

# Maimonides Community

BH. Tishrei 26, 5779 / October 5, 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

Candle-Lighting:  
6:12  
Shabbos Ends:  
7:10

בראשית

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## WELCOME BACK POST-SUKKOT

We're back to school after a very choppy September with all the holidays, coming back now after our long Sukkot holiday vacation. We haven't had a full week of school since the start of the year! And this week isn't full either, having started on Wednesday with a late start. BH we had full 4-page MC newsletters each week regardless, and look forward to even more jam-packed good-reads as our students have full weeks of learning to report on, starting next week.




## GETTING BACK ON THE ROAD

There's a Chassidic tradition to apply the verse



"And Jacob went on his way" to each of us after the holiday season, as we ought to take all of the holiday's uplifting experiences and translate it into our everyday life. Nursery had so much fun with this! Morah Rivka had each student create their own paper post-Tishrei "backpack" which they filled with the many Mitzvot of

Tishrei. Then, they each got one foot wrapped in bubble wrap which they stomped in a tray of paint, and then stomped again onto the "road" until they created a whole road of footprints leaving away from the holidays and off into everyday life. Which kid doesn't want to stomp in bubble-wrap! Best wishes to all on their post-Tishrei life journeys...



**MAIMONIDES**  
404 Partridge Street  
Albany NY 12208

## MAZAL TOV SIMONS

On the birth of a baby boy over the last days of YomTov to MHDS alumnus Sholom Ber and Dina Simon of Crown Heights. Mazal Tov to Bubbe and Zeide Clara & Rabbi Nachman!

## MAZAL TOV ELI & FAMILY

MHDS alumnus Eli Levin is getting married this Sunday to Nechama Rabinowitz, and the wedding is in Israel! Mazal Tov to Ted and Susannah, and the whole Mishpocha. Thanks to the Albany representatives who flew to Israel just for the wedding!

*This MC Newsletter is dedicated  
in loving memory of*  
**Esty (Rubin) Cohen**  
*Yartzeit: Tishrei 25*  
*By Rabbi Yisroel & Rachel  
Rubin and Family*

## CUBE OF DAYS OF CREATION



A cube has six sides, perfect for the six days of Creation! Morah Chani's Kindergarten colored each of the six days, one for each side of the cube. Hey, but where is Shabbat? Ah, this gets mystical:

Shabbat is the inner dimension, it's the inside of the whole cube, the soul within creation!

## NORMAN KUDAN, GLENS FALLS

Born in 1921, Mr. Kudan passed away at his home at age 96, during Sukkot. He served in the US Air Force during WWII, ran a metal recycling business and was involved in many orgs and charities over his lifetime. He was even a regular contributor to the Maimonides Auction. Norman was a close relative to the Ruvain and Shayna, the Kudans of Albany.

## MAZAL TOV SOLOMONS

Mazal Tov to Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Sylvia Solomon on the birth of a great-grandson in Israel this summer named Dvir Ori.

Learn for Albany Jewish Community Siyum

Please join Congregation Beth Abraham-Jacob in partnership with Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy of the Capital District and Maimonides Hebrew Day School as we encourage Albany to complete the entire Tanach as a community by Yom Yerushalayim. Join us at CBAJ for a special Siyum on Yom Yerushalayim (June 2, 2019)

To join this Siyum of Tanach, please check the relevant chapters, enter your name and email address and submit.

Assignment should be completed by reader by 28 Yovel 5779 (Sunday, June 02, 2019) sundown.

**Tanach Siyum is 26.7% Assigned (527/929 chapters)**

Torah		
Baraitos (14/28 50%)	Shemos (21/48 43.75%)	Vaykira (1/17 5.88%)
Bamidbar (36/36 100%)	Devarim (18/18 100%)	
Nevi'im		
Yehoshua (12/12 100%)	Shoftim (13/12 100%)	Shmuel 1 (1/12 8.33%)
Shmuel 2 (24/24 100%)	Melachim 1 (1/12 8.33%)	Melachim 2 (18/18 100%)
Yehoshafat (12/12 100%)	Yirmeyah (1/12 8.33%)	Yehoshafat (12/12 100%)
Hoshana (1/1 100%)	Yosel (1/1 100%)	Artich (1/1 100%)
Dovid (1/1 100%)	Yona (1/1 100%)	Micha (1/1 100%)
Nachum (1/1 100%)	Chovav (1/1 100%)	Tanach (1/1 100%)
Chagai (1/1 100%)	Zecharia (1/1 100%)	Melachim (1/1 100%)

