



Liberal Judaism's First Ever Hebrew Reading Skills Retreat Weekend Yields Great Results all Round

London, 11th October, 2007

A lively group of 10 - 12 year olds joined three teachers from Liberal Judaism, and LJY Netzer Mazkirim, for a great weekend at a retreat centre near St Albans. The weekend was geared towards helping pre bnei-mitzvot youngsters with their Hebrew reading skills in preparation for the big day.

The youngsters were taught in small groups of three and, even after spending over 6 intense hours over the weekend reading liturgical Hebrew, still wanted to read more!

In between sessions they enjoyed activities organized by LJY-Netzer and still had time for three services and Havdallah.

One student who was previously unable to read Hebrew is now planning her Bat mitzvah, while yet another pleaded with organizers, "Can we stay all week?" Other students made enormous improvements their reading and translation skills.

Teachers and pupils alike were thrilled to see the results of their efforts and we hope that they will continue practicing their newly acquired skills which has given them a real boost for preparing their B'nei Mitzvah.

Judy Thwaites, Liberal Judaism's Education Consultant and organizer of the retreat, extended her warm thanks to Beverley Taylor, Jordan Helfman, Lauren Dubell and Victor Kaufman for their help, and a heart-felt mazal tov to our young Hebrew readers.

- Ends -

Notes:

Liberal Judaism - one of the three major strands of Judaism in the UK with over 30 congregations and 10,000 members across the country - seeks to make Jewish life relevant to the modern world.

The main difference between Liberal Judaism and traditional (Orthodox) Judaism is in their respective attitudes to the bible. While preserving the core beliefs and practices that underpin the religion, Liberal Judaism believes that ancient laws must be interpreted to ensure that ethical values and practices take account of what we know and the world as it is today. Ethical behaviour and social action take priority over ritual.

Liberal Judaism believes in the equality of each individual, regardless of race, gender or sexuality. We apply this belief in practice, with support for mixed-faith and same-sex relationships. Liberal Jewish men and women have equality of opportunity in all aspects of religious life, including practice and education.

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