

Maimonides Community

BH. Kislev 8, 5779 / Nov 16, 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:

4:14

Shabbos Ends:

5:16

ויצא

GOLDSTEIN CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to Rivka Goldstein and family (formerly of Albany, now Cleveland) on the untimely passing of her brother David Ziskind (who also lived in Albany for a time). She came to sit Shiva here in Albany for one day last week. May his memory be a blessing.

MAZAL TOV BACKMANS

MHDS alumnus Elimelech Backman is engaged to Itta Malka Staschower. Mazal Tov!



MAZAL TOV TZIYON!

On his Bar-Mitzvah Aliyah this Thursday. He read the Torah sweetly and beautifully in the

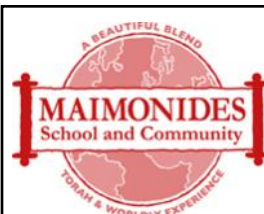


Sephardic Yerushalmi style. There was a Kiddush after davening where his friends shared wishes with him and a celebration on Thursday night at Shabbos House. His older brother, MHDS alumnus Yochanon came

up from his Yeshiva in Cherry Hill NJ with some friends for the occasion. There will also be a Kiddush this Shabbos at Shomray Torah to continue the celebration. We wish Tziyon continued growth in Torah and Mitzvot and Middot Tovot, and much Nachas to his family.

WHAT SNOW DOES TO A BIOME

Biology class is learning about biomes and ecosystems, how weather is a key factor to what types of animals will survive & thrive there. Think how the snow & cold affect our biome.



MAIMONIDES
404 Partridge Street
Albany NY 12208



*This MC Newsletter
is sponsored with gratitude
by a stranded traveler*

PIZZA NIGHT THIS SAT NIGHT

It's the first pizza night of the season! It opens 7:30pm at Maimonides' "Nathan's Kitchen" for either eat-in or pick-up. HS girls pre-prepped doughs to speed up the process (but a new convection oven will be needed eventually to really accelerate it) and this stack of par-baked doughs isn't all of it!

PIZZA NITE SHIUR UPSTAIRS



In addition to all the pizza, fries, sushi etc, served downstairs, Rabbi Rubin will be giving an upstairs "Salo Beit Medrash" Shiur on new discoveries and insights developed with the 8th grade boys on the unfolding topic of "Recycling Mitzvot".



JACOBS LADDER IN NURSERY

Nursery worked on a project making long ladders out of toothpicks and raisins. It's fine motor skills, that's for sure, but also a STEAM project to learn strengths, weaknesses, supports and connection points—and different methods and approaches on how to do it best.



WHY PILLOWS?

Why did Kindergarten stuff & decorate their own neck pillows? Karit (pillow) begins with the letter Kaf, and the neck pillow reminds us of the stones Jacob placed around his head before he slept!



SNOW DAY AND VETERANS DAY SANDWICH

This week turned out to be a 3-day week, with Monday off for Veterans Day and Parent-Teacher

conferences and this Friday off as a snow day. But we still have a full 4-page MC Newsletter!

THE SNOW DAY DECISION

We usually follow Albany City School District when it comes to snow-days. Today, Albany called for a 2-hour delay, but being a short Friday (with an early Shabbat) the roadways quite slick and some of our students traveling longer distances, the decision was made to make it a snow-day at Maimonides. Enjoy the extended weekend and snowy November Shabbat!



WORKING ON SHORY STORIES

HS English class is working on developing their own short story ideas. It all starts with an idea and then you have to develop it further.



This connected with a discussion they had in Chasynthesis class about the difference between the Alter Rebbe's original, creative, visionary thinking and his son the Mittlerer Rebbe's (birthday and yartzeit this Shabbat, 9th of Kislev) expansion and development of those terse, crisp, short ideas into something much broader—like a wide river building up off a spring & creek.

