

FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

A GUIDE TO PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AVAILABLE FOR OUR MEMBER FAMILIES

(effective February 2009)

Recognizing the expenses associated with participation in Jewish communal activities, The Forest Hills Jewish Center offers many scholarships and financial incentives to assist our families. By offsetting a portion of the cost, it is hoped that this will also encourage our students and youth to engage actively in Jewish communal activities. Attendance at Jewish summer camps, peer group trips to Israel and participation in Jewish youth groups have been shown to strengthen identification with Judaism and foster ongoing involvement in Jewish communal life.

There are a wide variety of opportunities available. Some subsidies are needs-based and some are available only to students in the Forest Hills Jewish Center Religious School. These are so indicated in their descriptions. However, most are available to all of our youth to encourage their commitment. All are designed to encourage our youngsters, adolescents and teens to continue their Jewish education and participate in the various Conservative movement-sponsored summer programs and youth activities. Application is by completion of the attached form unless otherwise noted. By helping to offset a portion of the cost of their participation, we hope to demonstrate our commitment to providing meaningful Jewish experiences for our youth.

All of the funds covered in this guide welcome additional contributions which will allow our children to continue to benefit from the wide range of offerings. Please consider these funds when commemorating family events.

This document presents information on the range of financial incentives and scholarships available in a user-friendly format, by outlining the requirements for each and the procedures to obtain. It acknowledges with gratitude the excellent work of Judy Gostl who compiled the very first version of this guide. Every effort has been made to present accurate, up-to-date, information and we regret any errors.

FHJC HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Upon completion of *Kitah Chet*, generally in the 8th grade, students enter the Forest Hills Jewish Center Hebrew High School. As incentives for enrollment in Hebrew High School, every family with a student advancing to Hebrew High School from our Religious School will automatically receive one \$100 scholarship credit directly on his or her family's FHJC membership account, provided attendance standards are met.

The scholarships come from the following sources:

Rita Berger Memorial Scholarship Fund: established in memory of Rita Berger, the late wife of Edwin Berger, a Past President of the Center

Sam Fisher Memorial Scholarship Fund: established in memory of Sam Fisher, an active member of the FHJC Minyan Club

Sisterhood of the Forest Hills Jewish Center

Men's Club of the Forest Hills Jewish Center

Parents' Association of the Forest Hills Jewish Center

CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIPS AND INCENTIVES

FHJC Scholarship: (Application required in advance)

The Forest Hills Jewish Center encourages children to attend Camp Ramah and offers needs-based scholarships through a fund established by anonymous donors to facilitate this choice. Any family in good standing as members of the Forest Hills Jewish Center may apply for an FHJC Camp Ramah Scholarship for the Nyack Day Camp and for Camp Ramah in the Berkshires.

Applications, in the form of a letter, must be submitted to the Ramah Scholarship Committee through Rabbi Skolnik by the December 1st before the summer for which the scholarship is requested, and must include the following information:

- . the nature of your family's commitment to Jewish living and practice
- . the nature of your child's involvement in Jewish life
- . why attending Camp Ramah is important to your family and your child
- . the nature and extent of your financial need

Confidentiality will be respected in all instances. The amount of each scholarship will depend on the funds available and the number of qualified recipients.

Parents' Association of the Religious School of the FHJC Incentives

Any student in good standing in the Forest Hills Jewish Center Religious School is eligible to apply for a PA incentive for Camp Ramah (both the Nyack Day Camp and Camp Ramah in the Berkshires qualify). This is not a needs-based subsidy and the amount received will depend on the number of eligible students in any given year. Both half summer and full summer sessions qualify, but amounts received will be scaled accordingly. Your application should be submitted to the attention of the President of the Parents' Association.

ISRAEL PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS

Call To Israel Torah Reading Scholarships: **Any Conservative Movement-Sponsored Israel Program**

To encourage post-Bnei Mitzvah, pre-college, teens to chant Torah during worship services at the Forest Hills Jewish Center and to visit Israel, Temma and Al Kingsley have generously established a fund to provide a stipend for a movement-sponsored trip to Israel. Beginning with Bnei Mitzvah, all children of the FHJC may accrue credit for chanting Torah. Credits are accumulated as follows:

- . *Shabbat* morning: \$15 per aliyah chanted or \$120 for chanting the full *parsha*
- . *Shabbat mincha*: \$15 for the full reading
- . *Yom Tov* morning: \$10 per aliyah or \$72 for the full *parsha*
- . Weekday morning: \$15 for the full reading

NOTE: Haftorah does not qualify for credit!

Application for this stipend is made through Rabbi Skolnik, who maintains the record for chanting and whose approval of the Israel program is necessary to access this stipend.

Mitchell Handlin Memorial Scholarship: College Study in Israel **(application required in advance)**

The Mitchell Handlin Scholarship was created by Selma and Ralph Handlin in memory of their son, Mitchell, who was tragically killed in an automobile accident while attending Hebrew University. The fund offers a maximum of \$1,000 as a partial scholarship for students spending at least a year of study at a college or university in Israel, and a lesser amount for those studying in Israel for a semester. Family membership in the FHJC is not required but preference is given to members. For FHJC members this is an incentive scholarship but for non-members need must be demonstrated. Application is by letter to the Mitchell Handlin Scholarship Fund (c/o Rabbi Skolnik) and must describe the proposed course of study and, where appropriate, an explanation of need.

