

Maimonides Community

BH. Kislev 13, 5779 / Nov 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

Candle-Lighting:
4:08
Shabbos Ends:
5:12

וישלה

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

LEO PHAFF CONDOLENCES

Leo Phaff passed away at age 96. He was born in Albany and lived here his whole life aside for studying at the Wharton School in Philly and serving in WWII. He founded National Business Promotions (on Colvin Ave) and was a local Jewish lay leader who worked tirelessly to establish and continue support for the Hebrew Academy, purchase Camp Givah, a force behind other communal organizations who even in his 90's worked to help build support for the local "Jewish World Newspaper". Many of Phaff grandchildren went to Maimonides before that branch of Phaffs moved to Israel. He was interviewed for Maimonides' "Partridge Street Oral History Project"




Project" pictured here in his business with our students—now alumni—

Efraim B. and Meir S. where he shared his vivid memory of seeing liberated Holocaust victims as an American soldier—an impetus for his strong feelings for the Jewish people throughout his life. The funeral will be 11am



at Temple Israel which Leo helped build, pictured here carrying the Torahs from the old Tiferet Israel (now Maimonides) to the new Temple Israel building on New Scotland Ave. Shiva will be at the home of David Phaff, 5 North Pine Avenue. Wed 6-9pm, Thurs 10am-1pm & 7-9pm, Friday 10am-1pm, Sat 6-9pm, Sunday 10am-1pm & 2-9pm and Monday 10am-1pm & 2-9pm. May his memory be a blessing.



MAIMONIDES
404 Partridge Street
Albany NY 12208

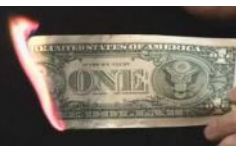
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BINARY CODE

Computer engineer Avi Rynderman talked with some of our middle school students about binary code inside computer hardware and how it works. They learned how alphabet letters (like A and B) are represented to the computer in strings of code using 0's and 1's.

(NON-) BURNING DOLLARS

In Chemistry class this week, 8th graders were quite intrigued to burn dollar bills but since they were first dipped into rubbing alcohol, they burned but did not burn! Anyone thinking of the biblical burning bush? They



discussed the chemical makeup of rubbing alcohol which is parts alcohol and parts water, and how that played a role in allowing the alcohol to burn off and protect the dollar. It's a neat trick and science lesson at the same time!

CAR-MENORAH MAKING

8th graders with Rabbi Shmuly are already at work making pipe & LED car Menorahs for sale. See back page: \$60 for orders by Nov 26th. Let's add light! More Menorahs for this year's expanded Car-Menorah parade on Sunday 12/9!



This MC Newsletter is dedicated in loving memory of
Dr. Edith Luchins
A noted mathematician, a professor, who raised her children in Albany, was on board at Maimonides and role modeled Jewish observance & professional career.
Yartzeit Today: 13th of Kislev



PUMPKIN PIE FOR SENIORS

Our HS Girls baked mini pumpkin pies at Nathan's Kitchen and distributed them to seniors at Parkview Apartments along with a Torah message about Thanksgiving. We wish all our friends and readers this same message.



CRAYON (RE-)MAKING

Mrs. Mattice brought in a device to melt-down worn down crayons and reshape them for reuse. Her first and second graders had a lot of fun making renewed crayons in some unusual crayon shapes! Less waste, more reuse! They don't come out the same as a store-bought machine-made crayon but they certainly are more interesting and they do work...



CHUMASH CHAPTER 48

6th grade boys Chumash class with Rabbi M. Mathless just finished their 48th chapter of Chumash (nearing the end of Sefer Breishis!) which describes Jacob's switching his hands to bless his grandchildren Menashe and Ephraim. It also has the famous "Hamalach HaGoel" song that's sung for children at nighttime and other occasions.

WAR HORSE PROJECTS

Mrs. M's 6th grade English students are each working on a 3D presentation (many are doing dioramas) of a key scene in the book War Horse they just finished about WWI.

COLONIAL PRESENTATIONS



Mrs. Ramsay's 6th grade history students are each making presentations (powerpoints and otherwise) about one of the thirteen colonies. They have to include a map, some history of it, the

economy of that place, its culture and religion—all written in a promotional way to encourage new colonists to join them there.

WHY THE BLINDFOLD?

This goes back a Parsha or two in Nursery but as it didn't get in for past MC Newsletters here it is now. Willing student volunteers took turns being blindfolded as their peers came by and said "Anochi" (I) and tried to guess if they could recognize the speaker by voice alone. This was an experiment to experience the story of Jacob and Esav and Isaac's blessing.

THE MIZMOR-SHIR START-UP

In davening class the boys learned the reason why Nusach Ashkenaz begins Shacharit with Psalm 30, because that was written for the dedication (opening) of the Beit HaMikdash and every Shul is a mini-Mikdash, so it is fitting to be the opening prayer each morning.

