

# Austin Jewish Academy

September 3, 2008 / 2 Elul 5768

## Quick Links

[About Us](#)

## In This Issue

[Upcoming Events](#)

[AJA Gala 2008](#)

[Back to School Night](#)

[AJA Parent  
Education](#)

[Parent Breakfast](#)

[Holiday Happenings  
- for Adults!](#)

[Speakers Bureau](#)

## Shabbat Information

Candlelighting:  
Fri., Sept. 5 at 7:31pm

Torah Portion:  
Shoftim

Havdalah:  
Shabbat ends on  
Sat., Sept. 6 at 8:47pm

## Upcoming Events

AJA BOARD MTG  
Tues., Sept. 9  
6:00pm - 8:00pm

# The MaccaBEE

We hope everyone enjoyed a safe a fun-filled Labor Day weekend. We're now back for a four-day week and ready to pick up where we left off. Our opening week was wonderful! Opening day smiles lasted until Friday afternoon and faculty, although exhausted, left for Shabbat and a long holiday weekend with a feeling of excitement and a sense of fulfillment. We anticipate another great week.

Our Kneset (Student Council) will hold officer elections on Friday, September 5 and class representative elections on Monday, September 8. The students received information last week and an email with election guidelines was sent to all parents. Students in 3rd-8th grade are eligible to run for office. Please refer to the Kneset email if your student is interested in running for office. Ben Hines, Middle School Teacher and Shira Strosberg, Director of Admissions and Outreach are serving as Kneset advisors.

We have just been notified that a number of AJA students have qualified for the prestigious Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP), a non-profit educational organization recognized as a leader in identifying and serving the educational needs of academically gifted youth. Through identification, recognition, challenging educational programs, advocacy and research, Duke TIP provides resources to gifted students and their parents. This year, six AJA students qualified for the 7th Grade Talent Search based on the ITBS test they took at AJA in April, 2008. These students are invited to take the college SAT test alongside high school students from both public and private schools. Participating in Duke Talent Searches provides students and their families with detailed information about their abilities and introduces them to a network of available academic opportunities and resources based on their test performance. Kol Ha'Kavod to the following students on receiving this honor - **Jacob Baldwin, Nate Eakman, Michael Kimmelman, Rebecca Lafair, Lee Hausman-Cohen, and Lauren Distler.**

Please note that the MaccaBEE will now be published on a weekly basis every Tuesday (or on the second school day of

**BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT**

Thurs., Sept. 11  
6:30pm - 8:15pm

**LEILAH TOV: IT'S TIME FOR BED PARENT EDUCATION WORKSHOP**

Mon., Sept. 15  
7:00pm - 8:30pm

**PARENT VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST**

Wed., Sept. 17  
8:00am

**PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Thurs., Sept. 18  
More details soon.

**HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS WITH RABBI KIRZNER**

Fri., Sept. 26  
8:00am - 8:45am

**JCAA FALL FUSION**

Sunday, Sept. 21  
Doors open at 6:00pm

**ROSH HASHANAH**

Begins on the evening of Sept. 29 (noon dismissal on that day); school closed on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

**YOM KIPPUR**

Begins on the evening of Oct. 8 (noon dismissal on

the week). We hope you are enjoying the new format and welcome your feedback.

Kol Tuv (All the Best),

*Bernice & Jeni*

Bernice Tabak, Head of School

Jeni Tubbs, Director of General Studies

---

## **AJA Gala 2008- Meeting tonight!**

Save the date: AJA's Gala 2008 is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 7th. We need YOUR help to make it a success!

Volunteer spots are still available on committees such as Tribute Book, Silent Auction, Décor and Food, as well as event day set-up and take down.

Whether you have one hour to give or much more, and no matter your specific interest, we have a job for you!

Learn more about the work we will do and the fun we will have doing it at an all-committee information session, Wednesday, Sept. 3 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm (includes coffee and dessert!) at Risa Ferdman's house. For more information, contact [Jodye Friedman](mailto:jodye.friedman@aja.org) (512.735.8374).

Gala 2008 Co-Chairs: Risa Ferdman and Aimee Wolf

---

## **Back to School Night**

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008

6:30pm - 8:15pm



Join us for presentations from each of your child's teachers at AJA's Back to School Night.

Invitations and schedules will be included in the September 8 transmittal envelope.

---

that day); school closed on Oct. 9.

A Partner Agency  
of

**The Jewish  
Community  
Association of  
Austin**

**[Visit the JCAA](#)**

**[Join Our Mailing List!](#)**

## **AJA Parent Education: Leilah Tov! It's Time for Bed!**

Monday, Sept. 15, 2008

7:00pm - 8:30pm



Presented by AJA Lower School Faculty

Most children have a bedtime ritual: when and how they brush their teeth; when they put on their pajamas; how many books they read before the lights are turned out; who tucks them in, etc. Together, we will discover how to capitalize on our existing (or develop new) bedtime rituals for our children in order to infuse these moments with Jewish values...through stories, songs and blessings for restful sleep and a bright new day. Recommended for parents with children ages two through eight. This course is offered in partnership with the PJ Library: Jewish Bedtime Stories & Songs for Families. For all workshops, registration is required. RSVP to [Shira Strosberg](#) (512.735.8370).

