

Maimonides Community

BH. Tishrei 12, 5779 / Sept 21, 2018

Community Newsletter of the Maimonides Hebrew Day School of the Capital District
404 Partridge Street Albany NY 12208 (518) 453-9363/3434 www.maimonidesschool.org
produced by Rabbi Mendel Rubin & students in the TNT (Torah 'n Technology) Program

Maimonides is accredited by the NYS Board of Regents & is a beneficiary of UJF-NENY maimonidesschool@gmail.com

Candle-Lighting:

6:36

Shabbos Ends:

7:34

האזינו



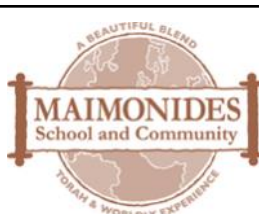
ARAVOT AT MAIMONIDES

Thanks to Mr. Heshy Ungerman's plantings, plentiful Aravot (Lulav willows) are growing abundantly and vigorously alongside the school. Morah Rochel took these 2nd graders outside for a closer look at the stems colors and leaf edges to see first-hand how it matches the Halachic criteria they're learning about. To purchase these locally-grown Aravot, especially for Hoshana Rabba please call Rabbi Rubin 518-423-4103 or see them cut and bundled in the Shteeble on Sukkot's Sunday morning.

BINDING THEIR OWN LULAV



These made-in-Nursery paper painted pretend Lulav sets are not meant for actual observance but the Nursery students sure learned a lot about the Lulav set and each of the four different individual components as they created their own paper versions.



MAIMONIDES
404 Partridge Street
Albany NY 12208



GUESS WHO? SUKKOT EDITION

Morah Chani's Kindergarteners made a Guess Who flap-style craft to see who is visiting the Sukkah that night of Sukkos. It's really cute and they enjoyed making it. Of course, in addition to the traditional invisible "Usphizin" guests from the past we should also try to invite (and be) regular guests in the Sukkah.

BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE

That's the name of the book (and the name of the dog in the book) Mrs. Maher's 4th graders are reading, about a friendly dog that turns up and helps transform a family's life.

LAST MINUTE LULAV SET?



night, first day of Lulav is Monday morning.

Rabbi Simon may still be able to help you! Call 518-439-8280 to see if there might still be a Lulav set available for purchase in time for this important holiday Mitzvah. Sukkot begins Sunday

*This MC Newsletter is dedicated
in loving memory of
Reb Noach Losice
Yartzeit: Shmini Atzeret*

SUKKOT CELEBRATIONS

In addition to all the holiday meals there are a number of local Sukkah celebrations open to the community, see page 4 >> for times and details of the events we were aware of as we went to print with this MC Newsletter. And there are a few outing ideas, too (page 3 & 4).

THAT CLOSE TO MOSQUITOES!?

No one likes bugs in their Sukkah, and among their least favorite pests are mosquitoes, maybe tied with wasps. But HS Science took a very close look at mosquitoes this week, under a microscope lens in fact. The goal of this lesson was less about the mosquitoes and more about how to properly use and focus a microscope which they will need as they study biology this year with Ms. Brown.



ARI FULD OF BLESSED MEMORY



Many have been talking about the terrorist stabbing of the dynamic and vocal Ari Fuld in Israel, and how in his dying moments he valiantly went after the terrorist to keep him from harming others!

TRADE ALONG THE SILK ROAD

HS Global History is learning about the effects of trade via and along the Silk Road, and how trade routes made tremendous inroads far beyond economic value alone.

RUBBER-BAND CUPS TEAMS

Ms. Coffey is doing some team-building exercises with her middle school students including this fun challenge to have students work on teams to build cup towers without touching the cups themselves, instead working together using rubber-bands to get the cups in place. Believe it or not, there can also be some serious math calculations involved!

