with them. The ladies adored the girls and asked them to come again in the future! The high school age group went to the Bazaar Star Beadery of Ridgewood New Jersey. At the beadery, each girl was able to creatively design a necklace using different colored beads. All the girls are looking forward to the next sibling support group meeting!

Chanukah at **Magic Moments** was a lot of fun! The youngest group created beautiful Chanukah necklaces of wooden dreidels with lanyard and beads. The boys group was treated to a wonderful magic show which everyone loved! They also went to the Pizza shop in honor of Chanukah. The teenaged girls performed at the nursing home again! They sang Chanukah songs to the old women and made beautiful Chanukah shaped sand art projects (dreidels, menorahs, oil flasks etc.) and gave them out to the women from the nursing home. The girl's parents came and it truly was a beautiful performance with everyone having a wonderful time!

The **Teenaged Boys After School Program** enjoyed a beautiful Chanukah party where they all lit the menorahs, played dreidel and had a

wonderful time singing to the music that one of the consumers played. They also went on two trips to visit the Newark Museum in New Jersey and the Living Torah Museum. The boys had a great time!



Connections 2005- 2006 Lecture Series

Connections – Yedei Chessed’s Center for Autism Resources, was pleased to welcome attorney Charles Davis on December 20, 2005. Mr. Davis spoke eloquently about special education advocacy to the parents. He spoke of the history of special education in Rockland County and then went on to discuss the process of vigorously advocating for your special needs child from initial CSE meeting. He gave tips on maximizing your negotiating skills by being well aware of the rights of your child, as well as being aware of that which the school district is not responsible to provide. It was a very motivational evening and all the parents walked away with charged up and ready for the upcoming CSE meetings this spring.

Social Skills Groups Recruiting

Yedei Chessed is actively recruiting participants for its social skills programs. New groups are being formed on an as needed basis, so even if we have not been able to put together a group for your child in the past, call back and put your child on the list because we are expanding! For the first time, Yedei Chessed will be opening up this exciting program to the general community. This program will remain free of charge for Yedei Chessed clients and will be provided on a fee for service basis to the general community. If you or anyone you know are interested please call Mrs. Meghnagi at 425-0887 x273.

Exciting Summer Camp Opportunity

Yedei Chessed is pleased to announce that we will be working in partnership with the Lower Hudson Valley Challenger Center to offer an exciting summer camp program for boys ages nine to thirteen. A six-week program will allow your child to be an astronaut. Your child will be challenged to allow their imagination to soar as they chase a comet, visit the moon and explore Mars. There will be challenging academic sessions learning about conditions in space as well as exciting simulated space travel! Teamwork and social skills will be stressed throughout. There will be supervised davening in the mornings. The cost of the program is approximately \$2050 plus the cost of a shadow should your child require one. For more information please contact Mrs. Meghnagi at 425-0887 x273.

Point of Interest:



Workpoint has begun a photography-training course for their program participants. The course utilizes and allows its participants hands on usage with the latest in digital technology and equipment. For more information contact Dr. Shmuel Abramson at ext. 249 or Mr. Eliezer Schwadron at ext. 248.



In our ResHab Department, there are still a few remaining slots to be filled. As our Yedei Chessed family knows, this relationship is often an excellent confidence boost to our children: it is the opportunity to replace the sand under their feet with solid ground. If you, our readers, know of a kind person who may be interested in an after-school or second job, kindly contact Mrs. Natalie Levine at ext. 215.



YEDEI CHESED

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