

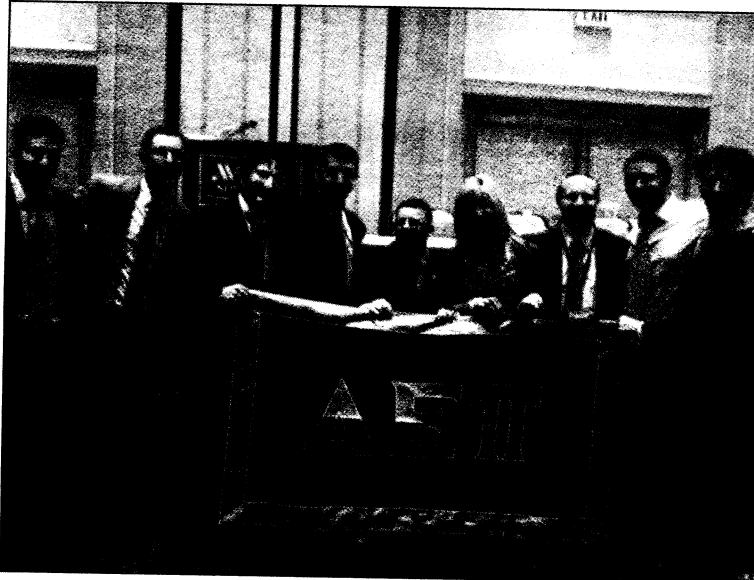
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members of the Chicago Jewish High School Class of 2011 have been named Commended Students in the 2011 National Merit Competition. The Commended Students include **Manana Dodelson, Adam Scherman, Jordan Shapiro, and Aliza Shapira**. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are selected for their exceptional academic achievement. These students place in the top five percent of the nation's 1.5 million students who take the 2011 competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSMQT).



orthopedic surgeon and member **Dr. Ron Silver** recently completed an arduous 20,000-foot climb to the top of the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest. His mission: to bring the revival of Jewish education to Chicago's Chicagoland Jewish High School (CJHS). Silver climbed the mountain alongside his trainer and friend, **Gabriel Viti** of High Peaks Foundation. In May, Viti climbed the mountain to support Keshet, a nonprofit organization for children and young adults serving the community. The climb was supported by JUF/JF. He received a \$200,000 grant for the climb with Silver. The 10-month plan to reach the summit was inspired by Viti's passion for funds and awareness for Jewish education at CJHS. He calls the climb "a defining New Heights moment." Having educated his children through Jewish education, he came to see Jewish education as an essential component of the revival of the Jewish community above is a rendering of the upcoming climb.

Manukah!
from JUF News



■ **Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity, Inc. (AEPi)**, a Jewish college fraternity, has selected seven new philanthropy partnerships. AEPi has pledged to donate \$100,000 to each of these organizations over the next seven years. At the convention, the fraternity—undergraduate and alumni—celebrated the fulfillment of a \$225,000, four year commitment to Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem, Chai Lifeline, and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Delegates from 140 college campuses in United States, Canada, and Israel were tasked with choosing three new organizations to support for the same amount of money. Unable to choose just three, the delegates agreed unanimously to fund all seven of the causes over the next seven years. The fraternity has pledged to raise \$100,000 for each of the following organizations over the next seven years: Sharsheret (Supporting Jewish women with breast cancer); Keshet (Supporting special needs children and young adults); Leket Israel (A foodbank in Israel); Save a Child's Heart (Cardiac care for children in developing countries); Friends of the IDF (Supporting Israeli veterans); ELEM (Supporting at-risk youth in Israel); and Jewish National Fund (Developing Israeli land and infrastructure). Pictured is Keshet CEO **Abbie Weisberg** with fraternity brothers from AEPi, who will donate \$100,000 to Keshet to be paid out over seven years. Keshet is a partner in serving our community, supported by JUF/JF.

■ Two Chicago-area educators, **Rabbi Ruven Barkan** and **Miriam Kass**, were recently awarded the Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award—presented by the Jewish Education Service of North America (JESNA) in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Steinhardt Foundation for Jewish Life and celebrating excellence in Jewish education.

Kass is a third and fourth grade teacher at Akiba-Schechter Jewish Day School. Kass, who attended Akiba-Schechter as a child and whose two daughters currently attend the school as well, was selected for the award for her overall excellence as an educator as well as her strong leadership skills in building the Akiba-Schechter and greater Hyde Park Jewish community. Currently, she serves as the Vice President of Education at Congregation Rodfei Zedek.

Barkan, Chicagoland Jewish High School Rabbi-in-Residence, has been a member of the CJHS faculty since the school's founding



■ Recently, **Lili Gray**, director of Adult, Child and Family Therapy at Jewish Child & Family Services (JCFS), was invited to appear on the WCIU, Channel 26 morning show, *You & Me This Morning*, to talk about helping parents to get their kids to eat their veggies. She and talk show host **Melissa Forman** had a fun, but informative exchange about minimizing power struggles with kids around food. Gray's insights were so helpful that WCIU asked her back to talk about challenges about kids and sleep. Gray relayed, "Research indicates that among sleep habits, having a regular bedtime was the most consistent predictor of positive developmen-



■ This summer, more than 200 participants and families from the **Associated Talmud Torahs'** three-on-three basketball tournament were held at Chicago Bull's Deerfield training facility, the Berto Center. The Associated Talmud Torahs offers a wide variety of programs for children, their families, and teachers in the Chicago area. For more information about the GIVE and Talmud Torahs, call Rabbi **Mordechai Raizer**.

■ At a full house for the 2010 **Jewish Child & Family Services** meeting, Chief Executive Officer **Howard Citron** reported that last year JCFS furthered its commitment to serve the community by launching one new program and increasing collaboration with other agencies while maintaining high-quality care for the community. In the 2011 fiscal year saying farewell to outgoing board member **Stephen R. Ballis**. Having served for over six years, Ballis is highly invested in the community and will continue meeting the needs of the community. The staff is pleased to serve to honor almost 60 staff for their commitment to outstanding professional service.

My Kids to serve with an ill parent

CHAI LIFELINE'S newest project, **My Kids**, created through the vision of **Miriam Isenberg**, launched recently. The MY stands for **Miriam Yocheved**—and, in Isenberg's words, "it's Chai Lifeline when the sick individual is a parent, not a child. That's the easiest way to describe it."

Since 1987, Chai Lifeline has addressed the emotional, social, and financial needs of seriously ill children, their families, and communities by restoring normalcy to family life, and better enabling families to

withstand the stress of serious illness. The program includes support groups and training for families and communities. To contact the program, call 773-329-1818 or visit www.chailifeline.org.



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