FLAGS OF TRIBES OF ISRAEL



8th grade Chumash with Morah Rochel is now learning about the encampment and positions of the tribes of Israel in Parsha Bamidbar, and about the various flags and symbols for each of the twelve tribes.

TWELVE TRIBES ASSIGNMENT

At the same time as 8th graders are studying this (but in a different class, with a different teacher) HS Girls have been each assigned a different one of Jacob's sons, one of the 12 Tribes of Israel, as a research assignment to work on individually and then present to the rest of the class. Some of the sons are better known with more readily available material, others are more of a challenge.



TWO TYPES OF UNITY

What's the ideal: a unity of sameness or diversity? A melting-pot or a salad bowl? This is a social-studies question and Jewish thought question: The unifying factor of the Sukkah of all that's inside it, or the Lulav set which ties together its diverse species? Is classroom or family dynamics enhanced by emphasizing individual differences or disregarding them? HS Girls learned this today in Chasynthesis class with Rabbi Mendel in time for Sukkot. Since it's Chasynthesis class the answer has to blend both approaches, a balance of both styles. But why are both needed/important?



A FLOWERING BIRTHDAY PARTY

Eliana's mother came in for her birthday to do a pre-Sukkot craft with her classmates. They cut colored cardstocks in different shapes and patterns to create beautiful flowery arrangements. They also discussed Hebrew wishes that each wish for themselves and for each other. And the yummy party treat was fresh fruit and whipped cream!

BREAK-FAST FOODS POLL



We asked middle-schoolers and HS students and interestingly, the most common Yom-Kippur breakfast food by far was bagels! Nothing else came close.

Some kids did say yogurt, pizza, pasta, eggs, cookies or cereal and milk or even a meatloaf sandwich, but it really seems that bagels after Yom Kippur is almost like a real American Minhag! Why do you think this is so, and what made this come about?



NOTE: FIRST DAVENING BACK

First day back at school after the long Sukkot vacation will be Wednesday, October 3rd, with a late start at 9:30am. Important: Due to parents request we will daven from 9:30am to 10am, and ask that children NOT daven prior to that so the classes can daven together. Daily



prayer is an important priority & educational experience for our students, and parents say that most times their children do not do the daily prayers before coming to a late start after the holidays. Snow days with 2-hour delay and a 10am start will be different. On those late-start snow-days we ask that students daven at home so we can start 10am with class-time.

LOOKING FOR CHOL HAMOED

Ideas? See page 4 for a listing of communal Sukkah parties and events (that we know of as of this MC printing) as well as some interesting things to do in the area.



FLEXIBLE SUKKAH CREATIONS

Morah Rivi's students of all ages used neat techniques to upgrade on the classic Sukkah colorful paper-chain decorations. These folds and bends and plays with the paper not only creates multi-color designs but also gives the paper a playful give and flexibility to expand and contract and be more fun.

HOW DOES (/TO MAKE) SCHOOL WORK BEST FOR YOU?

Mrs. Ramsay showed her students an online video that's critical and questioning of how schools work, which got a great conversation going about how to make schools work better!

LIVING WITH CONSEQUENCES

Tziyon came into school sharing a tragic story from London about bullying that turned into a boy's passing. Nesanel asked what punishment was given to the boys who did it. Rabbi Mendel shared with them a parable he heard in Yeshiva from Reb Mendel Marasow (who recently passed away at over 100 years of



age) about living with long-term consequences of behavior that led to things that we can't change or fix.

CHIDON SIGNUPS

Chidon613.com is the registration site for parents who want to their children (in grades 4-8) to possible participate in the Chidon this year. This is not a commitment but parents who do not register by the 7th of Cheshvan will not be able to participate. If you have questions please speak to Morah Dini. Also, if students want Yahadus books for home use and review (very helpful) they are approx. \$50 each and need to be ordered ASAP.



