

# Maimonides Community

BH. THURS Cheshvan 24, 5779 / Nov 2, 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:

5:29

Shabbos Ends:

6:29

חיי שרה



MAIMONIDES  
404 Partridge Street  
Albany NY 12208



## PITTSBURGH IN OUR HEARTS

We are all deeply saddened and affected by the tragic events in Pittsburgh this past Shabbos morning when eleven people were killed only because they were Jewish and in a synagogue. There have been very well-attended heartfelt gatherings in the Albany and Schenectady Jewish communities, a memorial at UAlbany and a vigil at Union College. The sympathy and support from non-Jewish neighbors and friends is heartwarming. This week a delivery man brought a package to school and told Mrs. Backman, "We are thinking of you, our hearts are with you." The picture above is of a young Jewish child from Squirrel Hill in Pittsburgh bringing cookies of appreciation to a police officer in thanks for the police helping to keep them safe, and for the heroism of the officers who ran right into harm's way to stop the shooter. We have been sharing some of the life stories of some of the victims with our older students as we hear of them: The 97 year old woman, the two middle-age brothers with special needs who were active & devoted to their synagogue & to each other (much of the Pittsburgh Steelers football team came to their funeral) the beloved doctor—among the others.

## SPECIAL MINYAN AT SCHOOL

Usually, the minyan only comes to school for Rosh Chodesh, but Rabbi Rubin thought it would be appropriate for the Minyan to come to school on Monday, the first day of school after the Pittsburgh tragedy.



Rabbi Rubin shared the story from the Shabbos Haftorah, how the child died or nearly died and the mother placed him on the guest bed where the prophet Elisha sometimes stayed, and she ran off to speak to him about her son. Her husband saw her leaving, so he asked her, "Today isn't Shabbos or Rosh Chodesh" (akin to how students were perplexed about having a Minyan at school on a day that isn't Rosh Chodesh) and all she replied was "Shalom" (as if to say, it will be OK). Sometimes, even as we have a lot on our minds, and there are things to worry about, it's important to have that positive Shalom perspective, to think good, to have hope. In fact, many communities stop the Haftorah right there at the word Shalom, without continuing to tell the rest of the story about how Elisha saved her son and brought him back to life. Shalom is often enough!

*This MC Newsletter is dedicated  
in loving memory of*

**Morris Massry**

*Local philanthropist, communal  
pillar, and family patriarch.  
May his memory be a blessing!*



## MASSRY CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the Massry family on the passing of Mr. Morris Massry, the patriarch of the family, a cornerstone of Capital Region philanthropy and communal investment. The funeral will be this Sunday. Pictured above is the Aron Kodesh at school dedicated by their family. May his memory be a blessing.



## THANKS MR. STEVE FOR BOOKS

Mr. Steve, who volunteers at our school, gave our 1st graders some early reader books with clues using illustration, phonics & context for kids to figure out the harder words.





## OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL

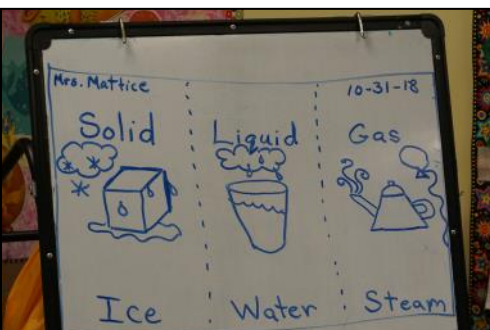
Unless you go all the way inside the 3rd grade classroom (which used to be the old school office) you won't see this wall of Hebrew words that Morah Dini's Ivrit students are learning and adding to their growing collection. It's on the other side of the arch/wall that you see coming into their class.



## PARSHA WELLS IN NURSERY

This week's Torah portion is where Eliezer meets Rivka (Rebecca) at the well, and her sensitivity and kindness in offering water to him and his camels is his sign that she's the right bride for Yitzchak. Nursery students

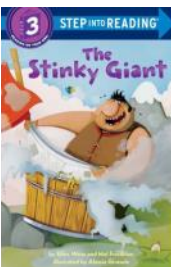
made and colored these paper stone wells supported by upside down Styrofoam bowls.



## THE THREE STAGES OF WATER

First graders loved reading the story of "The Stinky Giant" they kept asking for it again and again! It's about a giant's stinky laundry water

which he dumps down into the valley where people live and creates big problems for them. To better understand parts of the story, Mrs. M. Mattice illustrated for them the 3 stages of water: solid/ice, liquid/water, gas/steam.



