

Dear rising 8th graders:

I think I've run into most of you at one point or another in various Gesher nooks and crannies – but I just want to make sure you know that we will be studying Jewish History together, next year. Modern Jewish history is an exciting subject, and I expect that we will have a great time.

There are a few things I would like to know about you and your family before class starts. I am attaching two information sheets, and I ask that you fill them out. There are no hard questions, but you will probably need to ask your parents (or grandparents) for a couple of the answers. *It shouldn't take you more than a few minutes.*

Either fill out the sheets on your computer and email them back to me (ann.nachbar@gmail.com), OR print out the sheets, fill them in and hand them to me on the first day of class.

There is also a description of an optional summer activity. Please read the description, and if it sounds like fun to you, and *if you are able to do it safely*, I suggest you give it a try.

Required summer video: Please be sure to watch “Fiddler on the Roof” before school starts. We will be referring to it.

Required summer reading: Please read one of the following books:

- *The Chosen* (by Chaim Potok) OR
- *The Six Day Hero* (by Tammar Stein)

Both books are available on *amazon.com*.

Fairfax County libraries offer 5 copies of *The Six Day Hero* and 6 copies of *The Chosen*.

You will not need to have a copy available to use in class.

If you or your parents have any questions, please email me (ann.nachbar@gmail.com),

Have a terrific summer!
See you in August.

Ann Nachbar

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: In order to *understand* history, one must be able to consider how different people have different views of the same events. To practice this skill, I recommend the following activity:

If you have time and inclination, walk around the block or take another short walk. Either as you walk or immediately afterward, jot down a few sentences describing your walk. Example:

- What did you see? Whom did you see?
- Did you stop for anything or anyone?
- Did you feel hot, cold, wet (from rain), tired, etc?
- Was the surface hard, soft, muddy, slippery, pebbly, etc?
- Were you impressed by any particular sounds or smells?
- How long did it take you to complete the walk? Did you go directly from start to finish – or did you meander a bit?



NOW – if possible, find a dog or a young child (old enough to walk), and redo the walk with that dog or child. Do not hurry them along or try to influence them to pay attention to one thing or another. (Let them basically lead you, BUT DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO KEEP CHILD AND/OR DOG SAFE and HEALTHY and to bring them safely home!)



HOW IS THE DOG OR CHILD EXPERIENCING THE SAME WALK? TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE WALK FROM THE DOG OR CHILD'S POINT OF VIEW.

Jot down a few sentences describing *HIS/HER/ITS* walk. Example:

- *What interests them? How can you tell?*
- *What can they see – from their height?*
- *For what/whom do they stop?*
- *Are they impressed by any particular sounds or smells?*
- *How long does it take them to complete the walk? Do they go directly, from start to finish, or do they meander a bit? What causes them to shift direction or speed?*

ALTERNATIVE if you don't have ready access to a dog or young child: – imagine that you are a highly intelligent spider, seeking a favorable place to spin a web. Now take the walk again. Jot down a few sentences describing what you – as a spider – notice on the walk? How is it different from your first walk?

EITHER fill these FAMILY INFO forms out on the computer and EMAIL them back to me (ann.nachbar@gmail.com) OR print them out and turn them in on the 1st day of class.

Name _____

Your email address: _____

Email address for one or both parents:



Please ask your parents or grandparents the following questions:

1. At some point, someone in your mother's and father's families immigrated to the United States. **Approximately** when did your family members first reach the U.S.?

(Write "M" for Mother's family and "F" for Father's family)

___ Before 1880	___ 1880-1900	___ 1900-1925	___ 1925-1939
___ 1939-1945	___ 1945-1948	___ 1949-1970	___ 1970-present

2. Where did they come from? Do you know the name of the countries or province(s)? Do you know the **town(s)** from which they came?

Mother's family:

Father's family:

3. Did any family members make *aliyah* BEFORE 1939? ___ Yes ___ No ___

If yes, who was it?

Approximately when did he/she get to Palestine? _____

Where was he/she before making *aliyah*? _____

Where did he/she settle in Palestine? _____

Did he/she fight in Israel's War of Independence? ___ Yes ___ No ___

4. Are any of your grandparents or great-grandparents Holocaust survivors – that is, did any of them **survive Nazi-occupied Europe** during World War II, between 1939 and 1945?

___ Yes ___ No ___

If yes, what country or countries were they in?

How did they survive? (For example, were they hidden by non-Jews? Did they survive concentration camps?)

5. Do you **now** have any family living in Israel? ___ Yes ___ No ___

If yes, where do they live?

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME _____

1. About how many pairs of shoes do YOU have? (Include flip flops, boots and slippers)
 ___0 ___1-3 ___4-10 ___over 10

2. Do you own socks? ___Yes ___No

3. Has your family ever purchased a toy of any kind? ___Yes ___No

4. Does your house or apartment have a dirt floor? ___Yes ___No

5. For NON-vegetarians:

a. Approximately how many times/week do you eat meat? _____

b. Have you ever caught a fish, cooked it and eaten it? ___Yes ___No

c. Have you ever picked out a live chicken, taken it to be slaughtered, plucked out its feathers, cooked it and eaten it? ___Yes ___No

6. Do you assume that you will attend high school next year? ___Yes ___No

7. Do you assume that you will attend college some day? ___Yes ___No

8. What kind of work might you do some day? Highlight all that you would consider doing.

Cross out OR underline the careers that you think you are LEGALLY forbidden to pursue.

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Farmer | Accountant | Teacher | Construction Worker |
| Doctor | Architect | Travel Agent | Fashion Designer |
| Lawyer | Engineer | Soldier | Film/TV Production |
| Chauffeur | Plumber | Diplomat | Urban Planner |
| Banker | Veterinarian | Actor/Actress | Factory worker |
| Politician | Carpenter | Salesperson | Waiter/Waitress |
| Chef | Florist | Athlete | Factory Manager/Owner |
| Rabbi | Secretary | Paralegal | Physician Assistant |
| Firefighter | Policeman | Electrician | Comedian/Entertainer |
| Astronaut | Psychologist | Social Worker | Hairdresser/Barber |
| Artist | Photographer | Tailor | Event/Party Planner |
| Publisher | Fisherman | Musician | Computer Programmer/technician |
| Scientist | Historian | Dry Cleaner | Financial Advisor |
| Mechanic | Miner | Childcare provider | Real Estate Developer |
| Dancer | Jeweler/Watchmaker | Writer | Hotel Manager/worker |
| Librarian | Meat inspector | Pilot | Advertising Executive |
| Art dealer | Flight Attendant | Dentist | Museum Curator |
| Tour Guide | Journalist | Lobbyist | Lumberjack |
| Archeologist | Geologist | Meteorologist | Public Relations |
| Nurse | Physical Therapist | Occupational Therapist | Interior Designer |
| Translator | Mathematician | Speech Therapist | Longshoreman |

OTHER _____

9. Where (city OR county OR state) in the U.S. might you like to live some day?

Where (city OR county OR state) in the U.S. might you be legally forbidden to live?