

## **UOS Goldberg Montessori School 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Mazel Tov to the UOS Goldberg Montessori School on its 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I remember when we started it how skeptical people were about a Jewish Montessori School. I believe we were the first Jewish Montessori School in the United States. Some of our teachers moved to the east coast when their husbands got better jobs there and they asked me to give them all my Jewish material on Montessori so they could start a Jewish Montessori School in the cities they were going to live in. I believed in the Montessori method because it teaches the whole child not just the child's mind. It has children who are ages 3,4, & 5 in the same classroom. This teaches the child how to get along with children of different ages like in a family. It improves each child's social skills. It also teaches the children that acts have consequences besides letting each child progress intellectually at the child's own speed in a loving environment.

These principals are very much what the Torah teaches us about the Cherubim. These Cherubim or Cherubs in English were childlike images, which jutted up from the cover of the Ark of the Covenant that contained the Ten Commandments. The Cover of the Ark from which these Cherubs jutted up had to be made from one piece of gold. These Cherubs had faces of children with wings soaring up to the heavens. The Rabbis all ask Why did this Ark cover have to be made of one piece of gold? They answer that this Ark Cover was placed directly over the Ten Commandments. This was to let us know that we have to teach our children that in all aspects of their lives they must live their lives based on the Ten Commandment, not just intellectually but also emotionally, socially, professionally and religiously. If we succeed in this then our children will soar spiritually, looking at each other lovingly & caringly. If not then our children will grow up to be like the other

Cherubs mentioned in the Torah who had flaming swords to prevent man from reaching his potential. I also wish hearty Mazel Tov to Joy Blog who has done so many good things for our School, our Synagogue and our Houston Jewish & general community upon receiving Rabbi Joseph & Juliette Chesed Award She truly deserves it. She's always there ready to help. I also wish a hearty Mazel Tov to Colleen Arch & Ronnie Greenbaum on receiving the Teacher Recognition award. They both truly deserve it, not only because they're always well prepared but also because they create as warm loving environment for the children whom they teach.

Mazel Tov also to Debra Kira and all the staff for doing such a wonderful job. May the School continue to go from strength to strength.