



THE LADDER

NEWS FROM SULAM

DECEMBER 2011

SULAM is an academic program and community resource committed to giving children with diverse learning needs a comprehensive education in a Jewish day school.



Technology Byte



Infusing technology into student curricula is an integral part of the Sulam program. News2U, BrainPop, Neo3 AlphaSmarts and Smartboards are examples of instructional technology used daily.

Sulam's new logo, designed by Larry Paine & Associates Design Studio reflects the Sulam emphasis on student success. With boundless encouragement and cutting edge methodology, the Sulam team helps Jewish children reach new heights.



Yeshiva of Greater Washington Welcomes Sulam

With the start of the 2011/2012 academic year, Sulam once again responded to community request and need by launching a satellite program at the Yeshiva of Greater Washington.

Working in collaboration with both administration and parents of the Yeshiva, Sulam has developed supplemental programming for middle and high school students at both the boys and girls divisions of the school. With access to the full Sulam multi-disciplinary team, on-site master special educators consult regularly on a range of student related matters.

Sulam classes are offered at both Yeshiva campuses as a part of the students' regular schedule, allowing them to seamlessly receive instruction from Sulam instructors without interrupting the flow of the typical Yeshiva school day.

At both Yeshiva locations, Sulam offers classes in Study Strategies, which help students who are experiencing difficulty in learning sophisticated coursework. The

Sulam Study Strategies course teaches critical thinking and organizational skills and presents tutorials when needed. Sulam also provides several of its Yeshiva students with educational coordination. Educational coordination keeps students, teachers, parents and the Sulam educator in close communication at all times, allowing the students to experience consistent

reinforcement from every person in their support network. The results are often remarkable.

Sulam is very excited to be working at the Yeshiva Boys and Girls Divisions and looks forward to continued growth and collaboration. ★



YESHIVA GIRLS (TOP) AND BOYS (BOTTOM) CAMPUSES.

Sulam Opens She'arim High School

Sulam is proud to announce the opening of She'arim High School, a Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) approved, non-public, independent high school developed to meet the needs of Jewish students who require specialized training in academic, life skills and vocational instruction. The new high school opened its doors to its first 9th grade class in September 2011. She'arim High School is a diploma bound program.

After launching lower and middle school divisions in September 2010 to much Jewish community acclaim, Sulam undertook the lengthy approval process with MSDE to open the new She'arim High School in September 2011.

The school name "She'arim," meaning "gates", alludes to the many paths and opportunities that are open to She'arim students in their journey toward adult self realization. The goal of She'arim High School is to prepare students for life after high school, teaching them skills for independent living.

Boasting a hand-picked multi-disciplinary faculty and very low teacher/student ratio, the She'arim dual curriculum program is highly individualized to student needs. She'arim students study math, science, English and social studies as well as Hebrew reading, Jewish holidays and Bible studies.

Instructors integrate assistive technologies whenever possible to accommodate the diverse learning styles of students.

The She'arim life skills department teaches students essential skills for daily living. Depending on student needs, this type of instruction may include conversational skills, personal hygiene, diet and exercise, use of the public transit system and other practical skills.

She'arim's vocational training division builds practical skills that students



STUDENT SORTS MAIL AS PART OF SHE'ARIM VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

can use for future employment. The program features supervised job internships that promote student success and confidence.

As with all programs of Sulam, Inc., Jewish community inclusion is at the heart of what we do. She'arim High School is situated within the Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy. She'arim students benefit from a large number of social opportunities with Academy high school students and participate in Jewish community programming, which occurs throughout the year.

With the opening of She'arim High School, Sulam, Inc. has made another major advance, expanding its reach to serve the learning needs of an ever broadening range of Jewish students. ★

JEWISH DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH: FEBRUARY 2012



In honor of Jewish Disability Awareness Month, February 2012, Sulam will sponsor two workshops entitled "Living a Jewish Life With a Disability", featuring Dr. Rachel Ravin, Sulam psychologist, and Ms. Beth Greene Perera, an adult with autism. The first talk will take place on January 29 at Beth Sholom Talmud Torah in Potomac, Maryland and the second will occur on February 26 at Young

Israel Shomrai Emunah in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Jewish Disability Awareness Month was created to raise awareness in Jewish communities about the challenges faced by people with disabilities and their families. The goal of increased awareness is to create meaningful inclusion for people with disabilities in every aspect of Jewish communal life. ★



EACH WEEK THE SULAM LEADERSHIP TEAM CONVENES TO DELIBERATE ON MATTERS OF PROGRAM-WIDE SIGNIFICANCE. SEATED AROUND THE CONFERENCE TABLE (LEFT TO RIGHT) ARE: MRS. LAURA HARDY, STAFF DEVELOPMENT TEACHER; RABBI URI MEYERS, LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION CHAIR; MS. PATTI LEMERE, UPPER SCHOOL DIVISION CHAIR; MRS. DEBBIE KATZ, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION; MRS. RACHEL SUSHNER, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION; MS. IVY LEICHMAN, TWICE EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST; MRS. ISSIE RESTI, SHE'ARIM DIVISION CHAIR. NOT PICTURED: DR. RACHEL RAVIN, SULAM PSYCHOLOGIST; MRS. ESTIE KATZ, COORDINATOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.

