

Class Summary - Juniors December 4, 2011

The December Jewish Cultural School Juniors' class session was largely given over to preparations for the Hanukkah play. Noting that they were speeding forward in history, moving to a much later portion of the Jewish biblical/ancient historical narrative, students prepared to consider the Hanukkah story from a historical perspective. After reading through play-scripts, choosing roles, and completing short auditions for in-demand parts, students began rehearsing the latest Hanukkah play (which focuses on Antiochus IV's repression of the Jewish people, the conflict between Orthodox and Hellenized Jews of the era, and the story of the Maccabean revolt). The class worked to understand new concepts and vocabulary introduced in the play, as well as to bring lots of energy and expression to their performance. The lesson concluded with a prop-making activity; students studied pictures of swords, crowns, and other objects from the Maccabean era unearthed by archaeologists, and used these pictures for guidance and inspiration as they created props for the play out of cardboard and other materials.