

Maimonides Community

BH. Tishrei 13, 5787 / September 24, 2026

Community Newsletter of the Maimonides Hebrew Day School of the Capital District
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produced by Rabbi Mendel Rubin & students in the TNT (Torah 'n Technology) Program

Candle-Lighting:
6:29
1st YomTov Ends:
7:25

סוכות

3-DAY WEEK MC NEWSLETTER

This school week began on Tuesday (after Yom Kippur) and concludes today on Thurs (no school on Erev Sukkot). Maimonides has a long break over all of Sukkot, and will resume (with a 9:30am late start) on Monday 10/5 after Simchas Torah—so the next MC Newsletter will be IYH on Friday 10/9.



MAIMONIDES
404 Partridge Street
Albany NY 12208

REMEMBERING NATHAN

First day of school this week was the day after Yom Kippur, which some call "Gut's Nuhmen" (Yiddish for "Hashem's Name"). The reason for this is less clear but in Albany this tradition was recalled and preserved by life-long Albany resident and "landmark" Mr. Nathan Rosenstein obm, R' Menachem Yosef ben Shmuel Dovid HaKohen, who in his last years lived upstairs above the Shteeble. He fondly recalls how the Shuls downtown near South Pearl street would light many candles and keep this day as festive and respected as a holiday! Rabbi Mendel's davening class was quite intrigued by this and eager to hear more about Nathan. Rabbi Mendel told them how he'd prepare foods for Shreeble Kiddush (a Greek Salad, a Potato Salad, Deviled Eggs and other of his trademark specialties etc), how he loved to learn Mishnayos and would frequently ask questions and discuss his Mishnas with Rabbi Rubin. At the start of each year Nathan would give a nice check to all the boys going out of town to Yeshiva with monies "for potato chips!" (i.e. for snacks and such). He would



SCHOOL'S HOSHANOT BUSHES

Rabbi Motti's 5th graders learned about the reddish stems of Aravat in a Lulav set. They did a field trip to the hill on side of school outside the school office to check the Hoshanot bushes—yes, they have reddish



stems! These bushes were planted by Heshy Ungerman who had them growing in his backyard and thought it would be good for Maimonides to grow them for the community.

JUDY AVNER CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to her family on the sudden passing of Judy Avner in an accident. She was very active in local Jewish community, she led JFS' NORC Program and even served as the JFS interim director. Years ago she served as director of the Division of Women in Governor Mario Cuomo's administration. Wishing her husband a speedy and complete recovery. May her memory be a blessing.

NO MORE SUNKIST CANDIES!?



END OF AN ERA
Sunkist Fruit Gems, a colorful staple of synagogue celebrations, discontinued

No more fruit gems! Oy! What soft candies will Shuls throw! The article on this discontinued beloved "Jewish" candy was written by Albany's own Jay Deitcher for E-Jewish Philanthropy...

This "MC" Newsletter is dedicated in loving memory of
Esther Massry
Yartzeit on Shmini Atzeret
Tishrei 22
May her memory be a blessing

MARVIN FREEDMAN & JEWISH EDUCATION



Rabbi Yossi recently attended a Community Foundation event and sat with Marvin Freedman,

now in his mid-90's!, retired after many decades with Anchor Agency insurance yet still active and involved in Jewish and broader community leadership. He spoke with Rabbi Yossi about the great importance of Jewish education, passing it on to the next generations! To tie into Marvin's longtime company, you can say education is an anchor!

AVAILABLE AT SCHOOL OFFICE:

If you didn't get your new Jewish Art Calendar from Capital Chabad in the Jewish World Newspaper mailing, please pick up at the school office. The Maimonides Candle-Lighting Magnets, are also



available at the school office.

ALARM FIX OVER SUKKOS?

We're under contract with a company, we hope they can fix the whole fire-alarm system over the big Sukkot holiday break!



often be a Shabbos guest at Sandy and Dina Rosenblum. When our Boys Mesivta HS learned at Shteeble, he'd often bring down treats for the boys studying. Our school kitchen is named for him! The boys ran over to read the plaque in his memory hanging right behind the lunch-line, just outside the kitchen. May his memory be a blessing!



PASTEL POMEGRANATES

For Rosh Hashanah Morah Rivi's art class students each made their own pair of pomegranates—some more realistic looking others more imaginative, but students noted that each had their own beauty and charm!

SYMBOLS ON PERIODIC TABLE

Ms. Carreno's 6th grade were given random symbols of elements on the Periodic Table and they had to find what they stood for.



BEAUTIFUL MUSIC CLASS

First graders very much enjoyed music class with Ms. Fischer, they really got into it. Good timing for Sukkot and Simchat Torah energy!

MAKE BELIEVE ANIMALS



Second graders are enjoying listening to Morah Daniella read the first book in the Ramona Quimby series. Ramona has a great imagination and so do they! Check out their make-believe animal pictures hanging in the lunch room—pictured here.

THE ROSETTA STONE

Morah Bassie's 6th graders learned about this discovery, why it was so important and how it was very helpful to learn about other things.

CIVIL WAR PERSPECTIVE

After last week's spinning dice to discover their role, side in the war, and assigned war experiences, Ms. Maddie's 7th grade history class are now writing 5-paragraph essays from that perspective and experience.

THE LEVI FAMILY TREE

Morah Leyee's 7th grade Chumash is learning the family tree of Levi in Parsha Veira.

PILEGESH B'GIVAH

Morah Dini's 6th grade Navi class is now learning a tragically sad story at the end of the Book of Shoftim/Judges, the last story, about a terrible fight that became a Jewish civil war.