THE THANKSGIVING PSALM

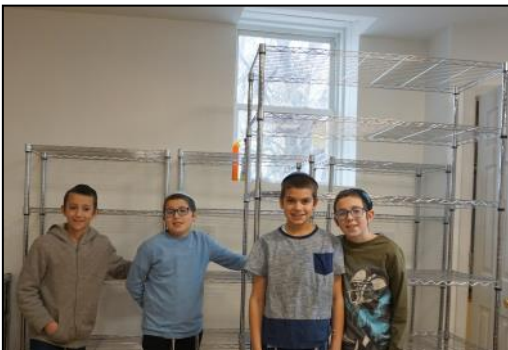
And of course, at a time when all the world is abuzz about "Thanksgiving" there's Mizmor L's/toda said right after Baruch She'amar on weekdays which is the "thanksgiving psalm" the 100th chapter of Tehillim (which we almost always sing in school davening).

SPEAKING OF PSALMS

High School Tehillim class (in depth with commentary and contemporary life relevance) is now learning the psalms of their ages, i.e. the chapters of Tehillim which correspond to the years of their life. Its customary for 15 year olds to say Psalm 16 each day, 16 year olds say Psalm 17—the year they are growing into. This gives their daily Psalm much more meaning.

REMEMBER FEITEL VON ZAITEL

Do you remember this great Chanukah story (and life message about winning all the time)? It's one of the classic story tapes by the great storyteller Shmuel Kunda (of blessed memory) and its coming back as a 2nd grade Chanukah play this year! It's been done before at our school but each time (every few years) that class adds their own spin...



STUDENT-MADE SHELVING

6th graders helped Rabbi Shmuly put together the metal shelving racks for the STEAM Room/Makerspace, now that we're getting more equipment, gadgets and gear for it. A big whiteboard also went in today, not only for writing but also for magnetic activities.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5th graders with Mrs. Maher learned about citizen rights and responsibilities. They covered things like voting, freedom of speech, right to a fair trial, obligation to pay taxes etc.

YAHADUS PARTY IN FIFTH

All the 5th graders passed their Yahadus test last week (it wasn't easy!) so they were treated to a yummy Siyum before Thanksgiving break.

RESOURCEFULNESS & LOVE!

There may not have been all that much snow in the first snow of the season, but that didn't keep our girls from putting this snowman together. It's has dark spots because so much of it was literally scraped off the ground! We like this message of resourcefulness, making the most of what you have, and doing so joyfully and lovingly. Good job!



ALPHABET PHOTOGRAPHY

High School girls photography class worked this week on taking photos that highlight letters of the alphabet.

BUILDING CODES & PERMITS

In history class 8th graders happened to be learning about the establishment of building codes at the start of the 19th century. And then as they were roaming the school in photography class looking for creative alphabet photo shots they came across a building permit at school!



PIZZA NIGHT LAST SAT NIGHT

High School girls all very grateful to all the patrons of Pizza Night this past Saturday night, for a very successful pizza night. Thanks!

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. Mid-December UAlbany Dining closes down for winter break until the 3rd week of January. 69



A HAPPY BIRTHDAY PICTURE

5/6 grade girls are happy to celebrate their friends birthday at school.

ELLIS & ANGEL ISLANDS

8th grade history is learning immigration and how ethnic groups (originally) stuck together and helped each other settle in America. They learned about the portals of entry at Ellis Island in the East & Angel Island in the West.

BOOK THIEF ESSAYS

8th grade English students each took one character of "The Book Thief" and wrote an essay on that character's internal conflict and how that affected the story.

PARTS OF PERIODIC TABLE

Ms. Brown's 8th grade chemistry class divided up to each work on a group of periodic table elements and prepare a Google Slides on it: noble gases, alkaline metals, transition metals, and all kinds of data & descriptions of each.

DID YOU GET THE AUCTION?

It's been mailed to the school list. Didn't get your copy in the mail, please let us know! Call the school office 518-453-9363 or email maimonidesschool@gmail.com. Early-Bird free \$10 ticket ends on Nov 27th. Purchase tickets online at: www.maimonidesschool.org/auktion via the mail or in person at the event on December 10th.

THE LAWS OF INTEREST

8th graders are quite interested in the details of the laws of not-charging interest and the many forms of interest that they are learning about in Yahadus Class Book Five. There are interesting loopholes, and surprising subtle forms of interest that they wouldn't expect.



STAINED GLASS DREIDELS

Nursery students are proud to display the stained-glass Dreidels they made out of colored paper hanging in their classroom window!



TOLDOT SIYUM IN FOURTH

Fourth graders finished Parsha Toldot in their Chumash class and celebrated with a Siyum party. It's all about Yaakov and Esav.



CHANUKAH STENCILS

Morah Devorah's 1st graders drew colorful Chanukah images, this Kad Shemen on left included. School is filling with Chanukah spirit!

