

Golda Meir Jr. & Sr. High School Is Best College Prep For Jewish Youth

By Jay Tell

How often have you heard parents of a teenager-gone-astray lament, "What did we do wrong?"

In today's fast paced society, thousands of Jewish children are lost each year, leaving their glorious heritage through intermarriage or by falling victim to a cult. Parental regrets often come too late.

There is a solution: The GOLDA MEIR SCHOOL, located in Los Angeles.

In order to prevent disaster from tearing apart "nice Jewish homes," THE GOLDA MEIR SCHOOL offers a warm, comfortable and challenging school experience for Jewish students in grades 7 through 12, regardless of previous religious schooling.

THE GOLDA MEIR SCHOOL is for those parents who demand the best for their children: strong college preparation and a close-knit "family" of high school friends who will form life-long relationships.

"GOLDA" -- as the 100-plus students affectionately call the school -- is not merely spacious buildings on three acres in Van Nuys. Rather, it also is a state of mind: a living, breathing, driving force in the Los Angeles Jewish community. Like the students she educates, GOLDA was born as a dream of a dedicated few, growing and maturing as a critically important knowledge emporium for fortunate Jewish Youth.

One parent describes GOLDA: "The perfect blend of academic and Jewish studies. A moderate, sensible approach to Judaism unavailable in more traditional Jewish schools. GOLDA gives my child the best college preparation along with a strong Jewish identity and anchor. Thank G-d GOLDA has arrived. We are so lucky!"

GOLDA is a refreshing alternative to public schools, or to non-sectarian private schools. Also, it is the logical continuation to the excellent foundation provided by Conservative or Community Jewish Elementary Day Schools. As the extension of Day Schools, GOLDA completes the continuous academic-Jewish program from Kindergarten through the 12th grade.

Personalized education, a commitment to excellence, and strong attention to the individual are the cornerstones of GOLDA's program. Principal Roberta Sarrow, MA, and assistant principal/guidance counselor Jeanne Herman, MA, each have top credentials as long-time educators and administrators. A hand-picked, accredited, enthusiastic faculty conduct regular and honors classes which are highly personalized, each with only 10-20 students.

Every GOLDA student plans to attend college, so college preparation is the primary focus of GOLDA's faculty, parents, Board of Directors, and administrative staff.

It is no accident that 100% of GOLDA's graduates have gone to college! They prepare for exciting careers in political science, economics, chemistry, biology, psychology, fine arts, graphic arts, history, Jewish studies, and physics. More than half of the 1984 class was admitted to UCLA, with others accepted at UC Berkley and San Diego, CSUN, Fresno State, and USC. One American GOLDA graduate is studying at the University of Tel Aviv, while others chose Brandeis University or the University of Judaism. GOLDA alumni have won several prestigious state-wide competitive scholarships to UCLA.

Parents are kept informed of their child's progress. Frequent communication between school and parent is considered critically important by GOLDA's educators. GOLDA's students take four "solid" academic subjects each year: math, science, English, and history; and three "so id" Jewish courses: beginning to advanced Hebrew, Bible and Texts, Jewish culture and values. Every student also has the option of a

second foreign language (Spanish or French) in addition to Hebrew. Other courses include art, music, drama, dance, typing, physical education, intramural sports teams (baseball, basketball, volleyball, aerobics, etc.). Added this year are advanced placement classes in English, Calculus, and American History.

In addition to stimulating courses, there are exciting field trips. Students have travelled to Yosemite National Park, and to the San Diego Museum to view a special exhibit, "The Precious Legacy." This exhibit of European Ceremonial Art was rescued from behind the Iron Curtain. It is on loan from the Prague Museum to the Jewish Museum in New York. Coming soon is a family weekend in scenic Ojai at Camp Ramah, the camping arm of the Conservative Movement, a division of the University of Judaism.

THE GOLDA MEIR SCHOOL has an international flavor. While most boys and girls are American, others come from Israel, Russia, Iran, Europe and South America. Whether a child speaks no Hebrew or speaks fluent Hebrew, there is a challenging and rewarding program at GOLDA.

GOLDA students come mostly from public schools or Jewish Day Schools. A few enter from Orthodox Day Schools, non-secular private schools, or from foreign countries.

New parents and students are cordially invited to visit for a day, by appointment, to experience first-hand the warm, friendly, stimulating atmosphere, the electricity and enthusiasm within the GOLDA family. New students are placed at their appropriate level for maximum results. Each applicant is given diagnostic tests to determine his or her ability. For example, after testing each student is placed in exactly the correct Hebrew class. Hebrew is taught at five levels, ranging from beginning Hebrew to total fluency.

