

# Maimonides Community

BH. Tishrei 5, 5779 / Sept 14, 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](http://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](mailto:maimonidesschool@gmail.com)

Candle-Lighting:

6:49

Shabbos Ends:

7:47

ויילך



## TISHREI TIME MANAGEMENT

There may not be much school this month but it certainly isn't a quiet, slow month. Tishrei (this year mostly in September) is chock-full of holidays and special dates, and to get a sense of each day, its observances and importance, Morah Devorah Leah's 2nd grade

students created their own calendar with each date and its significance penciled in.



## MOTION PICTURE SLIDES

In STEAM class students played around with this manual device that helps you experience the motion-picture effect, gradual changes from picture to picture that are accelerated for a movement effect. You can say the same for each day or segment of this holiday season, each stands on its own, but when accelerated or seen as a whole it becomes a spiritual sense of movement, transformative personal growth.

## REBBETZIN CHANA YARTZEIT

This Shabbos, 6th of Tishrei, is yartzeit of the Lubavitcher Rebbe's mother, Rebbetzin Chana who wrote an inspiring memoir, all translated into English. For tidbits of her moving memories of Yom Kippur, search online for: 3 Yom Kippur Memories Rebbetzin Chana.



## MAIMONIDES

404 Partridge Street  
Albany NY 12208



## SALO'S BOOKS

Rabbi Rubin's Bar-Mitzvah boys Talmud class has been learning the section in Talmud Menachos about the Tefillin along with the current Daf Yomi study cycle—using the Talmud books Salo of blessed memory gave the school, and in the daily study cycle he loved, taught and promoted. Pictured above is a Halacha book with Salo's name "Shlomo Steper" inscribed inside the front cover. They used this book pictured as part of their efforts to follow up the Talmudic discussion and trace it down into practical Halachic observance.



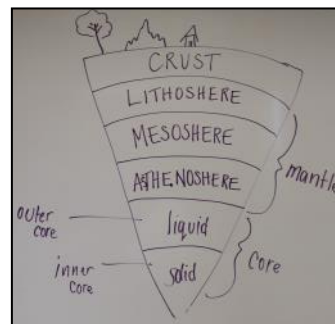
## GLOBAL STATS, PERSONAL MESSAGE

High School's Global History class did an intro about current global statistics, some of which were quite shocking. It ran percentage numbers of how many people around the world (today, in the 21st century) don't have access to clean water, to indoor plumbing, to use of a personal telephone and things like that. Many things that all Americans rich or poor take for granted. This tied into the poems about the American Dream they're reading now in English class. Mrs. Ramsay also made the High Holiday connection: a time when we pray for and appreciate all of life's blessings.

*This MC Newsletter is dedicated  
in loving memory of  
**Dr. Bernard Teitelman**  
13th Yartzeit: Yom Kippur  
By Joyce and the  
Teitelman & Lew Families*

## FOLLOWING FLORENCE

Florence hits the Carolinas as this goes to print and some of our students have been watching the forecasts and concerns about this hurricane, especially the heavy rain, dangerous storm surges and flooding that's predicted.



## EARTH AS A SLICE OF PIZZA

5/6 grade science dug into earth below the surface to learn about the

various layers within the earth's depths. It was drawn on the board as a slice of Pizza, with the crust on top! There's also a Yom-Kippur connection here, because it's a day that we look deep within, beneath and beyond the surface to reach and discover our inner core!

## MAZAL TOV MENDEL R.

And the Schenectady Rubins on his Bar-Mitzvah this week and the celebrations this Shabbos Shuva weekend.





## ONE VERY LONG LINE

Some nursery students worked hard to put together this very long line of Klik and were so proud of it that they insisted on keeping it intact until a TNT photographer would come in to take a picture of it for the MC newsletter. So how could we not publish it!? What lessons can be learned from this very long line of single-file Klik all linked together? Send us your ideas and we'll make a list of lessons learned for next week's MC!