Chanukah ON ICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 5:30 PM -

At the Bethlehem YMCA
900 Delaware Avenue

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <p>Skating</p> <p>5:30 - 6:45 PM</p> | <p>Menorah Lighting</p> <p>6:45 PM</p> |
| <p>Refreshments & CRAFTS</p> | <p>\$5</p> |

For more info:
DelmarChabadSimon@gmail.com | 518.439.8280

13TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

MAD SCIENCE CHANUKAH

MUSIC & REFRESHMENTS, MACCABEE MAKERSPACE
MAKE A SPINNING DREIDEL-BOT
AWESOME MAD SCIENCE SHOW

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE in our Maccabee Makerspace! Filled with tools, recyclables, and building materials, our maker-workshop building workshop brings kids and families together for total **IMAGINATION DOMINATION!**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 4 PM
BOSCOVUS- CLIFTON PARK

RSVP: 518-495-0772 • www.cliftonparkchabad.com
No Charge - Fun for the whole family!

Bethlehem Chabad invites the Community to the

CHANUKAH EXTRAVAGANZA

A Chanukah event for all ages!

Grand Menorah Lighting at The Four Corners
Sunday December 2 at 3:00 p.m.
Followed by a Spectacular Science Chanukah Extravaganza

No Charge! | RSVP in advance and get an extra raffle ticket!

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bubblemania Fire & Ice Show Test Tube Menorahs Glow In The Dark Fun Doughnut and Latkes Experiments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grand Menorah Lighting 3:00 p.m. at The Four Corners Followed by a Spectacular Science Chanukah Extravaganza at Bethlehem Chabad |
|---|---|

For more information and to RSVP:
www.BethlehemChabad.com
Info@BethlehemChabad.com - 439-3310

BELEV ECHAD PRESENTS:

MODERN DAY MACCABEE

MEET TWO WOUNDED HEROES OF THE IDF
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH - 3RD NIGHT OF CHANUKAH
7:30 PM AT SHABBOS HOUSE CHABAD JEWISH STUDENT CENTER
PLEASE PARK IN THE BALLBAY OUTER GOLD LOT IN ROWS CLOSEST TO SHABBOS HOUSE

CO-SPONSORED BY:

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

11/21: #LIBRARY36ER THIS AFTERNOON?

Are you trying to be an Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS) #Library36er by visiting all 36 of the areas libraries before November 30th? This Wednesday is a good opportunity with school out and libraries still open. (Many are closed on Sundays in general, or this Friday for Thanksgiving Weekend).

11/23-25: FREE ADMISSION AT ALBANY INSTITUTE

This classic art & history museum on Washington Ave has free admission on Friday 10am-5pm and on Sunday 12pm-5pm.

11/24: SHABBOS VAYISHLACH

This Parsha Vayishlach (when Jacob returns with his family and possessions) is the flip-side of Parshat Vayeitzei (when Jacob left home with nothing to his name, uncertain about his future) as the Rebbe expresses in a special 1979 letter to Rabbi Rubin and the 5th Year Celebration of Chabad in this area. Rabbi Rubin lives with this encouragement and vision and is certain to read it at the Yud Tes Kislev farbrengen this week.

11/25: OWLS AT PINE BUSH DISCOVERY CENTER

Learn about owls, dissect a pellet. 1pm-2:30pm at the Pine Bush Discovery Center on Route 155. Free but call ahead to 518-456-0655 or reserve online.



11/27: FREE \$10 EARLY-BIRD SPECIAL

Any Raffle-Auction ticket purchases made before November 27th entitles you to an additional free \$10 in tickets of your choice. You can do so online at www.maimonidesschool.org/auction or by mailing your selections to the school 404 Partridge Street or dropping them off at the school office. Thanks!

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.

12/1: CBAJ NEW MEMBER "FIESTA" SHABBAT

Mexican-style meat luncheon after services at CBAJ with games, to welcome and get to know new members of the synagogue.

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 (& other Chanukah décor) parade on Sunday afternoon, in the early afternoon. Stay tuned for a joint communal celebration and Menorah Lighting where the cars join. TBA soon! Still waiting to be finalized.

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

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.

12/16: BETH ISRAEL'S SOUP R BOWL FESTIVAL

Come in out of the cold to Beth Israel in Schenectady! For \$5 enjoy a bowl of soup (homestyle varieties) with bread, listen to music, schmooze with friends. 12pm. For more info contact Tobi Applebaum at 518-399-8476.

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 event 5-7:30pm at Saratoga Strike Zone

12/6: THURS MORNING CHANUKAH PERFORMANCES @ SCHOOL; later that 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: "Guys Circle" a new program for guys over age 14 on the spectrum, jointly run by Jewish Federation and Friendship Circle, led by Kenny Goodkind. 6:30pm at Spare Time Bowling.

12/7: CHANUKAH FRIDAY, NO SCHOOL AT MAIMONIDES

12/8: Sat Night Chanukah on Ice (Skating) at the YMCA in Delmar \$5 Skating from 5:30-6:45 with Menorah Lighting at 6:45pm, 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: MHDS CHANUKAH DINNER & RAFFLE-AUCTION 5-7pm



MAIMONIDES SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

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Founded in 1980, Maimonides is chartered by the NYS Board of Regents and is a JF-NENY Beneficiary "A Beautiful Blend: Torah & Worldly Experience!"

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