

Maimonides Community

BH. Nissan 12, 5775 / April 1st, 2015

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 & 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:
 7:05
 Pesach Ends:
 8:16



MAZAL TOV VINITSKYS

Another Pre-Pesach baby! Mazal Tov to Esther Miriam and Yosef Vinitzky (and the Sussman siblings at Maimonides) on the birth of a baby girl whom they named Chana Runya.

DR. MORTON BERGER AWARD

This year's Dr. Morton Berger Memorial Award will be presented to Dr. William "Bill" and Adrienne Rockwood at the annual Maimonides Dinner, this year on June 1st. Stay tuned for further dinner updates soon.

EREV PESACH CHAMETZ BURN

Here's the history of the annual Erev Pesach communal Chametz burning: Years ago, before the Bach Library was built on New Scotland Ave, there was a large empty lot adjacent to the fire-station. To ensure fire-safety Rabbi Rubin asked the firemen if they would supervise a communal burning, which would be safer than a lot of small fires burning that morning throughout the neighborhood. When the Bach Library was built the Fire Department authorized a communal Chametz burning in a metal basin on the sidewalk in front of the Maimonides school, this year as well: This Friday, Erev Pesach, from approx 9:45am until about 10:30am or latest 10:45.



OPEN DOOR HAGGADAH

Morah Devorah Leah's 2/3 graders made their own Haggadah, with their own illustrations and/or interactive elements on each page. Look closely at the bottom right of this picture to see an opening door flap for the page when we open the door for Eliyahu HaNavi.



KINDERGARTEN MODEL SEDER

Kindergarteners enjoyed a model Seder in their classroom this week, and Morah Aviva told part of the story via a puppet show. The table was set, they did parts of it using ASL as taught by Mrs. Calka, asked the Mah Nishtana in 2 versions, and danced together "Lshana Haba b'Yerushalayim" at the end!

STAYING ON TRACK, BUILDING MOMENTUM

Students had a lot of fun designing half-tube tracks for marbles in Science Enrichment class this past Friday. If it didn't work they had to evaluate the track, trying another setting. Getting the marble into the cup was exhilarating, but they had to get it in 3x to be a success!



This MC Newsletter is sponsored in loving memory of Dr. Leonard Morgenbesser Leib Yisroel ben Eliezer & Shoshana Yartzeit on Erev Pesach by Maxine Morgenbesser, children & their families



HANDDRAWN SEDER PLATES

Morah Devorah Leah's students hand-drew the Seder plate symbols on these durable plates with an edge (so that the egg doesn't roll off).



MARCH OUT LIKE A LAMB?

Hopefully... we can't wait for the warmer springtime Pesach weather to get here. Kids are itching to get out for Chol HaMoed trips and enjoy some good weather!



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 404 Partridge Street
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FIRSTBORN SIYUM THIS FRIDAY

Rabbi Nachman Simon will do the Siyum after 8am morning prayers at Maimonides on the tractate Yevamos recently concluded by the Daf Yomi daily Talmud study group.



-explanatory. They'll be posted online after this Shabbos. To check them out for your Seder (to print before the YomTov), search online for: Haggadah Tweets Shabbos House.



SHALOM FOOD PANTRY PKGS

Thanks to food stuffs arranged by the Shalom Food Pantry HS Boys made 28 food packages for people in the Bnai Brith Apartments along with an invite to a "Better Together" Seder Rabbi Mathless is arranging for the residents there. Rabbi Yossi showed the boys a 1982 video of the Rebbe speaking about aging and retirement (on occasion of his 80th birthday).

mother, from her mother to her siblings, each cycle expanding Torah and Mitzvot further outward, welcoming and including more and more people. Never underestimate a single person or a single interaction, you never know where that may lead! And it doesn't "end up" for it continues and continues...



AT THEIR BNAI BRITH VISITS

While delivering the packages our HS boys interacted with the Bnai Brith (now renamed Parkview Apartments) residents and wished them a good Passover. (TOP) This man showed them the dollars he and wife received from the Lubavitcher Rebbe in 1989. (ABOVE) Azriel helps this man put on Tefillin and say the Shema.