## ORIGAMI WHALES & JONAH LEARNING

These students (*above*) are learning the creases and folds to make blue origami paper whales with Morah Rivi for the Jonah story read at Mincha on Yom-Kippur. Kindergartners (*on left*) illustrated their own Yonah books, 2nd graders learned a song about it. 5/6 graders are learning Sefer Yonah in the Hebrew text with Morah Rochel and she adds a lot of background info and interesting tangents (like Midrashim, life examples & Benny Friedman's Ivri Anochi song) that are not directly in the text but related to it. They are also writing down and translating the difficult or unfamiliar words. Many classes are learning this classic story, each in their own way.



## AVINU MALKEINU IN SCHOOL

Boys davening class sang the first and last of the set, and everyone took turns saying one sentence aloud as Chazzan, dividing the long set of Avinu Malkeinu's over two days. In Chasynthesis class girls High School learned about the contrast and balance of father vs. king (closeness/distance, love/respect, unconditional/conditional etc) and how instead of seeing it as a Dr. Jekyll Mr. Hyde, these opposites complement each other, both are needed in many areas of life such as parenting, teaching, and other areas of human relationships.



## A CIRCLE IS JUST A CIRCLE...

Mrs. Maher asked her students to colorfully fill in this set of blank same-size circles, to demonstrate that a circle isn't just a circle once you consider all the options. It can have swirls, be divided into a pie, it can have upper and lower sections, or into quadrants, it can be one single unit or have many parts...



## WIND-CHARGING BATTERY

It took some figuring out and trial and error but these 6th graders in STEAM class got this mechanism up and running and with the help of a fan got the blades spinning by its wind to



generate enough electricity to charge a small battery linked to the mechanism. Rabbi Yossi tied this back into this holiday season in two ways: (1) The goal is to take the Ruach (literally wind, but also Hebrew for spirit or energy) of the holiday season to charge our personal batteries for the year ahead. (2) After the holiday season we switch to "Mashiv HaRuach" (He who causes the wind to blow and bring down the rain.) in the daily Amidah prayer.



## "START WITH HELLO" WEEK

12,000+ schools around the country are following the lead of "Sandy Hook Promise" to designate the week of September 24-28 as "Start with Hello!" week at their schools. This year that week happens to be over Sukkot and our school is closed. But this very important message is important year 'round and it's something we'd like to work on improving. In fact, it comes from Pirkei Avot where Shammai says, "Greet every person with a cheerful face." In the Talmud, one Rabbi attributed his long life to the fact that he was always the first to eagerly greet other people. Sukkot may be a great time to start this as it is a time when we focus on "Ushpizin" guests and both the Sukkah and the Lulav celebrate Achdut—unity. Of course, "Start with Hello!" isn't only for strangers, outsiders or those on the fringe but it can and should even apply to those in our own classrooms and Shuls, everyone can benefit from Hello and increased closeness.







## PJ LIBRARY STORYTIME IS BACK

This week's story from the PJ Library was titled "The Hardest Word". What do you think that word is? The difficulty making this the hardest word isn't because of the number of syllables or silent letters. The word is "Sorry."



## JUMPING & CLAPPING FOR COLOR RED!

Mrs. Hoffman is doing colors with the Kindergarten this week, each day focused on a different color. This picture was taken while they were learning red, they decorated those bag red, threw them up in the air and clapped and shouted red as many times before they caught them! It was a fun, active exercise, too!



## FRUITFUL READING TREES

For every book Mrs. Mattice's students read with her or with Mr. Steve or a reading volunteer they earn a sticker

to add to their fruitful reading trees on the wall. And once the trees are full with reading fruit they get to choose a prize!

## SO THAT'S A "FRINDLE"!

Mrs. Maher's students had been reading and enjoying "Frindle" but only once they got further in did they find out what a frindle is!