THE JELLO EARTHQUAKE

Mrs. Ramsay was planning to have her 6th graders build marshmallow & toothpicks structures build upon a bed of jello to simulate what happens when an earthquake strikes. Problem is that she brought in non-Kosher jello (not to eat but to experiment with). Some kids raised an issue about it, so she skipped that educational activity. But the next day, in



their Judaic classes they learned a surprisingly lenient opinion of the great Rabbi Chaim Ozer, which even if (Ashkenazic) Halacha doesn't follow his opinion it is still a Torah perspective. Some Sephardic opinions are more lenient when it comes to gelatin, for a number of reasons that they discussed in class. And according to all opinions, non-Kosher jello while/if forbidden



to eat we're still allowed to benefit from it and use it—so it would have been fine to experiment with!

THE ROOF IS UP JUST IN TIME

The roof (shingles and all) on the outdoor exploration classroom was put up just in time before the first snow of the season. We're now starting to order some outdoor/nature/science equipment for it. If you have ideas, please let us know! Some of the plans include a solar panel system which students can monitor, rain barrels to collect water, a composter to turn food waste and newspaper into good dirt for the garden, and of course all types of weather instruments. It's a great new space and we look forward to putting it to good use!



FUN ACTIVITIES IN SECOND GRADE

Morah Devorah Leah has a system where good behavior and classroom learning builds up and accumulates towards a reward that they earn and choose. This time they had some fun, indoor games (& races) including a puzzle (above left) made out of a cut-up Cheerios box and a multi-layer wrapped-in-newspaper "Pass the Parcel" game (above right). Both recycle used materials in a fun way!

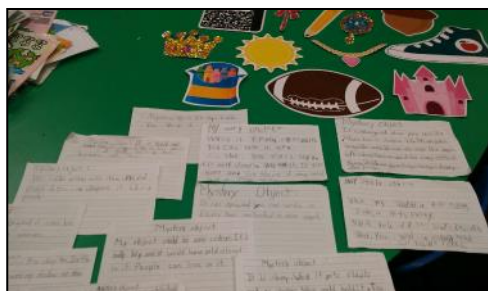


MATCH BABIES & MOTHERS

One the activity learning centers in Nursery this week had babies labeled with a Hebrew alphabet letter, and to match those babies to the mothers with that same letter. It was a good sorting game, helped review and practice identifying some of the early Alef-Bais letters they learned. It also tied into this week's



Vayeitzei Torah portion with the sons of Jacob, the twelve tribes, having four different mothers: Leah, Rachel, Bilah, Zilpah. Who belongs to whom?



ADJECTIVES IN THE BAG

Mrs. Mattice had her second graders use adjectives (without the noun!) to describe the hidden objects inside a brown paper bag. Then other students had to try to guess what noun was inside the bag based on the adjectives written on the card.

HEBREW TUTORING

Tahel is available if anyone needs tutoring for Hebrew or Hebrew regents. Call (845) 537-5790

CHIDON TEST WAS THIS WEEK

The much anticipated 1st of 3 Chidon tests was this week, in classes 4th thru 8th studying the Yahadus curriculum. Many of our students (who studied, reviewed and prepared for this) did better than they expected. In addition, Morah Dini announced the new "Mitzvah Mavens" option which is an easier test and more simplified learning for those who find the Chidon test too tricky or too difficult, and there's a one-day trip in the works for those students who pass the Mitzvah-Mavens test option. Either way, our students are learning so much general Jewish law and knowledge that it is a win-win regardless of the testing.

COLONY BROCHURES

If you were a colonist, back in Colonial times, how would you advertise and promote your colony to countrymen back home in England? Mrs. Ramsay assigned colonies to her social-studies students for each to create their own compelling, historically accurate brochure.

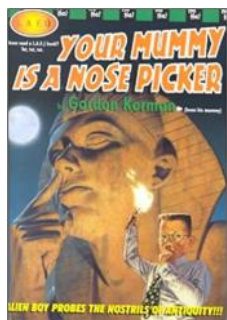
CATCH A BUTTERFLY SIYUM

No, butterflies aren't flying about right now in the Capital Region and catching butterflies is not how Morah Rochel's 5/6 girls Chumash class celebrated their Siyum on Parsha Vayigash. Instead, "Catch a Butterfly" is a film that they watched along with yummy treats they brought from home, including two types of popcorn, gummy dots and chocolate milk and apple cider. Now onto Vayeichi!



