

Holiday T-shirts to help

Designer Ruthanne Adler donates funds to VTT.

Meet Ruthanne Adler. She is a sensitive, community-minded 11-year-old who rarely can be found without a sketchbook and pencils. She is designing a bat mitzvah dress or a Purim costume, or making sketches of her favorite characters from the hundreds of books that she reads each year.

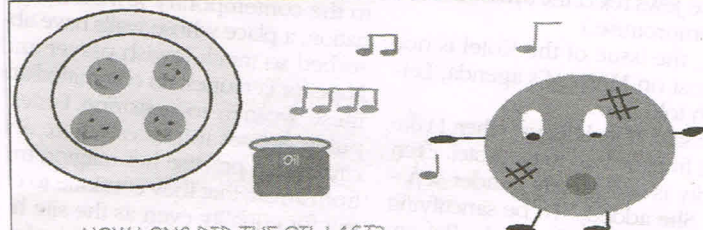
As an only child, Ruthanne has learned to entertain herself: drawing, reading, and playing violin and guitar. She is also very sociable and socially minded. She is in Grade 6 at Vancouver Talmud Torah, where the philosophy of tikkun olam and community are emphasized every day. So, it was natural for her to put her design skills and social-mindedness to good use in a creative way.

Last Chanukah, Ruthanne was riding along in the car with her parents, Yoram Adler and Donna Levi, when a phone-in talk show presented a Jewish caller talking about how disappointed she was that there were no Chanukah sweaters available. Ruthanne listened intently, returned home and immediately set about designing a line of Chanukah gear,



COURTESY OF YORAM ADLER AND DONNA LEVI

Two of Ruthanne Adler's Chanukah T-shirt designs are below.



HOW LONG DID THE OIL LAST?

...It's a Sizzling Story!

including mittens, hats, scarves, sweaters and winter bomber jackets that depicted the story and symbols of one of her favorite Jewish holidays.

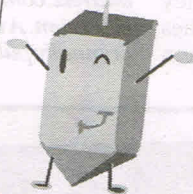
When she turned to her parents for advice on how to market her holiday fashion designs, she was advised to start small. What resulted were five holiday designs screened onto T-shirts, which succinctly tell the story of the holiday.

But that's not the end of the story. Ruthanne's passion for her school and its philosophy of sharing and giving back to community compelled her to ask if the proceeds of the T-shirts could be given to VTT, which has given so much to her over the years.

The project was meaningful for her on many levels: it offered an increased appreciation for her heritage, allowed her to help build community and fed her passion for creating and designing. In addition, the lesson of community joining together for a purpose became a further reality when a retired printer and VTT grandparent offered to help print the T-shirts at a reasonable cost.

To view all the designs and to purchase a T-shirt as a holiday gift, drop by the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver's Chanukah Fair on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. ■

My Head is Spinning with Thoughts of Hannukah!



I'm game.
Are you?