HAGGADAH TWEETS

Rabbi Mendel wrote 50+ tweet-sized Seder Tidbits, under 140 characters each and shared these with the HS students. Some of the "tweets" need extra explanation, others are self

MORAH DINI'S TORAH CYCLE

For Yud-Aleph Nissan Morah Dini shared an amazing personal story and living illustration of a Torah cycle spanning a few generations of teachers and students, from the Rebbe to Rabbi Cunin to Debbie (whom Morah Rochel knew), from Debbie to her

RESEARCH PAPERS

Mrs. Maher's 5/6 graders are writing research papers on a topic they find interesting. Some examples of what they are looking into are: The Underground Railroad, The California Gold Rush, and pros and cons of different types of fabrics. They are learning how to do research, make a proper bibliography etc. They will start with an outline, followed by a rough draft, then an edited final version.



HAPPY NURSERY

PLAY Free play time is Nursery is actually a great time of growth and development for social interaction, discovery, learning new skills & interests. And the kids are very good about cleaning up, too!



THE RAINBOW AS A PROMISE

Morah DL's class is now up to the promise of the rainbow in Parshat Noach. Ari is colorfully coloring in the letters of the verse on the rainbow bulletin board in their classroom.

MORE TOOTH GEMATRIA

Last week's MC shared the *virt* of subtracting the numerical value of teeth from the wicked son to arrive at Tzadik for righteous. Ari's family was reading that in the newsletter and that day he lost his tooth. That got them thinking their own Gematria, and check this out: His full Hebrew name is Aharon Yitzchak. If you subtract the Hebrew word for tooth that equals the equivalent of "Ben Chocham" the wise son! (Note the Talmudic thumb on the tooth illustration!)



HENRY VII AND "YIBUM"

By Maimonides History Teacher Mrs. Abigail Ramsay & her students in connection with the Siyum Tractate Yevamos, Erev Pesach 2015

Arthur the older brother of Henry VIII married Catherine of Aragon, daughter of Spanish King Ferdinand and Isabella who expelled the Jews in 1492. Arthur died 6 months later, so Henry married her. But after 24 years, Catherine bore no male heir to continue Henry's reign.

The continuity of his throne threatened, Henry turned to the Jews, who had been expelled from England nearly 250 years prior. Henry ordered a Bomberg Talmud (later auctioned by Sotheby's for millions of \$), and sent a delegation to Italy asking the Rabbis to consider his marriage void.

Henry argued that marrying his brother's wife violated the Bible (Lev. 20:21), yet "Yibum" continues the line when a childless widow marries her husband's brother. Marco Raphael, Rav Kolonymus ben David, and Rav Eliyahu Menachem Chalfan agreed that Catherine's marriage was void, but others said that the Prohibition or Yibum don't apply to non-Jews.

A Papal edict forbade discussing Henry's marriage. Arguing that England shouldn't be subservient to Rome, Henry's Anglican Church voided the marriage to Catherine, allowing him to marry Anne Boleyn.

UPCOMING EVENTS

at Maimonides and in the Community

פֶּסַח כָּשֵׁר וְשֵׁמֶת



SALE OF CHAMETZ FORMS, MAOS CHITIM AND SHMURAH MATZAH

All the above pre-Pesach items are available with Rabbi Rubin, please call 423-4103 or email him at: RRalbany@gmail.com, or most can also be arranged through your local Rabbi. These have to be taken care of ASAP, by this Thursday the latest!

4/1-13 PESACH SCHOOL SCHED.

Wed 4/1 & Thurs 4/2: General Studies only, 8am-11:30. Morning begins with Davening at school.
Friday Erev Pesach 4/3: No School thru end of Pesach. See Erev Pesach schedule below.
Monday 4/13: School resumes at 8am.

4/3: EREV PESACH: PRAYERS, FIRSTBORN SIYUM & CHAMETZ BURNING AT MAIMONIDES

8am Minyan at Maimonides followed by the Firstborn Siyum by Rabbi Nachman Simon on Yevamos, the recent tractate studied by Daf Yomi. Communal Chametz burning outside the school will 9:45am to 10:30 (or latest 10:45am) that morning. We finish eating Chametz by 10:50am & burn by 11:50am.

4/3-4: COMMUNAL SEDERS

CBAJ (489-5819) and Bethlehem Chabad (866-7658) are hosting each hosting communal Seders on the first night, Shabbos House (438-4227), Union Chabad (496-0779) and Saratoga Chabad (526-0773) are hosting communal Seders on both nights. Call ahead for info & RSVP.

4/6-8: MINI-KINUS TORAH NIGHTS

Between Mincha & Maariv on Chol HaMoed Nights we usually hear short Divrei Torah from MHDS alumni returning from yeshivot etc.

