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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN IMMIGRANT CHILD

A Field-Based, Lower East Side Experience
for Grades 3 through 6

Dear

Welcome to “A Day in the Life of an Immigrant Child,” a new interdisciplinary education project of the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy (LESJC). This program, underwritten by a major grant from the United States Department of Education and geared to coincide with the mandated study of immigration, uses primary sources such as maps, historic photos and other documents, and on-site learning to lead your students on a journey back in time as they experience the life of an immigrant child on the Lower East Side during the peak years of immigration to this country. It incorporates strategies to engage students with various learning styles, emphasizing inquiry and utilizing all five senses. It is designed to align with Learning Standards in the humanities, literacy, and math while building an awareness of history and visual literacy.

We are thrilled to invite you to participate in this year’s program. The Conservancy is working with teachers now and we encourage your school to be among those who are already benefiting from this unique experience. We are pleased to offer the program at \$5.00 per student; up to four adults can participate at no additional cost.

The program will have three components:

• Pre-Visit

Before their visit to the LES, students will work to gain a better understanding of several facets of life for a child on the LES. They will accomplish this through a variety of activities included in our pre-visit package. Visual materials will include historic photographs, maps, floor plans and documents. This will be an opportunity for the students to receive more focused instruction and preparation for their trip.

• LES Experience

The focal point of the program is a tour of the Lower East Side. Highlights include sites central to the daily life of immigrant families: tenements, parks, libraries, settlement houses, the site of the pushcart market, synagogues (outside and inside) and, of course, a sampling of some Lower East Side delicacies.

• Post-Visit

A culminating project in the classroom will bring to life the students’ understanding of immigrant life and culture. The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy is an educational

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The LESJC thanks NYC Council Member Margaret Chin for her ongoing support of our educational programs. We are also appreciative of U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney, who helped initiate this curriculum.

We are sincerely grateful to the Max and Sunny Howard Memorial Foundation for their generous support of “A Day In The Life of an Immigrant Child”.

organization created in 1998, with the sponsorship of the United Jewish Council of the East Side, Inc. Our mission is to celebrate, preserve, and share the Jewish heritage of the Lower East Side of New York City. We accomplish our mission by public and private programs designed to showcase the neighborhood, its landmarks, its history, and its people to enlighten and inspire visitors of all ages and faiths.

“*A Day in the Life...*” was developed by two enthusiastic and experienced educators: Rena Sichel Rosen and Joyce Mendelsohn. Rena has been teaching children and adults about architecture and neighborhood history since 2001. Most recently she developed an architecture and preservation education program that is conducted in Upper West Side public schools serving over 1,000 students annually. Joyce, a former New York City Public School teacher, is an acclaimed historian and author. The second edition of her book, *The Lower East Side Remembered & Revisited*, was published by Columbia University Press in 2009.

We are eager to customize the program to suit your specific curricular needs. “*A Day in the Life...*” is designed to be used in third through sixth grade, so we welcome the opportunity to discuss with you what grades(s) in your school you think would best be served by this exciting unit. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

With Warmest Regards,

Laurie Tobias Cohen
Executive Director

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