## TANACH 929 @CBAJ

CBAJ is leading a community-wide study of all 929 chapters of Tanach (the Jewish Bible) by people, groups and schools all signing up for various chapters. Our classes at

Maimonides signed up for some Chumash and Navi they are scheduled to learn this year, and individuals can sign up, too. See what chapters are still open. As of this writing, 56% is assigned, that's 527 of the 929 chapters. You have more than a half-year to study your chapter(s) with a communal Siyum on Yom Yerushalayim in June. Use this link below to add your chapter or get the link via CBAJ: [http://hadranalach.com/index.php?action=na\\_view&id=571](http://hadranalach.com/index.php?action=na_view&id=571)



## A GAONIC TEXT IN 8TH GRADE WITH A LOCAL CONNECTION



Rabbi Rubin and the 8th graders in “Saló’s Beit Medrash” class were tracing a Halachic issue from the Talmud through the Rishonim (early commentators, starting around year 1000) and Achronim (later commentators, starting around 1500) when one student asked, “Hey, is there

anything on this subject from the period of the Gaonim (the 500 year period between the Talmud & Rishonim)? Rabbi Rubin said that indeed there was! There’s a section of Shiltos of Rabbi Achai Gaon, written soon after the closure of the Talmud, that addresses this



issue and is quoted in the Tur and Bais Yosef. So Rabbi Rubin was excited to show the students this Shiltos, and learn it with them. When they saw the cover, it said that this edition of the Shiltos was annotated with commentary by a Rabbi Shmuel Kalman

Mirsky. Mirsky! Is that a relation to the Rabbi Moshe Mirsky formerly of Schenectady, who was both a parent and teacher at Maimonides? Rabbi Rubin called Rabbi Mirsky from their classroom, and indeed, this Rabbi Shmuel Kalman was his great-uncle! He was a Rosh Yeshiva at YU, and authored this work on the Shiltos towards the end of his life.



Rabbi Moshe Mirsky remembers that his own father helped his uncle with this project and would be delighted to hear that our students in Albany used it in their studies... Indeed, it’s amazing our 8th graders studied this text, that most advanced Talmud students don’t study!

## HAMANTASCHEN IN MATH



It’s not Purim yet, but as 8th graders are learning about measuring slopes in algebra I, Ms. Coffey brought in a foldable whose flaps each have a slope measure method, it ends up as a triangle.



## FRICITION MAKES IT GO

In STEAM class this week, students worked



on a cardboard spider that moved up and down a student-held string (on both ends) based on friction. You’d think that friction creates resistance to movement, but actually it also works to help create

movement. Friction is what helps many animals move along. Rabbi Yossi tied this lesson into the “Mashiv HaRuach” switch in the Amidah where we praise G-d for rain, which interestingly is placed in the Amidah blessing titled “Gevurot” (strengths or restraints) because in some ways, that’s what fosters movement.



## READING, WRITING, MATH, SCIENCE—ALL IN ONE BOOK

Mrs. Mattice’s 1st graders are working out of a math workbook that involves many types of thinking and learning at once. In this instance they were learning about polar bear paws, of both a mother and a cub, how to count them separately and together, illustrate the scene, and write a few sentences about it.



## BAKE SALE AND DRINK SALE

Mondays 8th grade boys are selling drinks, and on Wednesdays 8th grade girls are selling baked goods. Both at the morning recess-time, both support their year end graduation trip. Parents can set up a tab for kids to use over time, separately for each: the drink sale and bake sale are handled as separate accounts.



## CHALLENGING GAME OF LIFE

What made this version of the Game of Life more challenging? Morah Rivi’s 4th graders could play life during class-time, but they had to do so mostly in Hebrew!



## ROLE MODELS WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT!

One of our teachers met a modestly traditionally style dressed mother and her young children in the park near school, first thinking it was a new Orthodox family that moved to town. Turns out they are Christian, but like to frequent the park near our school because they want their children to see other children who dress modestly/traditionally the way they do!

## TAKING THE LITERACY TEST

This literacy test goes back to the days of the Jim Crow laws after the Civil War, during the period of Reconstruction. Our students tried their hand at these tricky tests that were given to try to unfairly prevent blacks from voting. Our kids thought they reminded them of



some of the trickier questions on the Chidon tests that seemed designed to make most people fail.

## CHASYNTHESIS FOR BREISHIS

High School Chasynthesis class with Rabbi Mendel learned a set of interesting balancing opposites (and their contemporary relevance) for Parsha Breishis: (1) Tree of Life vs/& Tree of Knowledge (2) Torah starting with Laws vs. Torah starting with Creation (3) Creation via 10 Utterances vs/& One Utterance (4) Two Firsts: Torah & the Jewish People... each of these are pairs that work best with each other.



