



A New School Year Is Starting

Refer Your Friends and Family!

August , 2009

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SAVE THE DATE!!



Celebrate Sukkot with Denver Stepping Stones

Our first family program of the year will take place on October 4, 2009 with a Sukkah decorating celebration.

Alumni are welcome!

Calling ALL Alumni!!

We are interested in hearing your

We Depend on YOU!

It is your referrals that help to make Stepping Stones such a success.

If you know of interfaith families/couples in your life, please tell them to contact us- we are beginning our registration for the fall session of Stepping Stones and Pebbles (families with children ages newborn-high school).

We are also collecting names for our next Interfaith Couple Discussion Group.

If you would like to speak with us about a particular couple/family, please call our office or email.

Feel free to forward this email to anyone who might be interested, or ask us directly and we can send you more information.

Our new school year begins September 13th for both the Denver and Boulder programs.



ONE MORE TASTE OF SUMMER...

Meet us in Aurora!

Alumni & New Families Welcome

Saturday August 8th

Location: Great Plains Sprayground
20100 E. Jewell Ave.
Aurora, CO 80012

We know you want bagels! Join us for a Shabbat morning picnic with a treat everyone likes to eat. We will provide bagels and drinks. You can bring whatever else you like.

Games, activities for kids, and the chance to meet other interfaith families

thoughts/stories.

We will feature one alumni story each month in our newsletter.

Write in- no matter what your age or when you participated in Stepping Stones- and share your thoughts/reflection /holiday celebrations to share with Stepping Stones supporters.

Submissions are due by the 20th of each month.

Special prizes will be awarded for submissions that are selected.

Quick Links

[Check out our Facebook page](#) and become a friend of Stepping Stones!

-
[We're on Geshercity too!](#)

in the SE Aurora area. Wear bathing suits.

**THIS EVENT IS FREE OF CHARGE
BUT you must RSVP!**

Please bring your interfaith friends and families!

Recent DENVER Alumni

READ THIS!

Do you still feel lost in the Jewish community? Don't know what to do religiously with your family? If you are an alumni of Stepping Stones/Pebbles within the past 4 years, THIS IS FOR YOU!

We are introducing a new program that will bring you out into the Jewish community with other Stepping Stones/Pebbles families.

Beginning this fall semester, join us for 2 visits to local synagogues for family/tot shabbat services, the opportunity to participate in 2 parent track sessions during each semester, invitations to attend our family programs (Chanukah, Passover), and the continued ability to utilize us as a resource to find an individualized path for your family.

Registration forms are available on our website. Please contact [Stacey](#) for more information.



Only 2 spaces left!

Our 1st Family Weekend in the Mountains is filling up quickly.

Send in your registration now.

From **August 28-30th** alumni and current families will participate in a weekend of fun activities, horseback riding, hiking, and celebrating Shabbat.

Join us at SHWAYDER CAMP at the base of Mt. Evans.

**DON'T MISS THE
1ST INTERFAITH COMMUNITY WIDE RETREAT**

Boulder/Denver/Front Range

\$100/family includes all lodging, food, activities
ALL INCLUSIVE

Let us know if you are interested by email or phone
303-388-1198
delcau@steppingstonesfamily.com

check out Shwayder Camp's Website at:

www.shwayder.com

Jewish Parenting Thoughts:

Why is tzedakah such an integral part of Judaism?

With our struggling economy, many people find themselves in a difficult situation and most non-profit organizations are feeling the effect of this downturn. Judaism has a way of addressing these issues. We can often find guidance from our heritage and writings. Maimonides, Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon (otherwise known as the Rambam) wrote that, "even a poor person who lives entirely on tzedakah must also give tzedakah to another." (Mishnah Torah Chapter 7, Line 5)

Tzedakah is the Hebrew word for the acts that we call "charity" in English: giving aid, assistance and money to the poor and needy or to other worthy causes. However, the nature of tzedakah is very different from the idea of charity. The word "charity" suggests benevolence and generosity. The word "tzedakah" is derived from the Hebrew root Tzade-Dalet-Qof, meaning righteousness, justice or fairness. In Judaism, giving to the poor is not viewed as being generous but rather it is simply an act of justice and righteousness, the performance of a duty, giving the poor their due.

The obligation to perform tzedakah can be fulfilled by giving money to the poor, to health care institutions, to synagogues or to educational institutions. The obligation includes giving to both Jews and everyone else alike; contrary to popular belief, Jews do not just "take care of our own."

Traditionally, tzedakah is given before Shabbat begins every Friday evening. One way of bringing meaning to giving tzedakah is to designate one night a week (preferably Friday) where your family comes together and gives money to the tzedakah box. After a few months, speak with your children about all the possibilities of places that need assistance. You could even visit some of these places. Then decide as a family where you think your money should go. Another way to give tzedakah is to volunteer at one of these facilities. Contact us if you would like suggestions. Get together with your family and think about other ways you can make the act of giving tzedakah into a meaningful family activity!

Upcoming Events

Final Summer Shabbat picnic

We hope to see you at our next event!

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