COLD WAR GETTING HOTTER

HS Navi class is now learning in Melachim about the ongoing cold wars between the north and south divided kingdoms in Israel that developed into a actual war between Basha (of the north) and Asa (of the south). This is like a Jewish civil war.



YOUR MUMMY IS A NOSE PICKER

Mrs. Maher's students are enjoying this humorous read by Gordon Korman. Jokes aside it has some nice messages about hospitality, the characters go back (via time travel) into ancient history, there's an undercover agent, and more. It sparked some conversations about what are and what aren't appropriate things to say about and to other people.



FRACTIONAL EXPONENTS

Exponents that are fractions? It's about powers and roots, and notations. This is what is being dealt with this week in the trigonometry math class in High School.



TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE?

It's not a sure thing yet, but 4th graders may be doing their Chanukah performance on a story about a bee. That's all they are saying for now. Stay tuned! Chanukah class performances will be at school on Thursday morning, December 6th. No school on Friday the 7th, and the Maimonides Raffle-Auction and Chanukah Dinner will be on the 10th.

DID YOU GET THE AUCTION?

It's been mailed to the school list. If you didn't get your copy in the mail, please let us know! Call the school office 518-453-9363 or email maimonidesschool@gmail.com. You can also purchase your tickets online at: www.maimonidesschool.org/auction or in person at the event on December 10th.

IMMIGRATION & ECONOMICS

In Social-Studies students are learning how these two issues intersected a hundred years ago, and how even today there are links and interconnected aspects between them. They read a story about a teenage boy who thought he was coming to America to live with his cousins, but it turns out that every room in that apartment was rented to boarders to make ends meet, and he too, had to pay his way and earn a living as a peddler on the street.

SUPPORT LOCAL KOSHER!

Kosher Price Chopper In addition to all the regular offerings, many weeks there is a hot dinner special to go. Call 518-456-2970*8 for info or see the menu online at: pricechopper.com/kosher-store There's also a new Facebook group with updates and specials, see: Kosher Store at Colonie Price Chopper on FB. **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.



JUG ART

Morah Chani did this with first grade and Kindergarten. *Kad* is Hebrew for jug, it relates to the jug Rivka drew water with, it begins with the letter *Kaf* that Kindergarten is now learning, and it is getting into the Chanukah spirit a little early with a *Kad Shemen*, the miracle jug of oil.

THANKS AUCTION VENDORS

We'd like to thank the many business vendors (in addition to donors) who have contributed high quality goods to our raffle-auction:

Pavilion Electronics for the 2-in-1 tablet/laptop touch screen versatile computer, **EverythingButTheBaby.com** for a quality MacLaren stroller, **Rebecca Minkoff** for a trendy handy bag/backpack, **Delmar Jewelers of Canada** for exquisite & expensive rose gold earrings with cut diamond accents and hanging pearls, **MachonStam.com** for a high quality Mezuzah, \$300 at **ASilverBreeze** in Saratoga, **Adwe Labs** for their cosmetics gift basket, \$100 at **Curtis Electrolysis**, \$75 at **Jean-Paul Salon**, **Benz's Gefilte Fish**, Gift Basket from **Honest Weight Food Coop**, \$50 at **Price Chopper**, \$100 at **KosherMeatStore.com**, and to these Monsey Kosher supermarkets \$50 at **All-Fresh** and \$72 at **Evergreen**. Hotel stays at the downtown **Albany Renaissance** and the **Hampton Inn and Suites**. There are fun activities offered via 3-month memberships at both **Albany & Schenectady JCCs**, 8 passes to the **Cicotti Center**, to the **Little Gym** of Colonie, \$25 at **Dave and Busters**, 4 passes to **5Wits** at Crossgates. \$100 at **Colonial Cleaners** on North Allen Street who support our raffle-auction every year. \$30 at the **Albany Art Room** on New Scotland Ave.