Twice Exceptional Students

SULAM PROGRAM EXPANDS TO SERVE 2E STUDENTS

When Sulam received word in Fall 2010 of a grant to develop Twice Exceptional programming, yet another chapter in the expansion of Sulam services began.

Sulam's first Twice Exceptional (or 2E) resource specialist was hired to start the program in September, 2011.

Ms. Ivy Leichman, a 34 year veteran of Montgomery County Public Schools, has years of experience supporting the

Twice Exceptional (formerly known as GT/LD) student population. Sulam is proud to be one of the few private schools to be offering this type of specialized programming in our broadly inclusive educational model.

Twice Exceptional students exhibit high intellectual ability but do not achieve in school at the expected level. These students are both gifted and have learning difficulties.

To reach their potential, Twice Exceptional students often need individualized

instructional assistance. Challenges in writing, reading, organization and/or working memory may create obstacles in accessing high level curriculum. Direct tutorial,



TWICE EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST, MS. IVY LEICHMAN, WORKS WITH 2E SULAM STUDENT

assistive technology and emotional support may be required to remediate the challenges. At the same time, emphasis on areas of strength gives 2E students opportunities to display their unique, creative abilities, which, in turn, boost motiva-

tion and self esteem.

The Twice Exceptional Program is currently serving full time and supplemental Sulam students. Sulam, Inc. is proud to offer this new learning opportunity for a group of students whose needs have remained largely underserved.

If you know of students who fit the Twice Exceptional description, please contact Mrs. Rachel Sushner, Sulam Director of Special Education at 301-962-9400 x5174, to learn more about the Sulam Twice Exceptional program. ★



Sulam Launches New Website

CHECK OUT SULAM'S NEW WEBSITE AT WWW.SULAM.ORG!

The site is designed to accommodate all guests – regardless of their reason for visiting or their familiarity with Sulam. All visitors will find much to appreciate. We are delighted to invite you to peruse the new site and enjoy its bright and welcoming displays.

New initiates can start out by watching the latest Sulam video on the site's home page and learn about our core mission of educational inclusion within Jewish day schools.

Prospective Sulam families can review our menu of services and learn about our exceptional faculty from the About Us and Divisions tabs and use Contact Us to schedule a tour and interview.

Reservations for the Sulam dinner and other events throughout the year will be facilitated through links on the site. Sulam mitzvah cards, e-cards and Purim cards will also be available through the website.

Sulam parents and faculty as well as professionals seeking employment at Sulam will be able to check a variety of website postings to receive real time informational updates.

Finally, before leaving, we recommend that our visitors take the time to click on the DONATE button. Contributions are the lifeblood of Sulam and, by contributing, you are sharing in the Sulam mission in a meaningful way. Regardless of your reason for wanting to know more about Sulam, we proudly welcome you to visit our brand new website...very soon. ★



Sulam, Inc.
13300 Arctic Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20853

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Sulam Presents **Is the school workload overwhelming your teen?**

**Tips for frazzled students and their
parents from the experts**

**Tuesday,
January 10
7:30 pm**

at the
Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy
13300 Arctic Avenue, Rockville, MD

Open to the Community

Presented by Kyle Kane
from Bass Educational Services, LLC

RSVP to Debbie Katz at 301-962-9400 ext. 5207 or
katzd@mjbha.org.



In Memoriam

This issue of THE LADDER is dedicated in memory of Mrs. Faye Lichbach. Mrs. Lichbach, who suffered an untimely death in May 2011, was a highly innovative teacher whose smile uplifted everyone around her. Her dedication to the mission of Sulam, almost since its inception, had an important influence on many Sulam faculty members, parents and students. She will be sorely missed.

You can make a difference.

Sulam is now collecting Box Tops for Education. With your help Sulam can earn cash rewards to enhance our educational program even more. Please send your box tops to the Sulam office, 13300 Arctic Avenue, Rockville, MD 20853. Thank you for your support.