## YOSEF MOKIR...

...is usually associated with the man who so treasured the Shabbos, but this week 4/5 graders learned about a unnamed person who had the same sentiments about buying the best foods for the Erev Yom Kippur feast, so the kids dubbed him: "Yosef Mokir Yom Kippur."

## RECONSTRUCTION

8th grade history started this year with the period called Reconstruction after the end of the US Civil War. They learned about the discriminatory "black codes" and segregation, even after slavery was declared illegal.

## WHAT IS MATTER?

And why does it matter? Ms. Brown is the new science teacher for 8th grade chemistry and they began with the basic building blocks.



## DEFINING COMMITMENT

While in the Talmud Bava Metziah 34a it is narrower issue, in the spirit of the high holidays they are also seeing the question (and the Gemorah's criteria) in a broader life context of what makes a spoken commitment substantial enough to consider that you have "ownership" over it, even before payment/fulfillment is actualized.

## EXPECTATIONS & PRESSURE

In their series of poems on American Dream, HS Girls are now reading a poem "Two Kinds" by Amy Tan about Chinese-American immigrants, the mother's high expectations create pressure for the daughter. It is also a commentary on mother-daughter relationships and the story of inter-generational immigrants and their interesting differences.



## SHABBOS SHUVA REFLECTIONS

*I'm away this Shabbos at my grandson's Bar Mitzvah, but friends had asked if we could try a Drasha-in-Absentia. Indeed, it isn't always best to fully verbalize and spell out all intention, as Shabbos Shuvah inspires us to engage more in thoughtful reflection!*

*Since Chof Av we've worked on Reb Leivik's novel Chidush, Researching difficult Talmudic passages to explain and embellish. That the Bais Hamikdash salted and processed sacrificial skin, Transforming raw hide into the Kohen's holy head Tefillin! Just as the faded priestly garments fueled the great bonfire lights, That illuminated Jerusalem's joyous Simchas Hashoevah nights! Soon, when the High Holidays are over, and Tishrei will end, how to dispose of the tall handsome Lulav and beautiful Esrog fragrant? Having seen better days in their peak prime during Sukkos, should we now trash the wrinkled and withering Willow and Myrtle? Their dire situation echoes our emotional heartfelt prayer:*

*"Please don't cast me away in old age;*

*Don't forsake me as my strength wanes and weakens!"*

*—From Rabbi Yisroel Rubin*

written especially to those who have been participating in his recent research into Talmudic sources and Halachic sensitivities that we lovingly recycle and re-purpose precious Mitzvos, into Havdalah spices, as fuel to burn the chametz or used to bake Matzah.



## A New Year at Maimonides!

*Our halls and classrooms reverberate with the sweet sounds of learning: the joyous singing of blessings and chanting of prayers, the buzz of Talmud and STEM discussions, games and laughter, truly a beautiful blend of Torah and worldly experience!*

## HEAR OUR VOICES AND HELP OUR VOICES BE HEARD!

This high-holiday season consider a gift to Maimonides to amplify and strengthen our students' voices of learning. If you'd like to discuss a contribution, a special project or a legacy gift to ensure Maimonides into the future of the Capital Region, please speak with Rabbi Rubin 518-423-4103.

## SCIENCE LAB UPDATES

Work continues on 3 science lab projects: (1) improvements to our chemistry wet-lab on the upstairs level (2) continued work on the new STEAM Makerspace "dry" lab downstairs off the lunchroom. The floor was smoothed out and new flooring was laid there this week. (3) Progress is being made on an outdoor classroom/learning environment with a combo shed and covered deck project.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## at Maimonides and in the Community

### 9/15: SHABBOS SHUVAH & PARSHAT VAYEILECH

**SHOMRAY TORAH:** Kiddush at Shomray Torah (Shteeble) is sponsored by new Albany resident and RPI student Avi Rynderman: "Thanks to the community for welcoming him with open arms, and for the hospitality shown to him and his guests. May everyone have a happy & healthy new year!" Rabbi Rubin will be away celebrating Mendel R's Bar-Mitzvah in Schenectady. There will be a special 8:30am (sharp) "Shuva" learning before 9am Shachris.