AND AUCTION ARTISANS

Many thanks to the local artisans donating their fine crafts: **Leah Siegel's** gorgeous hand-crafted soaps, matching womens hat and fingerless gloves in pretty blues by **Gittel Laber**, and stunning handmade art-glass jewelry by **Chana Mizrahi**.

RABBI RUBIN'S RECYCLING SHAIMOS AND STEAM IDEA

Rabbi Rubin has been doing a lot of research and innovation into the concept of recycling and upcycling used Mitzvot. In learning various Talmudic, Halachic and Responsa original sources with our 8th grade boys, Rabbi Rubin developed a theory that perhaps recycling Shaimos (used religious) paper to use for further Torah learning would be an even better approach than burying it. Find out more about it at the Pizza Night Shiur this Sat Night.



AUTUMN STILL LIFE PAINTING

Nursery students tried their hand at Still Life art using pumpkins, acorn squash and leaves.



SHEEP CUPCAKE

Sheep are a big part of the story in this week's Parsha. Nursery students had a fun time making these sheep cupcakes with Morah Chani.

UPCOMING EVENTS

at Maimonides and in the Community

SCHOOL DATES

11/21: Wednesday, half-day, Hebrew Only (before Thanksgiving)
 11/22-24: No School Thanksgiving Break
 12/6: Thursday morning Chanukah performances at school
 12/7: No School on the Friday of Chanukah

11/17: SAMSON BAR-MITZVAH AND KIDDUSH

Netanel Tziyon Samson had his Bar-Mitzvah Aliyah on Thursday morning and will be reading the whole Parsha Vayeitzei this Shabbos with a Bar-Mitzvah Kiddush at Shomray Torah.

11/17: FIRST SAT NIGHT PIZZA NIGHT + SHIUR

7:30pm at Nathan's Kitchen at Maimonides. First pizza night of the season! This fundraiser supports extra-curricular activities and the year-end trip for our HS girls. Rabbi Rubin will also give a Salo Beis Medrash on Recycled Mitzvos, with new findings and applications that he worked on with the 8th grade boys.

11/17: DAUGHTERS OF SARA MYSTERY CHALLENGE

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



Join children ages 4-12* from across the Capital Region for an afternoon of unity and fun, making Challah and games!

kids MEGA Challah Bake

Sunday, November 18 | 2:30-4:30pm
 at Albany JCC, 340 Whitehall Rd

No Charge • RSVP by Tuesday, November 13
 *Children need to be accompanied by an adult

Reserve your spot at www.CapitalKidsChallahBake.com
 Chanie@CapitalChabad.com • (518) 439-3310

THIS EVENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:






Hebrew Academy of the Capital District Maimonides Hebrew Day School

11/18: KIDS MEGA CHALLAH BAKE AT ALBANY S.A. JCC

2:30-4:30pm, contact Chanie Simon coordinator for more info: 439-3310. This Sunday!

11/19: AFTER-SCHOOL MISHMAR ACTIVITY

\$2pp to cover craft & snacks cost for girls in grades 2-8, run by the HS girls.

11/27: YUD-TES KISLEV FARBRENGEN

6pm at Maimonides. Stay tuned for more details on a Yud Tes Kislev evening farbrengen (all are welcome!)

This date (19th of Kislev) is celebrated as "Rosh Hashanah of Chassidus" and commemorates the 1798 release of first Chabad Rebbe from Czarist prison.

12/2: GREAT TRAIN EXTRAVAGANZA

Empire State Plaza 10am-4pm. Adults \$7pp, kids 12 and under are free. Even if you aren't in the market for a train set or accessories, there are many elaborate working train models to see & explore. Visit: GTEAlbany.com

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

Expanded Menorah (and other Chanukah décor) parade on Sunday afternoon, approx. 4pm. Stay tuned for a joint communal celebration and Menorah Lighting where the cars all end up. TBA soon!

12/10: MAIMONIDES RAFFLE-AUCTION EVENT

Every ticket adds up for our school and there are some really nice prize packages. Look for your booklet in the mail, didn't get it? Call the school office 518-453-9363. See also: www.maimonidesschool.org/auction online.