## VISITING RABBI TZINNER STUDIES WITH BAR-MITZVAH BOYS

Rabbi Shimshon Tzinner was on his way to Montreal this week and stopped by to daven. After Shacharis, Rabbi Rubin asked him to sit down and study with our boys before setting off on his way. He is the son of the famous Rabbi Gavriel Tzinner, author of constantly growing 30+ book set of Halachic and custom compilation known as the "Nitei Gavriel" and Rabbi Shimshon helps his father produce these widely used Seforim. They discussed Rabbi Rubin's recent research into upcycling old Mitzvah objects, and Rabbi Tzinner wished they had seen Rabbi Rubin's research into sources for Jewish birthday celebrations before publishing their recent volume on that very subject!



## MISHPACHA IN FIRST GRADE

Morah Devorah and the first graders are doing a unit about family, learning Hebrew terms for different family members. They each drew stick-figures of their families, labeling each figure with the Hebrew words for that person.



## BOOK THIEF AND INTERNAL CONFLICT

As 8th graders with Mrs. M. are now half way through reading the book "The Book Thief" with its unique fictional angle on the Holocaust. They are now

each working on essays about "Internal Conflict" of one of the book's characters.

## PUPILS LEARN ABOUT PUPILS

High School Tehillim class took a closer look (yes, pun intended) at Psalm's "dark of the eye" pupil metaphor, how darkness helps us absorb light, and how the eye is an organ that is so exposed and protected at the same time.

## SEA ANIMALS IN SECOND

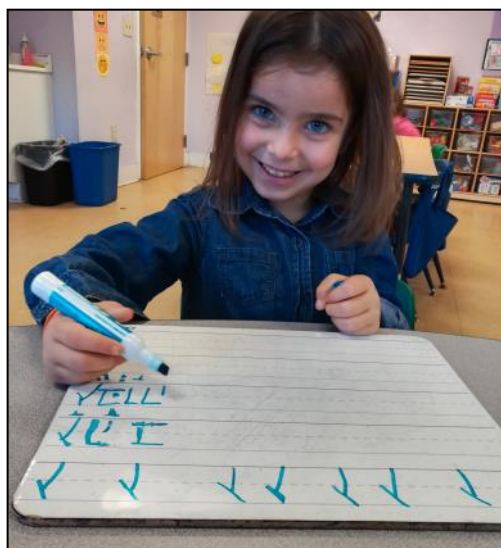
Mrs. Mattice's second graders are learning all about different types of sea animals & marine life from starfish to dolphins. Each student was assigned one sea animal to research and report on, and then create a 3D diorama about it. They're putting the finishing touches on now, should have pictures next week.

## STROLLER REQUEST

A family in the community is reaching out to see if anyone has a good quality double-stroller that's no longer in use. If you have one for this family please contact Rabbi Rubin: 518-423-4103.

## RAFFLE-AUCTION UPDATE

It will be mailed at the start of this coming week and we will email PDFs and later online versions of the same—also next week. Look for this year's event theme (save the date for Dec 10th) and for a big array of prize packages from A-Z! Everyone is a winner, of course, for supporting local Jewish education.



## ZAYIN IS FOR ZAHAV, ZEBRA...

This Kindergartener is practicing her Hebrew letter Zayin on a dry-erase tablet, first repeating the shape of the letter and then writing words beginning with that letter. In this case, look upside down to see her first two words for the letter Zayin: Zahav = gold, Zehbra = Zebra!

## SPEAKING OF ZAHAV (GOLD)

2nd graders this week learned the 1st mention of gold in the Torah, and where it was found.



## POSITIVE VS NEGATIVE FOCUS

In two classes this week, in Tehillin and also in Chasynthesis, High School girls learned about the preference for a positive uplifting solution-oriented approach (along with an awareness of the problems and challenges, but not keeping that as the main focus).



## A SUKKAH MADE OF GLASS

or a lot of windows... does that affect the ratio of shade vs. sunlight needed for a Sukkah? Do the walls need to provide shade, too? 6th grade boys Talmud learned this argument this week. They connected this with light-metering in photography and an experiment they did a while back in STEAM with beads sensitive to sunlight and change accordingly.



## BAKE SALE ON WED

This week 8th grade bake-sale had a fun, colorful sprinkly theme. Stay tuned for what's in store next week! Questions? Contact: 78bakesale@gmail.com The funds from bake & drink sales fund 8th grade graduation trips.

## AND DRINK SALE ON MONDAY

At the first recess, on the first day of the week! Questions, allergies or to set up/modify a tab: MHDSdrinksale@gmail.com



## SACHEL PAIGE

5th grade is reading the story of Satchel Paige, a world-class athlete who may have been baseball's best pitcher but was denied basic things (such as hotels and restaurants and was

treated very differently than the white players) only because of his skin color. Obviously, the point of reading a story like this is to remind us how NOT to treat people.