## DRINK SALE ON MONDAY



8th grade boys are gearing up for their first drink sale this Monday. While their drink menu will vary by the week, they plan to offer lemonade for 25 cents, hot cocoa for 50 cents and on

special weeks fruit smoothies for \$1. Just as with the 8th grade girls bake-sale, parents can set up a tab for their children to draw from on a weekly basis. The boys drink sale email (any questions etc) is: [mhdsdrinksale@gmail.com](mailto:mhdsdrinksale@gmail.com)

## AND BAKE SALE IS ON WED



8th grade girls bake sale is now entering it's second week. Look for cupcakes and rice-crispy treats, brownies and cookies, and a nice slice of cake. Most items are 25 cents each, some are 35 or 50 cents. The girls

bake sale email is: [78bakesale@gmail.com](mailto:78bakesale@gmail.com)



## A-MAZE-ING MAIZE (CORN)

In art class with Morah Rivi, students used corn-on-the-cob as the basis for their drawings this week (adding backgrounds, coloring) with a maze theme going up through the kernels.



## BAKING SODA VS. POWDER

STEAM class this week experimented with the difference between baking soda and baking powder, as they explored some of the chemistry that goes into baking.



## CPR + FIRST-AID

HS and 8th grade girls are having 4 lessons in first-aid and CPR course this month. Thanks to Gurocks for sponsoring school's portion, parents paying the rest per student.



## WELCOME BACK FROM ISRAEL

Morah Devorah is back from a Sukkot trip to visit her children (MHDS alumni) in Israel and brought her students fresh, delicious chocolates as a treat.

## WATER, WATER, WATER...

Mrs. Maher's 5/6 learned about the 3 states of water (ice, water, steam) and how much of the earth is covered with water, and how much of that water is saltwater and how much is freshwater... just in time for when Jews pray for rain and focus on and celebrate water during the Sukkot holiday.

## WHERE IS YOUR FAMILY FROM?

In Social-Studies with Mrs. Maher, each student shared where their families came from before coming to the United States. For some it was a generation back, for others several.

## MAKING TOTEM POLES

6th grade social studies with Mrs. Ramsay is learning about Native Americans, totem poles were an interesting feature. They learned birds or animals featured represented family/tribe members & their personalities or gifts, and the position on the totem pole was also critical. So they will be making their own sample totem poles using their own families as a template.

## HOLIDAY FAVORITES

We asked students for some of their holiday favorites, it was a smaller sample of students, but here is what we got:

**HOLIDAY FOODS/DRINKS:** Hot cider (especially with cinnamon) was a big one, some boys got into herring (especially flavored and schmaltz) with crackers, matzah-ball soup was a favorite, ice-cream cookie sandwiches, meatballs were a hit, egg rolls, pizza at Ungerman dinner at CBAJ was another.

**HOLIDAY SONGS:** V'Samachta, Torah-Torah, Hoshiya es Amecha, Ata Vchartanu, and the long drawn-out extended Hoshiya Na!

**CHOL HAMOED OUTINGS:** Some families traveled out of town for YomTov, some went down to NY for one night of Simchat Beit HaShoeva late night dancing, one family went to Hanford Mills and Oneonta's AJ Reed Science Center, to Hershey Park, a family went bowling, another to Flight trampoline park, some kids enjoyed the NCSY Juniors event, some won prizes at the Rally, some visited remote Libraries for the #Library36er challenge, families visited old-age homes and shopping centers etc. with Lulav & Etrog, some aboard a Sukkah Mobile!

**UNIQUE STORIES:** One family spent Hakafot in an old large Sephardic Shul where they were among the only children and were showered with so much candy. A student heard a stories from a Holocaust survivor about how somethings you can't charge money for and its not about making money.

## CHESS MOVES & TALMUD

A new parable from our Talmud class! Even if an opinion is weakened by argument (losing pieces) it is still valid, as long as it can move somewhere in response to a question. But if it is locked in place and has no wiggle room in ways to interpret a Mishna, that's checkmate!

## 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](http://albanycentergallery.org/capitalwalls) and get your own walking tour map.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## at Maimonides and in the Community

### 10/6: SHABBOS BREISHIS—FIRST OF NEW CYCLE

This week we begin reading Torah anew! Plus, it's Shabbos Mevorchim, as we bless the upcoming new month of Cheshvan. Mazal Tov to Nirit and Rene Hull on Victor's Bar-Mitzvah this Shabbos at CBAJ. Yartzeit Kiddush for Esty (Rubin) Cohen and the Shabbos Breishis Kiddush at Shomray Torah.