DO YOU WANT TO BUY A CAR MENORAH?



In honor of the expanded Car-Menorah Parades scheduled for the second Sunday of Chanukah (Dec 9th), Rabbi Shmuly and the 8th grade boys will be building a limited number of car Menorahs, made of fluorescent painted pipe illuminated by LEDs. These are more basic than the professional versions but in some ways does the job even better than the fancier ones. If you would like to purchase one of these Menorahs email MHDSnews@gmail.com. This is first-come-first-serve, and your payment confirms your reservation. Each car Menorah is \$60 if purchased by Nov 26th, afterwards it will be \$75 each. Obviously, preference given to those who will be able to

participate (Menorahs on their cars) in the Sunday Dec 9th Car-Menorah parade. If you'd prefer a more professional car-Menorah, see online options, including menorah.net, carmenorah.com, magnetmenorah.com etc.

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

SOME COMMUNAL CHANUKAH EVENTS PLANNED

Stay tuned for updates in upcoming MC Newsletters...

12/2: Sunday night, 1st Night! Chanukah programs at Bethlehem Chabad: 3pm Menorah at Four Corners, followed by Spectacular Science at Bethlehem Chabad on Delaware Ave; Mad Science Chanukah Celebration with Clifton Park Chabad 4pm at Boscov's in Clifton Park Center mall; and Beth Tephila's 2nd annual Latke Festival (with many unusual and exotic flavors!) followed by Menorah Lighting at Troy's Victorian Stroll.

12/3: Monday night, Chanukah event at UAlbany for college students 5:30-7:30pm; Menorah Lighting at Wilton Mall in Saratoga 5:30pm,

12/4: Tuesday night: "Modern Day Maccabees!" Visiting Wounded Israeli Soldiers at Shabbos House—7:30pm event for both students and community; 5pm Menorah Lighting at Skidmore College's Case Center;

12/5: Wed night, Chanukah Bowling 5-7:30pm at Saratoga Strike Zone
 12/6: Thursday morning Chanukah performances at school; later that day in the evening "Drinks & Dreidels at The Gallery" for Young Professionals 7-10pm at the Albany Center Galleries co-sponsored by University Heights

Chabad, Bethlehem Chabad and Jewish Federation's NextDor.

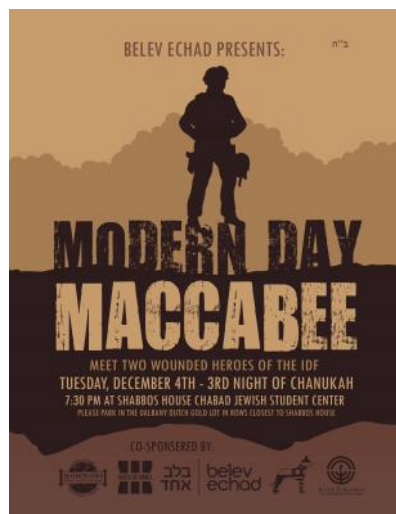
12/6: Thursday, Friendship Circle Chanukah Event

12/7: CHANUKAH FRIDAY, NO SCHOOL AT MAIMONIDES

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

12/9: Expanded Chanuka Car Parades (Menorahs and other Chanukah décor) and meet-up with Menorah Lighting at TBA location. Stay tuned!

12/10: Chanukah Dinner & Raffle-Auction at Maimonides 5-7pm







BELEV ECHAD PRESENTS:

MODERN DAY MACCABEE

MEET TWO WOUNDED HEROES OF THE IDF
 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH - 3RD NIGHT OF CHANUKAH
 7:30 PM AT SHABBO'S HOUSE CHABAD JEWISH STUDENT CENTER
 PLEASE PARK IN THE HARBURY PARKING LOT IN REAR CLOSEST TO CHABAD HOUSE

CO-SPONSORED BY:



MAIMONIDES SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

(Nursery / Elementary / High School) 404 Partridge Street Albany NY 12208
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