## LONG DIVISION IN FIFTH

Fifth grade is now working with Mrs. Maher on long-division. They're showing their work!

## CHECK YOUR ADVANTEDGE

It should stay from year to year, but some parents checked their AdvantEdge cards at Price Chopper customer service and needed reconnection to Maimonides for our school to benefit, please take a minute to do it! Thanks!



## SUPPORT LOCAL KOSHER!

**Kosher Price Chopper** In addition to all the regular offerings, many weeks there is a hot dinner special to go, which will resume not this coming week but the next. Stay tuned. Call 518-456-2970\*8 for info.  
**UAlbany's Kosher Kitchen** in the Indian Quad Dining Hall is open for lunch and dinner and is under Vaad Supervision. Visitor parking is near Indian Quad. Call 518-442-2668 for info, menu and cost.



## HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS MONTHLY MISHMAR GET-TOGETHER

In addition to the after-school monthly Mishmar that HS Girls do for the younger grades they have a monthly Mishmar for their own enrichment, as well. This week, Morah Chaya Bracha did an art project with them, using dark charcoal to highlight the illumination & brightness of the light.



## ONYX & CRYSTALS

Second grade Chumash class learned Bidloach = crystals, and Shoham = onyx in Chumash class, so it was nice to bring in some actual tangible samples. It also ties in to things they learned in science about types of rocks.



## PEELING CRAYON ENDS

Once crayons get too short they are difficult to use. Nursery students are peeling the wrappers off the ends or

broken pieces of crayons for a colored candle project they are doing for Parshat Chayei Sarah. In the Midrash on this Parsha we learn of three Mitzvah blessings of Sarah's Tent that left with her passing but returned with Rivka's marriage: Challah, Candles and the Cloud of Glory. Nursery will be making their own yummy Challah, they will be having fun with puffs of shaving cream clouds and they are making pretty colored candles using tea-lights and hammered melted colored crayon tips. Hands-on learning, indeed!

## FREE ENTERPRISE

That's an important American value that 4/5 grades are learning about in social-studies.

## HORNED-TOAD PRINCE

4th graders are reading this humorous fairytale this week with Mrs. Maher.

## CLOUD PROJECT IN SCIENCE

Not all clouds are the same! In fact, the type of cloud can tell you a lot about the weather. Using cotton-balls 5th graders illustrated the differences (and weather impacts) of cirrus, status, cumulus, altostratus and more!



It's also timely for the Parsha about the positive cloud of glory (vs. "angry" dark clouds) above Sarah's tent.



## TOUCH-COMPUTING

Yes, the school has touch screens in our lab, but we're referring to the human touch, when students help each other out!



## YAHADUS REVIEW

Here they're listening to the online audio, there's re-reading the book... tests 'r soon!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## at Maimonides and in the Community

### SCHOOL DATES

11/12: Monday, No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences.  
 11/21: Wednesday, half-day, Hebrew Only (before Thanksgiving)  
 11/22-24: No School Thanksgiving Break  
 12/7: No School on the Friday of Chanukah

#### 11/3: SHABBOS CHAYEI SARA & MEVORCHIM KISLEV

This Shabbos we read the Parsha of Chayei Sara (Sarah's passing, purchase of Machpela, Eliezer's quest to find Rivka etc) and we bless the incoming new month of Kislev (which means Chanukah can't be too far away!)

#### 11/4&8: CLOCKS FALL BACK ONE HOUR

After midnight on Sat night November 3rd into 4th. The first "early Friday" at school will be that week on November 8th. Timely pickup is very important.

#### 11/4: FESTIVAL OF NATIONS @ EMPIRE STATE PLAZA

12-5pm. 32 nations from Argentina to Ukraine (including Israel) represented via crafts, food (mostly non-Kosher) or performances. \$5pp or \$2 ages 3-12.

#### 11/4: CHABAD SHLUCHIM KINUS BANQUET

Sunday evening, streaming live online on [Chabad.org/kinus](http://Chabad.org/kinus) starting 5:30pm.

#### 11/4: FEDERATION'S GRAND EVENT WITH LIEL L.

6pm at Agudat Achim in Schenectady w/ Tablet Magazine Editor, talented and insightful writer Liel Liebovitz speaking on "How the wise ol' sage of Rock & Roll saved my life". Open to Federation contributors of \$1,000 per family.

#### 11/5: VIOLINS OF HOPE—A HOLOCAUST FILM

Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library on Moe Road screens "Violins of Hope: Strings of the Holocaust" 6:30-8:30pm. Yehoshua Sussman will also play violin. Sponsored by Clifton Park Chabad. Info? 518-495-0772.

