

Creativity and Family Fun to Blossom at the April 23 Spring Fair of West Plano

by Deb Silverthorn

The sun setting later and flowers blooming everywhere are signs spring is in the air and if so, it's time for the Spring Fair of West Plano Presented by Parkhaven Dental Care – a day of shopping and playing, eating and crafting for the whole family at Congregation Anshai Torah. From 11am to 5pm on Sunday, April 23 – at the northeast corner of Willow Bend and Parker roads, a guaranteed transformation of community connections.

"Rain or shine we'll be celebrating the spring and our community and we hope everyone will come out, with their families and friends to join us. The Spring Fair is a great opportunity for us to open our doors and they will be open wide for an awesome-filled day," said Heather Vanacour, chair of the event for the first time, overseeing a committee of Ilene Baumel, Jason Cathcart, Andy Cohen, Bethany Last, Marcy Kahn, Ben and Lisa Kenter, Denise Levine, Rachel Nicholas, Nicole Post, Barrett Stern, and Harvey Swento.

"This is a hard working committee comprised of dedicated Anshai Torah members and the dollars raised from spring fair allow us to integrate new and innovative lessons and programs into our curriculum," said Congregation Anshai Torah's Director of Education, Jason Cathcart. "We're able to explore teaching techniques that empower our teachers to bring creativity into our classrooms and these great ideas wouldn't be possible without the financial support of this annual event, one of the many ways that Anshai supports the future of the Jewish people."

The 2017 Spring Fair of West Plano will feature a Kids' Zone with a children's petting zoo, a rock climbing wall, a turbo bungee jump, inflatable obstacle course, inflatable team sports throwing games, bounce houses, face painting, and green screen photos. Wristbands can be purchased for unlimited access, as well as individual tickets for single rides and attractions, for children's activities within the Kids Zone! Foodies will enjoy kosher BBQ brisket sandwiches and turkey legs, hot dogs, snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy, and Dippin Dots frozen treats.

Ruibal's Plants of Texas returns as an event partner with décor, plants and flowers – more than two dozen varieties including Begonias, Hibiscus, Impatiens, Potato Vines, Periwinkles, and Pentas, all available now for pre-sale, also available the day of the Spring Fair of West Plano.

Proceeds from the Spring Fair of West Plano directly support Congregation Anshai Torah's special programming as well as the Religious School and Preschool programs.

The 2017 Spring Fair is sponsored by many area businesses including Presenting Sponsor Dr. Michael Pincus & Parkhaven Dental Care, Lead Sponsors; Amusement Management International, Kahn Mechanical Contractors, the Texas Jewish Post, Ruibal's Plants of Texas, Valliance Bank, Associate Sponsor Kessler Collins Attorneys at Law, and Kid Zone Sponsors; Advanced Heart Care, DJS Etc, Frisco Kid's Dentistry, and Dr. Greg Greenberg and Rx Smile.

"The support of the synagogue and its pride of our Preschool can be seen through the Spring Fair, a day dedicated to children with inflatable activities, crafts, delicious food and carnival fun. Staffed entirely by volunteers, and a committee that has been working tirelessly for months," said Early Childhood Director, Rachel Nicholas, appreciative of the event's proceeds which help defray costs that are not passed on to the student's through tuition. "The Spring Fair of West Plano is a perfect combination of fun, family and congregation-wide appreciation to share with the whole community."

Art projects for families to complete together include rainbow prism glasses and pop-up top hats to decorate, Twisteezwire to create jewelry or sculptures, and more. The crafts, chosen so that children can wear them and share them are unique. "We've found an array of out-of-the-box projects that kids can do with their parents or grandparents and then wear throughout the Fair," said Baumel. "Really there's something for everyone, a way to bring out the creativity in everybody. It's going to be a lot of fun."

"It is day when I cannot stop smiling," said Nicholas, "smiling at the amazement in our children's eyes, the love expressed in dedicated volunteers and the giant embrace of an awesome community."

The Spring Fair of West Plano will be at 5501 Parker Road in Plano. For more information, call 972.473.7718, email info@springfairwestplano.com, or visit springfairwestplano.com to register as a vendor, sponsor, or to order flowers and plants in advance of the event.



Spring Fair of West Plano, with food, fun, shopping and activities for all ages, is open to the public from 11am to 5pm on Sunday, April 23.