

PRESS RELEASE

STUDENTS RESEARCH THEIR HISTORICAL ROOTS IN INNOVATIVE COURSE

May 30, 2008 – On Monday, June 2, Gray Academy of Jewish Education invites you to the **Grade Seven Roots Open House**. This interactive and dynamic course in genealogy takes students on a journey to the past where encyclopedias, textbooks and other resource books are not required to gather information.

This unique approach to social history asks students to explore their personal past, and to discover how their family fits into and belongs to the historical timeline of the local Jewish community and of the Jewish people.

Parent Debbie Lipkin reflects back to the time when her daughter took the Roots course and says: “There is now a personal connection to my mother’s history because of this research, and the Roots course solidifies the bond between a grandchild and a grandparent in a unique way. Children now want to know about their family history and begin to pose questions they never thought to ask before. This project has a special place in our hearts and in our home.”

Examples of how students have interpreted their research into a visual forum range from creating a model golf course using flags to represent family members; making use of scrabble boards; creating window blinds and clothes closets with family names affixed to them; using living trees; and building model ships with family names placed on the sails. The use of personal artifacts, family treasures and crests is strongly encouraged.

Rochelle Gamliel who has been teaching this course for 18 years has definitely seen an increase in the use of creativity for this visual display. “These become heirlooms of family history to pass on to future generations,” Mrs. Gamliel said proudly.

Please join us at our Roots Open House:

Gray Academy of Jewish Education
Multi-Purpose Room
123 Doncaster Street
Monday, June 2, 2008
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

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For further information, please contact:

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