#### 11/6: MIDTERM ELECTION DAY

You have to be registered to vote by now. This midterm election is getting much more interest than usual. It's a regular school day at Maimonides.

#### 11/7: KRISTALNACHT AT UNION COLLEGE

Holocaust survivor Marcus Zilelinski (a retired Montreal engineer and cycling enthusiast who survived the Krakow ghetto and Plaszow and Berkenau camps) will share his story at 6:30pm in the Reamer Auditorium.

#### 11/8-9: ROSH CHODESH KISLEV

Two days, Thurs & Friday. Thursday morning 8am Minyan at Maimonides.

#### 11/9-11/11: R' HAMMER SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Rabbi Shalom Hammer of Israel (spoke once at Maimonides) will be scholar-in-residence at Beth Israel in Schen with Lauber Memorial Lecture on Sunday.

#### 11/10: "DIRTY JEWESS" A PERSONAL STORY

8pm at University Height Chabad features Sylvia Fishbaum to share her story & book "Dirty Jewess" about her experiences in post-war communism leading to a free Jewish life. Event is for graduate students & young professionals.

#### 11/12: VETERANS DAY: PARENT-TEACHER CONF

No School on Veterans Day (observed on Monday) there will be parent-teacher conferences instead. PARENTS stay tuned for meeting schedule. If you can not make it please let office know ahead of time, to adjust schedules.

#### 11/13: NEW SCOTLAND TRAFFIC STUDY MEETING

5:30pm-7pm at 310 Manning Blvd (St. Peters Hospital Mercy Auditorium) for interactive meeting to present & discuss plans for the traffic study of the New

Scotland/Whitehall/Buckingham area. This is important for community members to attend as it may affect walkability to Shul on Shabbos.

#### 11/14: ABOVE THE DROWNING SEA—KRISTALNACHT

Jewish Federation and UAlbany Judaic Studies present a one-time screening of a film about a different Chinese rescuer of Jews (in addition to Sugihara) who saved Jews in Vienna, helping them escape to Shanghai. 7pm at UAlbany's Page Hall (135 Western Ave) on downtown campus. Free. Open to the public.

#### 11/17: FIRST SAT NIGHT PIZZA NIGHT

Stay tuned for the first pizza night of the season! This fundraiser supports extra-curricular activities and the year-end trip for our HS girls.

#### 11/17: DAUGHTERS OF SARA MYSTERY CHALLENGE

7:30-10:30pm at the NYS Museum, a fun, engaging annual benefit with proceeds to DOS Senior Community.



#### 11/18: MAKING A LEGO JERUSALEM

10:15am at JCC with Hebrew schools participating. Architect Steve Schwartz will a Lego construction of Jerusalem. Info? Marci at JFed: 783-7800x239

#### 11/18: MEGA KIDS CHALLAH BAKE AT JCC

2:30-4:30pm, contact Chanie Simon coordinator for info: 439-3310 RSVP by Tues, 11/13 online form at: [CapitalKidsChallahBake.com](http://CapitalKidsChallahBake.com)

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

Stay tuned for something special for the last evening (& 2nd Sunday) of Chanukah. Still in the works, details soon.

#### 12/10: MAIMONIDES 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.

#### 12/21-25: JEWISH GIRLS WINTER RETREAT

Contact Nechama Laber for more information on this annual overnight midwinter camp experience: 518-727-9581 / [NechamaLaber@gmail.com](mailto:NechamaLaber@gmail.com)

#### SOME COMMUNAL CHANUKAH EVENTS PLANNED

Stay tuned for updates in upcoming MC Newsletters...

12/2: Sunday night, 1st Night! Chanukah programs at Bethlehem Chabad (south of Albany) and Clifton Park Chabad (north of Albany) and a Menorah Lighting at Troy's Victorian Stroll (to our north-east).

12/3: Monday night, Chanukah event at UAlbany for college students

12/4 or 5: Tentative event Tuesday or Wednesday night: Visiting Wounded Israeli Soldiers at Shabbos House—for both students and community

12/5: Wed night, Chanukah Bowling in Saratoga

12/6: Thursday, Friendship Circle Chanukah Event

12/7: CHANUKAH FRIDAY, NO SCHOOL AT MAIMONIDES

12/8: Sat Night Chanukah on Ice at the YMCA in Delmar, stay tuned for Chanukah Menorah lighting at Colonie Center

12/9: Joint Chanukah event and Car Menorah Parades, stay tuned!!!

12/10: Chanukah Dinner & Raffle-Auction at Maimonides

Stay tuned for more events and event updates



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