### 10/6: RABBI REISMAN'S NAVI CLASS RESUMES

Sat Nights telecast at the CBAJ Media Center. This time of year at 9pm.

### 10/7: MAZAL TOV IN ISRAEL TO THE LEVINS

Today is the wedding of MHDS alumnus Eli Levin & Nechama Rabinowitz in Israel! A few Albany friends have flown to Israel for this special occasion, the rest of us are celebrating with them from afar. Much happiness always!

### 10/7: THE CARROT FESTIVAL AT AGUDAT ACHIM

This year is the 40th year of this Schenectady tradition! 10am to 4pm on the grounds of conservative congregation Agudat Achim, includes 50+ vendors and crafts-people, live bands, a farmers market, a mini car show...

### 10/7: "THE WAY WE WERE" CAR SHOW IN BALLSTON

Front Street (and nearby streets) in Ballston Spa get filled up with vintage and classic cars for this annual car show event.

### 10/7: A NEW SUNDAYS FARMERS MARKET

Some of the area's best Farmers Markets are on Shabbos, but this new market in Guilderland is open Sundays 10am-4pm. And of course, there is the Schenectady Greenmarket (also on Sundays) 10am-2pm every Sunday year 'round: Summertime it's near City Hall at the intersection of Jay Street and Franklin Street, during the winter it moves indoors, inside Proctor's Arcade.

### 10/9-10: ROSH CHODESH CHESHVAN

Cheshvan has two days of Rosh Chodesh, beginning Monday night. On Tuesday, the first day of Rosh Chodesh there will be 8am Minyan at Maimonides. After Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan is when we go back to saying Tachanun for the first time in a long time.

### 10/14: THE "HALFMOON MARKET" IN THE PARK

This market is only open for one weekend (twice a year, October and April) and is located inside the Lakehouse in Washington Park, with a variety of vendors and crafts-people. If you have never been inside the Lakehouse, it's a nice lively way to check it out. Sunday hours are 11am-5pm.

### 10/14: SWING DOCS BAND AT BETH ISRAEL

Swing Docs Band Concert, 3-5pm at the Beth Israel Synagogue, 2195 Eastern Parkway, Schenectady. \$12. Viennese dessert table. More info? 518-377-3700.

### 10/14: GOOLD ORCHARDS APPLE & CRAFT FESTIVAL

9am to 5pm at Goold Orchards in Schodack. Free parking, \$10pp admission, kids 12 and under are free. More info at [www.Goold.com](http://www.Goold.com)

### 10/16: ZAYIN (7TH OF) CHESHVAN

We switch to "Tal uMatar" in the middle of the daily Amidah, every year there is a special assembly at school on this date. Tuesday the 16th. Stay tuned!



### OUTDOOR EXPLORATION CLASSROOM IN WORKS

That big outside deck? It will be a covered, open, outside learning space (encompassing the shed as well) as part of our science lab/makerspace STEAM project. The slats in the wall are to hang outdoor equipment and devices. Plan includes rain-barrels and solar panels.

### 10/16: DEADLINE FOR CHIDON SIGNUPS

[Chidon613.com](http://Chidon613.com) is the registration site for parents who want to their children (in grades 4-8) to possibly 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.

### 10/26-27: URBAN SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE AT CBAJ

Rabbi Dr. Abraham Unger teaches at Wagner College and is a Rabbi in Bayonne NJ. He will be at CBAJ to speak on urban policy and Jewish thought.

### 10/28: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN JEWISH COMMUNITY

Dr. Amy Weintraub of Manhattan (also of Albany) directs Center for Victim Support at Harlem Hospital and will speak on this issue at Beth Emeth, 10am on Sunday. Info? [dsokoler@bethemethalbany.org](mailto:dsokoler@bethemethalbany.org) or 518-436-9761 x230

### 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.

### ESTY LIBRARY TO START UP AGAIN

Kids can borrow books again from the Esty Library and we're also looking for donations of new books that our students will enjoy. Stay tuned for schedule of library days at school. If you have Esty Library books at home, please make sure to return them so others can enjoy.

### DONATIONS FOR SCHOOL RAFFLE-AUCTION

The Raffle-Auction isn't until the last day of Chanukah, but now is the time to get the prize packages together. If you'd like to donate a package or towards one, or would like to solicit businesses for their products or services please be in touch with Raizy: 518-772-7299



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