DIFFERENT CUSTOMS

In several grades our teachers have been emphasizing that our students learn about and appreciate the differences in Sukkos holiday customs even among our own school families. Indeed, it is the diversity of the customs of Jewish communities (even within the same Halachic framework) adds so much beauty and richness to the diverse tapestry of the Jewish people! It is helpful when parents help reinforce this same broad vision with their children at home.



TEACHING HOW TO "SPIT"

That doesn't sound right! Well, some of the girls have been playing a fast-moving card game called "Spit" that's very popular these days. But some girls didn't know how to play.



So they decided to play a "teaching-game" to show those girls how the game works. That's really nice!

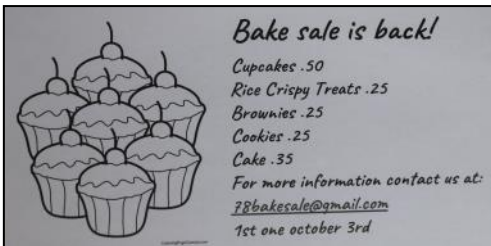
TEHILLIM FOR A VOLUNTEER

One of our reading volunteers got hurt and was unable to come in, because he got hurt and is recovering. Please say some Tehillim for Dovber Daniel ben Rashka Leah.



MAX'S DRAGON SHIRT

After reading a book titled "Max's Dragon Shirt" Mrs. Mattice's 1st graders made their own paper shirts.



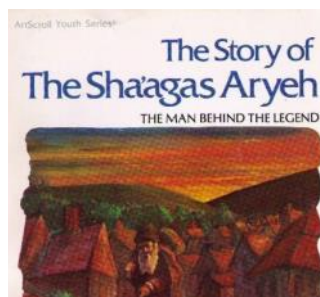
BAKE SALE + DRINK SALE

This year there will be two weekly sale days at school: Mondays are Drink Days run by the 8th grade boys (plans are for drinks like lemonade, hot-chocolate, or even occasional smoothies!) and Wednesdays will be Bake-Sale with cupcakes, brownies, cookies and cake and more run by the 8th grade girls. Parents can set up a credit tab with both sale programs, and set limits or other criteria. Bake Sale will start up on the first Wednesday back, Oct 3rd!

COLOR-CODED ORGANIZATION

Mrs. Maher has 4th and 5th together for science and social-studies. Anything she writes in red is work for 5th graders, anything in blue is for the 4th graders and anything she writes in green is for both 4th and 5th. It's a great system keeping everyone on track with their work and it also helps them improve their organizational skills and recognize what they are or are not responsible for.

WHAT ONE VERSE LEADS TO...



Rabbi Rubin's Talmud class learned a verse (from this week's Parsha Hazinu!) quoted and interpreted in Gemorah Menachos (recent Daf

Yomi) about Tefillin that sparked a question which Rabbi Rubin told them discussed with tremendous richness by a rabbi called "Shagyas Aryeh" (lion's roar). To appreciate the background, Rabbi Rubin pulled out from the Esty Library one of Artscroll's very first biography books: about this legendary scholar. He told them that there was a time that "you couldn't become Bar-Mitzvah" without mention of this Rabbi's Pilpul teachings.



SURPRISE PARTY

5/6 girls decided on their own to make a party for a classmate's birthday which was on Rosh Hashanah (so they didn't make a party in school) but the girls made up for it in a fun, beautiful way!



THIS HEART SYMBOL

You see it so often, but you might not know what it means! The heart-hand symbol with the two M's stands for "Maimonides Middos" and refers to anything our students learn that relates to character, personality, life-lessons. It is designated in memory of Rivka Losice, a dignified local role model of refined character.

SUCH A SHORT WEEK!

Again, a 3-day school week. We at the MC can't wait for the full weeks of TNT student reporting. Yet, still a 4-page newsletter!