4/8: PASSOVER FUN DAY

Saratoga Chabad is once again hosting a fun day on Pesach, this year on Wed of Chol HaMoed, 4:30-6:30pm at Saratoga Chabad, 130 Circular Street, just a few blocks from the back entrance of Congress Park. Program includes carnival booths, a juggling performance and balloon artistry, plus a delicious homestyle Kosher for Passover meal. \$36

suggested per family, \$10pp. Questions? 526-0773.

4/11: MOSHIACH SEUDAH

A tradition dating back to the Baal Shem Tov at the close of Passover, and warmly celebrated each year at Shomray Torah, starting approx 6:30pm.

4/19: JCC PILLARS 15 HONORS M. LOSICE & CARL BLOOMBERG

Reb Moshe Losice, well-respected in our community, is one of JCC's Pillars event awardees this year, along with Mr. Carl Bloomberg, a past recipient of the Dr. Morton Berger Memorial Award. Info? contact Sidney Albert Albany JCC.

5/7: LAG B'OMER

On a Thursday this year after several years of Sundays. Look for the return of the Maimonides daytime Parade & also a special communal event being planned for late afternoon. Stay tuned!

6/1: MAIMONIDES DINNER

This year's Dr. Morton Berger Memorial Award recipients will be Dr. William "Bill" and Adrienne Rockwood, and the school's involvement and our partners in the "Better Together" teen-seniors program will also be recognized and highlighted.

NEW MANAGEMENT AT CAMP GAN ISRAEL



Morah Devorah Leah Mathless will be the Camp Gan Israel director for this year,

efforts are underway to bring talented, capable and dedicated staff and add some new exciting programming. Contact Devorah Leah with questions, stay tuned for info. registration forms coming soon.

SAMPLE CHOL HAMOED IDEAS

Families like to take trips/outings on intermediate days of Passover which are a weekday-holiday. If you have an idea and would like to join with others, please email it to mhdsnews@gmail.com (students in grade 3+ can access that and check on it). You can also email us for our 3-page PDF listing of local and nearby wallet-friendly and family-friendly "Places 2 Go, Things 2 Do!" (which needs updating but that's a project for another time).

- CANstruction at the NYS Museum is fun to see, especially on a rainy day. This year's theme is "Heroes" giant sculptures all made cleverly of cans. You can vote for your favorite(s) by bringing cans of your own.
- Parks, hikes and nature preserves (esp those with babbling creeks) are a great outdoors outing after a long winter.
- Want to feel Spring? MiSci (formerly Schenectady Museum) now has a Butterfly House.
- If headed north to Saratoga Chabad's Fun Day, maybe check out The Hyde Collection, a classic art museum with Artfully Afternoon Wednesdays (1:30-4:30) for kids. Or the Chapman House historical museum. Both are in Glens Falls.
- If in Saratoga, maybe challenge yourself to taste as many Mineral Springs as you can. Most are located in Congress Park (near Chabad) or in the Spa State Park (with the Geyser) but also sprinkled around town.
- Utica is about an hour and half away. They have a multi-story children's museum, a magnificent old train station and the Utica Zoo.

SAVE THE DATE

~APRIL 19, 2015~

THE WORLD STANDS ON THREE PILLARS:
ON LEARNING, ON SERVICE, AND ON ACTS OF KINDNESS...
(Pirkei Avot, 1:2)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL DAY AS WE HONOR THE FOLLOWING:

2015 PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY AWARD
CARL BLOOMBERG, BARRY AND LESLIE FEINMAN, MORRIS LOSICE

SUSAN SHPEEN MEMORIAL AWARD
CLAIRE SIGAL

HERBERT A. APPLEBAUM MEMORIAL AWARD
RYAN FLEISCHER

LENORE BELLIN MEMORIAL AWARD
GABRIELLE SCHAFFER

AT THE SIDNEY ALBERT ALBANY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER'S
PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY AWARDS
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2015 9:30 AM - NOON
THIS YEAR TAKING PLACE AT CONGREGATION BETH ABRAHAM JACOB
380 WHITEHALL ROAD, ALBANY, NY
VAAD SUPERVISED KOSHER BRUNCH
INVITATION TO FOLLOW

For more information, please contact
Brigitte Hamel at 438-6651 x114.



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(518) 453-9363/3434 maimonidesschool@gmail.com
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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