**CBAJ:** Rabbi Roy Feldman will be speaking on "That time that they cancelled Yom Kippur" after CBAJ services on Shabbos morning. Simcha Kiddush at CBAJ sponsored by birthday & a retirement celebrants and their families.

### 9/15-16: MENDEL'S SCHENECTADY BAR-MITZVAH

Mendel R. will read Torah at Union Chabad on Shabbos, with a 1pm celebration Sunday in Schenectady.

### 9/16: CBAJ SUKKAH BUILDING PART ONE

This Sunday following CBAJ's Shacharit (approx 9am) will be part one of putting up the Shul's expanded Sukkah, poles go up this Sunday and the walls and Schach go up next Sunday.

### 9/16: HADAS AND ELI ENGAGEMENT CELEBRATION

We are delighted to announce the engagement of MHDS alumnus Eli O'Brien and Hadas Koresh, and invite the community to their celebration on Sunday the 16th, 10am-Noon at the Federation.

### 9/16: CLIFTON PARK FARM FEST

This Sunday is the 2nd day of this self-guided farm tour with special activities at Bowman Orchards, Riverview Orchards (both of which also have animals and play areas), there's a Fur (pets) Fest at Riverview Orchards with a K9 demo, and Shepherd's Hey Sheep Farm on Riverview Road (where you can walk with the sheep at 2 and 4pm, and see demos of wool carding, spinning, felting and dyeing at other times).

### 9/15-16: SIX BOYS NOW IN TEFILLIN

Tziyon is now in Tefillin (Tallis, too!) so we have six boys in Tefillin and will be celebrating that after 8am Shachris at Shomray Torah on Monday.

### 9/17: TENTATIVE COMMUNAL KAPOROT

6pm at Shomray Torah. Suggested contribution per person/family payable to Maimonides. There will also traditional Lekach (honeycake) distribution that evening "by request" from Rabbi Yisroel and Rochel Rubin.

### 9/18: BNOS ISRAEL EREV Y.K. MIKVAH TIMES/INFO

\$10pp Mikvah charge. \$2 charge for towels. Open 12:45-2pm and 3-4:30pm.

### 9/18-19: YOM KIPPUR

No School at MHDS on both Erev Yom Kippur (Tues) & Yom Kippur (Wed).

### 9/20: THE DAY AFTER YOM KIPPUR

Life-long Albanian Nathan Rosenstein recalled this day to be called "Gut's Numen" (G-d's Name) when Jews in the old downtown would make special effort to come out again to the Shul and all the candles/lights would be lit as on a Shabbos or festival. Maimonides School begins at 9:30am and we will daven at school at 9:30am (this way all kids will end up davening that day).

3 Labor Day  
4 Staff Meeting  
5 First day of classes  
6 First day of HS classes  
10-11 Rosh Hashana  
12 Gedaliah Fast 9:30 Start  
18 Erev Yom Kippur  
19 Yom Kippur  
20 9:30 Start  
24-30 Sukkot

9 days

SEPTEMBER '18						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### 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).

### 9/23-10/2: 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?

### 9/29: MUSICAL SUKKOT CELEBRATION ON SAT NIGHT IN MEMORY OF ESTY (RUBIN) COHEN

Simchat Beit HaShoeva details still ahead, but looking at a Sat Night in the Sukkah musical night in memory of Esty as her yartzeit falls just after Sukkot.

### 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.

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

The Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS—36 libraries in Albany and 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 which you get stamped as you go from library to library. Take pictures at each one, for your own memories or to post online with the 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, and there are different collections in each, though 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 at this up at: [albanycentergallery.org/capitalwalls](http://albanycentergallery.org/capitalwalls) and get your own walking tour map.



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