U.H.L.S. LIBRARY 36ERS CHALLENGE

Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS—36 libraries in Albany & Rensselaer counties) is hosting a library visit challenge! Visit as many of their diverse and unique libraries as you can until Nov 30th. Pick up a map at any library gets stamped as you go from library to library. Take pictures at each one, for your own memories or to post online with hashtag: #Library36er. Remember books borrowed at any of these libraries can be returned at any other of the 36 within this same system. There are small prizes for milestones of libraries reached but what's really cool is how different each of these buildings are, there are different collections in each. Some are quite far from Maimonides, out in rural areas.

PARKING GARAGE MURALS DOWNTOWN

Thanks to Albany Center Gallery and the Albany Parking Authority (among others) downtown Albany now has bunch of big, bold, colorful murals that are neat to see passing by on the highway, but even more interesting (and better photo-ops) up front and close: There are giant bluebirds on the side of the Quackenbush Parking Garage, and the colorful "mixtape" textured pattern mural on the other side of the Quackenbush Garage. There are funky kid-friendly murals by Sylvie Kantorovitz (an author/illustrator who visited our school!) and Cara Hanley on and inside the Green-Hudson Parking Garage. And one with a heartbeat turning into a heart, and a map-inspired mural on a 787 support wall along Water Street. Look this up at: albanycentergallery.org/capitalwalls and get your own walking tour map.

UPCOMING EVENTS

at Maimonides and in the Community

9/22: SHABBAT HAAZINU—ALMOST SUKKOT!

This Shabbat we read Ha'azin, the portion of the Torah scroll almost entirely formatted as poetry in two columns. This Shabbos, 13th Tishrei, is also the yartzeit of Rabbi Akiva Eiger (there's a family of Maimonides alumni who are descendants of this great Talmudic genius) and it is also the yartzeit of Rebbe Shmuel of Lubavitch (Maharash, the 4th Rebbe of Chabad).

9/22: NCSY SUKKAH DECORATING SAT NIGHT

9-10pm at CBAJ for 8th to 12th graders. Getting into the spirit!

9/23: UPPER MADISON STREET FAIR

12-5pm on Erev Sukkot on the last block of Madison Ave (between West Lawrence and South Allen Streets).

9/23: ADIRONDACK BALLOON FESTIVAL

It's all weather-permitting but this year's Adirondack Balloon Festival ends this Sunday morning, Erev Sukkot (wish it were over Chol HaMoed!). Look up www.AdironackBalloonFest.org for launch times (usually just after dawn) and locations. Sometimes, if conditions are right, as many as 100 balloons of all colors and styles go up. It's gorgeous!

9/23: CBAJ BUILDS SHUL SUKKAH PART II

Approx 9am after CBAJ Shacharit come out to finish building the CBAJ Sukkah in time for the holiday that same night!

9/23-10/2: SUKKOT & SIMCHAT TORAH HOLIDAY

Sukkot begins Sunday night, Simchat Torah ends the following Tuesday night. No school throughout. Chol HaMoed (weekday days of the holiday) are Wed thru Fri & again on Sunday. Any ideas of outings/activities those days?

9/23: SUNDAY—FIRST NIGHT IN THE SUKKAH

After your YomTov meal on the first night, stop over at Rabbi Rubin's 122 South Main Ave Sukkah for some delightful teachings and inspiration.

9/24: CABJ DAYTIME KIDDUSH IN THE SUKKAH

CBAJ hosts first-day of YomTov Kiddush in the Sukkah sponsored by Paula and Paul Mosher. Second day of YomTov Kiddush sponsored by CBAJ.

9/24: MONDAY—SECOND NIGHT IN SUKKAH

After your YomTov meal on Monday night at the Kudans' Sukkah at 6 Peyster Street, between Ryckman Ave. and Ridgefield Park.

9/25: TUESDAY—THIRD NIGHT IN THE SUKKAH

A little after YomTov Havdalah come for the first night Chol HaMoed in the Mathless Sukkah at 147 South Lake Ave (entrance off Providence Street).