Mark Leef Memorial Scholarship: **Religious School Students Participating in Conservative Movement-Sponsored** **Israel Summer Program (application required in advance)**

The Mark Leef Scholarship was created by Elayne and Larry Leef in memory of their son, Mark, a student in the Forest Hills Jewish Center Religious School, who died in 1967 before becoming a Bar Mitzvah. The fund is administered by the Parents' Association and welcomes additional contributions. In order to qualify for this scholarship, families must be current members of the Forest Hills Jewish Center and the

participant must be a student in good standing in the FHJC Religious School. Application is by completing the form at the back of this booklet and submitting to the FHJC office by April 15.

Youth Department Financial Incentives

The Youth Activities Committee of the Forest Hills Jewish Center applies the proceeds of the Purim Mishloach Manot fundraising initiative for a variety of financial incentives to benefit our youth. These are available to members of our Kadima and USY Chapter whose families are members of the Forest Hills Jewish Center. Active attendance of Chapter meetings and events is required for these scholarships.

Stipends in the amount of \$500 are available for the FHJC youth who participate in either a USY Israel Pilgrimage summer program or the Ramah Israel Seminar.

UJA Federation Israel Experience Center:

Belfer Family Fellowships and Chaverim Awards (application required in advance)

As a participating congregation in the UJA-Federation Campaign, children of Forest Hills Jewish Center members are eligible to apply for these scholarships towards the cost of a UJA-Federation approved Israel program for teens and young adults. High School students entering 10th, 11th, and 12th grades who show potential for leadership may apply for merit awards in the amount of \$1,250. Forms are available from the Israel Experience Center and must be signed by Rabbi Skolnik. The application requires a personal essay and the creation of a community service project to be carried out upon returning from Israel.

KADIMA AND USY PROGRAM SUBSIDIES

Youth Department Subsidies

The Youth Activities Committee of the Forest Hills Jewish Center also subsidizes participation in a variety of regional and international movement-sponsored youth activities. These are available to members of our Kadima and USY Chapter whose families are members of the Forest Hills Jewish Center. Active attendance of Chapter meetings and events is required for these scholarships.

Subsidies are available for the following programs and in approximate amounts as indicated. Actual amounts may vary based upon revenues and the number of applicants.

- . USY Regional Convention
(including 8th grade Kadima Members): \$75
- . USY Mid-Winter Kallah
(including 8th grade Kadima Members): \$75
- . USY International Convention: \$200
- . Kadima or USY Summer Encampment: \$100
- . USY on Wheels Summer Programs: \$200

Jerry Weinkselbaum Memorial Scholarships

The Jerry Weinkselbaum Memorial Scholarship Fund was created to perpetuate the memory of Jerry Weinkselbaum, who devoted his time and talent to benefit the FHJC Youth Department. This fund welcomes additional contributions.

Scholarships are available to members of our Kadima and USY Chapter whose families are members of the Forest Hills Jewish Center. The Fund offers the scholarships for USY International Convention (\$200 per participant) and Kadima/USY Summer Encampment (\$100 per participant). Application is by completing the form at the back of this booklet and submitting it to the FHJC office

Parents' Association Financial Incentives

All students in good standing in the Religious School of the Forest Hills Jewish Center, whose families are members of the Forest Hills Jewish Center, are eligible to apply for a PA financial incentive to participate in any of the following programs:

- . USY On Wheels summer program
- . Kadima/USY Summer Encampment

The specific amount awarded to each applicant will vary based upon available funds and the number of qualified applicants.

Application for PA stipends is by a letter to the President of the Parents' Association of the Religious School of the Forest Hills Jewish Center.

**THE FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER
FINANCIAL INCENTIVE ACCEPTANCE AND CHECK REQUEST**

Name of Participant: _____

Eligible Program and Dates: _____

Please indicate scholarships/incentives for which consideration is requested:

Required: Please attach to this form a brief essay (500 words maximum) describing your experience as a participant in the program for which you are applying for a stipend. Your essay should include a description of the activities, personal highlights of your experience and how you feel you have benefited by participating. For Youth Department and Jerry Weinkselbaum Fund stipends, please also email your essay to Sara Werner, Director of Youth Activities, (youth@fhjc.org). Essays may be posted on the FHJC website and may also be shared via the FHJC listserv.

Acceptance: This will confirm that I have participated in the above-referenced program for which I will receive the specific stipend indicated. I further confirm that the total of all financial awards received from all sources will not exceed the total cost of my participation in this program.

Please make check payable to _____
(name of participant or parent/guardian)

Please mail check to _____
(address)

Signature of Participant

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

CHECK APPROVED BY:

Print Name and Title

Signature

Date

***ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED
WITHIN 3 MONTHS OF COMPLETION OF PROGRAM***