Jewish trio captures wheelchair basketball title

By MATT SAMUELS | JHV

While the Rockets battle for supremacy in the NBA playoffs, another Houston hoops team already has captured a championship.

The TIRR Memorial Hermann Junior Hotwheels returned from the National Wheelchair Basketball Association National Tournament on April 19 with their second title in the last three years.

The team, which includes Houston Jewish community members Abraham Hausman-Weiss, Peter Berry and Aaron Berry, won four straight games in Louisville, Ky., to capture the championship.

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Yom HaAtzmaut: Israel celebration comes to town

Beth El, Beth Yeshurun students honor Jewish state

By VDI SAMUELS | JHV

Among the many Yom HaAtzmaut – Israel Independence Day – celebrations across Greater Houston were those in religious schools. In Missouri City, on Sunday, April 19, close to 50 students at Congregation Beth El spent the morning enjoying the fruits of their labors.

The curriculum, created by teacher and Israel specialist Rachel Kossar, was born out of the 2014 Shirley Barish Israel Educators Institute, in which 18 Houston-area religious school teachers from nine congregations traveled to Israel for 11 days in June 2014, in order to enrich their students’ education about Israel.

“The past two or three months we’ve been preparing for a shuk and Israel birthday Institute,” Kossar told the JHV before the program began. “I discussed with kindergarten through seventh-grade teachers which aspect of Israel they would like to learn about and learn about with their children.

“The students get to feel the closeness and rush of everything for Shabbat, as closely as we could make it without their actually being in Israel,” she continued. “This would give them the opportunity to feel a little bit of the culture and the life of what goes on in Israel. Our main goal is for our kids to walk away with at least five things that they learned about Israel.”

Holocaust remembrance prompts pledges to secure future free of hate

By MICHAEL C. DUKE | JHV

Students share family survivor stories

By MICHAEL C. DUKE | JHV

Day school students transformed a library space into a Holocaust Remembrance exhibit, featuring survivors’ testimonies, liberator accounts, historical facts and original artwork.

The project was part of the Hebrew curriculum at the Robert M. Beren Academy and was on display at the school during the week of Yom HaShoah.

“First and foremost, the purpose of this project is to encourage the students to learn the stories from their grandparents and great-grandparents.”

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