GOLDA'S NEW 3-ACRE CAMPUS

To meet the current and anticipated extraordinary growth of the school, GOLDA recently moved to its new permanent 3-acre campus. Located at 15339 Saticoy St., Van Nuys, GOLDA is being developed in three stages:

PHASE ONE, The Current Program: GOLDA consists of nine classrooms, a science lab, art room, library, offices, a synagogue, social hall, and a permanent 350-seat auditorium. A strictly kosher kitchen offers hot lunches for the entire student body and faculty. On-stage theater and drama troupes, dance groups, sports, and other extra-curricular activities, usually associated with larger schools, are given important priority at GOLDA.

PHASE TWO: Immediate construction is planned to add eight additional classrooms for 1985-6, plus an expanded art studio and additional science labs, to accommodate a projected student body of 150-200.

PHASE THREE: Planned for 1986-9 are a new administration building, larger lawn areas, expanded guidance offices, an expanded library, more classrooms, and larger sports fields to accommodate a projected 300-350 students.

In addition to the \$1 million in cash already funded for Phase One, a \$2.5 million Capital Gifts Campaign is enthusiastically underway by the Jewish Academy of Los Angeles, parent organization to THE GOLDA MEIR SCHOOL, Los Angeles Hebrew High School, and Mercaz Tarbut. GOLDA's Van Nuys campus also houses the offices and resource centers of the Los Angeles Hebrew High School, GOLDA's sister school.

The prestigious architectural firm of Robbins, Brown & Hollander has been retained to manage the exciting new expansion/construction of GOLDA's growing 3-acre campus. They are the same award-winning team who created the

striking Stephen S. Wise School and the Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School.

COMBINED GOLDA JR. & SR. HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Sheldon Dorph, GOLDA's headmaster, is also a rabbi who has spent many dedicated years working with Jewish youth. When asked what is the biggest advantage of combining the junior and senior high schools Dorph says, "The older students provide excellent models for the younger students; while at the same time senior high students benefit from working with and guiding the junior high students." Dr. Dorph is a well-known educator and world-famous author, who has been the Educational Director of the Jewish Academy of Los Angeles for 13 years.

Ages 11 to 18 are precious, critically formative years in a child's life. Pre-teens and teenagers need a structured, unbroken, continuous program of academic excellence, and a close-knit social structure, to prepare them for college and adult life. GOLDA is the only independent, non-synagogue sponsored, co-educational Jewish junior and senior high school in Los Angeles. It provides every student with a personalized, integrated academic and Jewish education.

Some of GOLDA's parents can't find enough superlatives to describe the "nachas" they feel from their children:

-- "GOLDA has changed the quality of my child's life..."

-- "The world offers mediocrity; GOLDA is a refreshing quality alternative."

-- "Top notch education, and close friendships with others..."

-- "At first my daughter fought the idea of switching to GOLDA, but now wild horses couldn't get her to leave..."

-- "Nothing this exciting was offered when I was a kid..."

-- "No separate afternoon Hebrew school is necessary..."

-- "The perfect moderate blend of Judaic and academic studies..."

But one parental quotation says it all: "My child deserves the best, a solid foundation on which to build a well-rounded and meaningful adult life."

Enrollment is always open for either Fall or Spring Semesters.

Interested parents are invited to call (818) 988-9311. Ask for Roberta Sarrow, principal, or write THE GOLDA MEIR SCHOOL, 15339 Saticoy St., Van Nuys, Ca. 91406, for further information.

GOLDA... a Blue Chip Investment paying dividends for the rest of a child's life!

Rope-jumping students will take center stage when their school participates in the fourth annual Jump Rope For Heart. Jump Rope For Heart is a special event sponsored by the American Heart Association in conjunction with local schools' physical education teachers and students.

Jumpers have been out soliciting pledges to raise funds for American Heart Association research, education and community service programs. Community support is vital to the success of these programs.

We encourage parents and friends to support your jumpers. For more information contact the American Heart Association, at 367-1366, or your neighborhood schools.

Attention Weight Lifters! The Doolittle Community Center, 1900 W. Lake Mead and "J" Street, will be presenting it's Second Annual Amateur Olympic Bench Press Contest on Monday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m. Trophy awards will be given to first and second place winners in each weight classification.