9/26: WEDNESDAY—FIRST DAY CHOL HAMOED

This is the first weekday of the Sukkot holiday. In addition to whatever plans you might have that day for the children (no school all week) there's:

- 5:30pm Sukkot Celebration at YMCA of East Greenbush, 20 Community Way. Event is sponsored by YMCA with cooperation of Jewish Federation of Northeastern NY. A kosher BBQ dinner will be served in the Sukkah, supervised by Rabbi A. Laber from Chabad of East Greenbush. No charge.
- And a special Chanukah Night-Out for Ladies of the community at the home of Chaya Rubin, 44 Rose Court.

3	Labor Day	SEPTEMBER '18						
4	Staff Meeting	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
5	First day of classes							1
6	First day of HS classes							
10-11	Rosh Hashana							
12	Gedaliah Fast 9:30 Start	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18	Erev Yom Kippur	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	Yom Kippur							
20	9:30 Start	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24-30	Sukkot	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		30						

- Price Chopper Sukkah is open on Chol HaMoed to the side of the Kosher Store in the parking lot. Nice little outing and often you may meet travelers, even at all hours of the night!

9/26-27: WED/THUR—GREAT ESCAPE LODGE SUKKOT

Great Escape Lodge and Indoor Waterpark has a special Sukkos program, which is closed to the public but available with the "Sukkos" code. By paying for a room you can access to gender-separated waterpark use. There will be a Sukkah available on premises provided by Saratoga Chabad. For more info call Great Escape Lodge directly, and speak to Rabbi Abba 518-526-0773.

9/27: THURSDAY—SECOND DAY CHOL HAMOED

- Clifton Park Chabad's "Sushi in the Sukkah" 5:30pm at 495 Moe Rd.
- Later that (Thurs) evening Dr. Yehoshua and Chaya Bracha Rubin along with the Sussman's are hosting in their home and Sukkah at 419 Partridge (across Maimonides) with some live musical accompaniment.

9/28: FRIDAY—THIRD DAY CHOL HAMOED

- Rabbi Motti hosts a children's Sukkah rally 10:30am in the Sukkah (weather-permitting inside) at Shomray Torah—Shreeble.
- Friday Night the Gordons host a spirited Simchas Beis HaShoeva farbrengen at their home, 29 Glenwood, following the Friday Night meal.

9/29: SAT NIGHT—EVE OF HOSHANA RABBA

- This Sat Night musical night in the Sukkah is in memory of Esty (Rubin) Cohen as her yartzeit falls just after Sukkot. Golfstrom is the local band to play lively Klezmer music for a lively Simchat Beit HaShoeva for community (as well as students) at Shabbos House. Start time is 8:45pm.
- This Sat night is Hoshana Rabba eve, and opportune for late night Torah study and Tehillim. Following the musical eve at Shabbos House there will be late night learning, Tehillim and inspiration at Shomray Torah.

9/30: HOSHANA RABBA MORNING

In addition to regular Shacharit (some customs add parts of a Shabbos davening), Hallel, Torah Reading, Hoshanot and Musaf like every other Sukkot weekday, this last day of Sukkot also has 7-circuits of Hoshanot and the banging of the Aravot. Aravot will be for sale that morning at Shomray Torah and elsewhere to benefit Maimonides.

10/1-2: SIMCHAT TORAH KIDDUSHIM

If you'd like to sponsor/participate in the various end of YomTov meals and Kiddushim at Shreeble, contact Reb Michoel Caras: macaras@gmail.com.

12/9: A JOINT COMMUNAL CHANUKAH EVENT...

Stay tuned for something special planned for the last evening (& second Sunday) of Chanukah. Still in the works, more details soon.

12/10: ANNUAL MAIMONIDES RAFFLE-AUCTION

It's not too early to start thinking about prize packages to solicit or donate for this school fundraiser. The event and drawings will be Monday, the 8th and last day of Chanukah. If you'd like help, call Raizy 518-772-7299.



MAIMONIDES SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

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