

FROM NEW YORK AND HOUSTON

An article from "Jewish World, April 21-27, 2006"

Getting to Know You -Great Neck's NSHA hosts Japan-...Sharing songs and dances, the Jewish and Japanese students overcame the language barrier and bonded during the Small Hands Delegation's three-day stay in Great Neck..."The visit made a very deep emotional impact on everyone involved," said Rabbi Marvin Tokayer. "They're still talking about it at NSHA. It went above anyone's expectations."

A letter from the Holocaust Museum Houston

The host families and those who saw the students perform are still talking about it. It was discussed at our Board meeting. All of you have made such an impact on all of us and our friendship will continue...

Our board would like you and your students to visit again so they can perform for a larger group. We hope this is possible in the future.

We would like to express our deep appreciation for the studytrip to;

Rabbi Marvin & Mrs. Mazal Tokayer
Rabbi Yeshayahu Greenfeld, Rabbi Sholom Jensen,
other teachers & the Parent Teachers Association at
North Shore Hebrew Academy
Mrs. Dworkin & other teachers at Joseph Kushner
Hebrew Academy

Mr. Amir Ofek and staffs at Consulate General of
Israel in NY
Rabbi Kermaier & Prof. Yaffa Eliach at
Fifth Avenue Synagogue
Ms. Susan L. Myers, Ms. Linda Toyota and Mr. Paul
& Mrs. Edith Hamer at Holocaust Museum Houston

Activities of the Holocaust Education Center

Visitors to the HEC

The HEC has welcomed various visitors from all over Japan this year also, who visit us to know and study about the Holocaust. Up to 78,000 visited since the HEC opened. Many schools visited for their school trips, and many teachers and adults have also visited us.



Children visiting the HEC

In February, 2006, 80 Soto Zen Buddhist priest representatives from all over Japan visited the HEC. They were very impressed with our center's activity, and were deeply moved by what they learnt about the Holocaust. Visiting our center, they discussed how they can spread the activity of our center.



Soto Zen Buddhist visiting the HEC

After their visit, some representatives brought their own community's priest members, from Mie-prefecture and Yamaguchi-prefecture. We are pleased that our activity is understood and supported by many people of many backgrounds.

Work Experience Program

During the summer of 2006, two Junior High students of the area came to the HEC as part of their "Work Experience Program". They helped us by handing brochures to the visitors, cleaning up the building, etc. We are happy to take part in such roles in the community.

Activity of "Merkaz"

May 20th, 2006, "Merkaz" ("Center" in Hebrew), a university student volunteer group of the HEC, began its

activity. Two students, Daisuke Fujimoto (19) and Takeshi Irie (18), who graduated from "Small Hands" gathered together to express their wishes of "We want to support the activity of Small Hands and the HEC".

They are now gathering every Saturday afternoon, and supporting HEC's activity in many ways. They have sent out letters to organizations in the world such as American Jewish Students' organization "Hillel", to ask support in collecting artifacts for the new HEC's exhibition. They were happy to receive answers with warm words of encouragement.

On Saturdays from August to October, Mr. Justin Zammit, an Australian student currently teaching English



Justin and Merkaz working on the

internship in Osaka, Japan, came to the HEC for his internship. He helped us by sorting out the English books in the library, and checking the English explanations in the exhibition.

Daisuke and Takeshi had the chance to work together with Justin, using English and Japanese to communicate with each other. They worked together to in translating Japanese explanation about Chiune (Sempo) Sugihara into English. This was a very helpful work for the HEC also, and through

this translation, their English skills have improved very much.

"We want to think of what we can do in our students days, and act according to this thought." said Daisuke and Takeshi.



Takeshi, Justin, and Daisuke