



NOV·07·10

1 WORLD. 1 PEOPLE. 1 DAY.

[www.theglobalday.com](http://www.theglobalday.com)

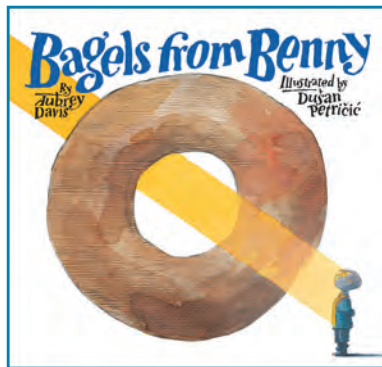
## Council for Jewish Education / PJ Library® and Temple B'Nai Tikvah Congregation

present

Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World) and  
Ma'akhil Re'evim (Feeding the Hungry)

as explored in *Bagels from Benny*

by Aubrey Davis



**Time:** 10:30am - 12:00pm

**Location:** Temple B'Nai Tikvah (900 – 47 Avenue SW)

**Audience:** Children ages 5 to 8, Kindergarten to Grades 2/3

**Description:** Explore the Jewish values of Tikkun Olam and Ma'akhil Re'evim through a delightful reading of Bagels from Benny. Participate in an age-appropriate hands-on mitzvah project.

**Registration by November 4 is required.**

To register, please contact Kathie Wainer, PJ Library® Coordinator  
at [kwainer@cjcc.ca](mailto:kwainer@cjcc.ca) or call 403-537-8597.



[www.jewishcalgary.org](http://www.jewishcalgary.org)

Our PJ Library© event which was part of the Global Day of Jewish Learning was held on Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Temple B’Nai Tikvah, Calgary’s Reform Synagogue.

Eighteen families participated in our book based lesson – “Bagels from Benny” which is an adaptation of a Jewish folk tale in which a young Jewish boy learns from his Grandpa (a wonderful bagel maker) about human kindness and generosity. We focused on the Jewish values of “tikkun olam” (making the world a better place) and “ma’akhil re’evim” (feeding the world) for our program.

The children first decorated brown lunch bags and we directed the conversation around lunches and snacks, eating healthily, and touched on hunger and homelessness. It was quite a lively discussion and was a good opportunity for the children and their parents to meet one another.

The Rabbi took the children into the Temple’s Sanctuary where they sat in front of the Ark and he read from the book and introduced “Inn from the Cold”, an organization that provides emergency shelter to homeless families at different locations throughout the city. The Temple is the host of the In from Cold twice a week, where the guests are given shelter, a hot meal and safe place to sleep. The next day the guests are given breakfast and a bagged lunch before they leave. The Rabbi took the children on a tour and showed them where the guests sleep. It was an eye opening experience for everyone.

The children made cream cheese bagels and filled their decorated brown bags with a healthy lunch. Seeing twenty four bagged lunches lined up was a very sobering lesson. Parents commented that this was “a wonderful opportunity for our children to get socially active and involved.”

After the program I was contacted by a few parents who wanted to continue volunteering with their children. We have had discussions about forming a PJ Library Tsedakah Club, but it has been challenging logistically for us this year, so in the meantime these families have been meeting and are volunteering both within and without the Jewish Community. A Grade One child made a presentation to her (public school) class on what she had learned at our event, and her mother told me that the class collected donations for the Inn from the Cold as part of their Christmas Charity project.

**Contact:** Kathie Wainer, PJ Library Program Coordinator

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November 10, 2010

**For Immediate Release**

**PJ Library® and Temple B’Nai Tikvah Team up on Behalf of Homeless**

“Meaningful and memorable” were the words most used by participants to describe the PJ Library® and Temple B’Nai Tikvah’s “Tikkun Olam and Ma’akhil Re’evim (feeding the hungry)” program on Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup> as part of the Global Day of Jewish Learning.

The jumping off point was the beloved PJ Library book “Bagels from Benny”, an adaptation of a Jewish folk tale in which a young Jewish boy learns from his Grandpa – a wonderful bagel maker – about human kindness and generosity.

“This story and collaborating with Temple B’Nai Tikvah was a natural fit for our tikkun olam lesson which was all about making the world a better place” said Kathie Wainer, PJ Library Coordinator.”

Eighteen young children and their parents met at Temple B’Nai Tikvah, where they decorated brown lunch bags before Rabbi Voss-Altman led them in the book-based lesson in the Temple’s sanctuary. Seeing the children sitting in front of the Ark, listening to the story of Benny and his Grandpa’s bagels was a special moment.

Even more so was the reaction of both the children and their parents when the Rabbi took them on a tour and showed them where the **Inn from the Cold’s guests sleep**. Three times a month the Temple hosts Inn from the Cold, giving needy Calgarians shelter, a hot meal and a safe place to sleep. The next day, guests are given **breakfast and a bagged lunch before they leave.**”

The children made cream cheese bagels and filled their decorated brown bags with a **healthy lunch**. “Seeing twenty four bagged lunches lined up was a very sobering lesson”, said one mother. Another commented that this was “a wonderful opportunity for our children to **get socially active and involved.**”

The PJ Library event was everything organizers had hoped for: children actively engaged in learning about tzedakah and homelessness. The Inn Keeper even phoned to say thanks for the lunches adding, “We felt a sticky hug when we opened those lunches.” That said it all.

*The PJ Library® sends age appropriate Jewish content books and music to registered children ages six months to eight years on a monthly basis. This very popular program helps families explore the timeless core values of Judaism and transmit these values to a new generation through the closeness of parents and children reading together. In Calgary, the PJ Library is funded through Calgary Jewish Community Council, community sponsors and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. For more information about this exciting initiative, please contact Kathie Wainer at 403 537-8597 or [kwainer@cjcc.ca](mailto:kwainer@cjcc.ca) or visit [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org).*

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