---

## **Parent Volunteer Sign-Up Breakfast**

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008

8:00am - 9:00am

We need your help! Join us for breakfast and to sign-up to volunteer for a variety of school-related projects. RSVP to [Jodye Friedman](#) (512.735.8374).

---

## **HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS: NEW Monthly Adult Education with Rabbi Kirzner**

Begins Friday, Sept. 26, 2008

8:00am - 8:45am

AJA is proud to launch a new adult education program! On each of the Friday mornings listed below, AJA's Rabbi Bob Kirzner will facilitate an overview of the upcoming Jewish holiday.

Please join us! Invite a friend!  
This program is open to the community!  
Friday mornings from 8:00am - 8:45am at AJA.

September 26: Rosh Hashanah  
October 3: Sukkot/Simchat Torah  
December 12: Chanukah  
January 30: Tu B'Shevat  
February 27: Purim  
March 27: Passover  
May 8: Lag Ba'Omer  
May 22: Shavuot

Contact [Rabbi Bob Kirzner](#) for more information.

---

## Middle School Speakers Bureau

Our Middle School Speakers Bureau is scheduled Fridays during lunch. During this time, we invite Austin's most creative and accomplished for an informal discussion of possible hobbies, careers and educational topics of interest to pre-teens/teens. Possible speakers could include professors, community organizers, writers, and artists.

**We need suggestions from AJA parents and community members to build this year's Speakers Bureau.**

Please email [Rabbi Bob Kirzner](#) at with your suggestions and contact information for suggested speakers. We are specifically looking for topics related to career interests, community service, academic topics, community programs, etc.

**Thank you!**

## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

### Special Invitation to Join Scouting!

Did you know that our community has a very strong, active Jewish scouting program in Austin? We are proud of our scouting group and invite you to join today!

Please contact any one of the leaders listed below.

- Cub Scouts (boys ages 6-10), Kevin Koeller at [kevin\\_koeller@yahoo.com](mailto:kevin_koeller@yahoo.com)
- Boy Scouts (young men ages 11-18), Josef Zeevi at [info@t28austin.org](mailto:info@t28austin.org)
- Daisy Girl Scouts (Kindergarten girls), Julie Van Keer at [jvankeer@email.com](mailto:jvankeer@email.com)
- Brownie Girl Scouts (1st-3rd grade girls), Ilana Miller at [imiller2@austin.rr.com](mailto:imiller2@austin.rr.com)
- Junior Girl Scouts (4th-6th grade girls). Julie Van Keer at [jvankeer@email.com](mailto:jvankeer@email.com)

## **Tank on empty? Fill up with Melton!**

The perfect way to start the new year of 5769. The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, a project of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, enables Jewish learners from all backgrounds to learn about our heritage and culture in a challenging and inspiring course of study. We invite you to join 20,000 adults in over 65 Mini-Schools throughout the Jewish world whose lives have been changed by this internationally acclaimed adult education network. You'll find stories of war and peace, family feuds, battles for revenge and power, passion, romance and legal wrangling. There's a joy in the depth of learning that takes you beyond the basics and makes you think about your own Jewish practices and makes you thirsty for more. And it can be yours. Classes are held September through May on Monday evenings beginning Sept. 8, 7-9:30 or Tuesday mornings, beginning Sept. 9 at 9:30-12:00. "Give us 2 1/2 hours ... we'll give you 5,000 years." Join the great Jewish Conversation; enrich your life by studying in an intellectually stimulating, pluralistic learning environment. Those interested, please contact Aliza Orent at (512) 735-8030 or [aliza.orent@shalomaustin.org](mailto:aliza.orent@shalomaustin.org).

## **Austin Jewish Book Fair**

Politics, fat camp, Jewish-Christian relations, peace, Yiddish sayings, kosher cooking, life after cancer, and the Jewish "junior league" are a few of the topics that will be discussed during the Austin Jewish Book Fair (AJBF). The 25th annual event, presented by the Jewish Community Association of Austin (JCAA), will be held from Wednesday, Oct. 29 through Monday, Nov. 10.

"The Jewish Book Fair features authors from countries around the world, with a variety of religious perspectives and areas of interest," said Lisa Apfelberg, AJBF Director. "We hope to

draw a diverse audience to participate in thought-provoking conversations that everyone in the community will enjoy."

For the most up-to-date information, please see [www.shalomaustin.org/bookfair](http://www.shalomaustin.org/bookfair).

## Israel 360 Informational Session

Insights into The Trip of a Lifetime

Wednesday, September 17; 7:30 PM

JCC Community Hall Dell Jewish Community Campus

7300 Hart Lane, Austin, TX 78731

Join Co-chairs Lecia Sud and Kirk Rudy, special guests from Israel, and community members for a social gathering and informational session. Ask questions and learn more about this spectacular upcoming Austin community trip to Israel.

Refreshments provided

RSVPs encouraged by September 11 to Dana Epstein at (512) 795-9937 ext. 17 or [dana.epstein@shalomaustin.org](mailto:dana.epstein@shalomaustin.org). For more information, visit [www.shalomaustin.org/israel360](http://www.shalomaustin.org/israel360).