CHAVRUSA LEARNING

There's quite a bit of Chavrusa (peers paired) learning going on in school—mostly as review, but also in some classes to learn new material!

LONG DIVISION + ESTIMATION

7th grade math with Ms. Cat did a series of both precise down-to-the-decimal long division along with approximate estimation of the same problems.

TWO WRITING PROMPTS

Ms. Lynch and 7th grade did two writing prompts: A Summer Highlight, and Make-Your-Own Holiday (students got creative!).

THE LAWS OF A SUKKAH

6th grade Halacha with Rabbi Caras went thru the Halacha of basic Sukkah design, and its minimum requirements in terms of size, walls, amount of Schach.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE

Ms. Carreno's 5th graders are working on writing a personal narrative about a special moment or event in their life that's especially memorable and detail-rich: It could be a Simcha occasion, a family trip or any experience they can share a lot about.

SCIENCE DOWN AT THE PARK

Ms. Lynch's 4th graders went down to the Woodlawn Park to test hypothesis and record results, and see cause & effect in action.

RABBI RUBIN'S WEEKLY MESSAGE:

about the interesting choice of wick materials for the fiery torches of Simchas Beis HaShoeva in the Bais HaMikdash

תנן: מבלי מכןסי פהנים ומקניניהם היו מקשיצין, ומקן מדליקין. שמחת בית השואבה שאני.

Gemora Shabbos (21a) has a discussion about wicks and what materials are permissible to use. The Gemora asks quoting the Mishna in Sukkah (51a): "They would unravel the threads of the tattered trousers of the Kohanim and their belts to make wicks for the fires." The Gemora replies: "Simchas Beis HaShoeva is different!"

Rashi (on Shabbos 21a) says it is because Simchas Beis HaShoeva is less important, the fires aren't biblically mandated and there's no verse saying "the flames should rise upward" as with the Menorah.

Tosefos (on Shabbos 21a) asks how was it possible to use sanctified Temple garments (even worn out) for this purpose. And then to explain another question Tosefos explains that the Kohanim belts were primarily (3/4) wool, as it is known that the belts of the Kohanim contained Shatnez, a mixture of (mostly) wool and (some) linen.

But why use wool as wicks? Not only is it not allowed for Shabbos candles (because wool doesn't have good wick properties) but practically speaking, it's not a good wick-burning material! So why the Mishna's insistence to specifically make Beis HaShoeva wicks of the worn (mostly woolen) belts?

Perhaps a way of understanding this, and why the Mishna in Sukkah makes such a fuss and insistence of using the tattered clothing and belts in this way, has to do with what the Simchas Beis HaShoeva was celebrating:

The Gemora Sukkah (53a) relates about the songs at Simchas Beis HaShoeva:

תנו רבנן יש מהן אומרים אשרי גלדותנו שלא ביטשנו את זקנותנו אלו חסידים ואנשי מעשה. ויש מהן אומרים אשרי זקנותנו שנקברה את גלדותנו אלו בעלי תשובה. אלו נאלי אשרי מי שלא חטא ומי שחטא שריב וימחול לו.

We learned in a Braysah: Some of them would say: "Happy is our youth, as we did not sin then, that did not embarrass our old age". And some of them would say: "Happy is our old age, that atoned for our youth when we sinned". These are the Baalei Teshuvah. Both these and those would say: "Happy is he who did not sin; and he who sinned should repent and G-d will absolve him".

Simchas Beis HaShoeva was a celebration of both Tzadik and Baal Teshuvah—spiritual paths which came more naturally AND more challenging. It seems fitting to include both naturally igniting wicks and materials like wool that have a harder time lighting up. It seems that including less-perfect & less-ideal materials in the wicks was by design! We are celebrating both paths! Not only the easy-to-burn wicks but also important to make a point to also include the harder-to-burn wool, too!

These big fire bowls of the Temple were filled by young Kohanim. This is an educational message, too: Don't just teach to the ideal student, talented and easy to learn. Be sure to be able to reach and celebrate students who have a harder time catching on. Those students are also part of the light!





SIMCHAS TORAH FLAGS

Morah Devorah Leah's 2nd graders made their own Simchas Torah flags to dance with!



SUKKAH MODELS

Rabbi Shmuly 3rd grade Mishna students made their own Sukkah models, and they did: Lego, popsicle stick, tissue-boxes & more! Gershon came in with extra "Schach" branches and he was kind & happy to share with students who didn't have their own.



CLEANUP KUDOS

The 6/7 boys classroom needed cleanup and Rabbi Caras made them an offer, and not only did they take him up on it, but they did a great job!

Having a clean learning environment helps a lot—on many levels, and



these boys worked hard and fast to make it happen! Thank you!



RECESS TEAMWORK

Rabbi Caras is observing that the boys this year are doing a very nice job at organizing themselves for basketball, picking their teams, being inclusive, playing with sportsmanship and derech eretz. This doesn't always come easy, and it's a great sign!



MAGNATILE SUKKAHS

These Kindergarten students built their own pretend Sukkahs out of Magnatiles in their classroom.

ALL OF PEREK 34 IN 11 DAYS

5th grade is excited to finish Perek 34 (about Shechem & Dina) in Chumash, their 1st chapter of the year, in just 11 days of school!

PARK DESIGN

Ms. Lynch asked her 4th grade students to design their imaginative parks, and lay it out as a map. They went all out! Some had fields and waterfalls, mountains and valleys, rivers flowing, flower gardens, some had basketball courts and playing fields, trails and hiking paths, others had water-parks & roller-coasters, Kosher eateries, a gondola, gift shops and more!

BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE

4th graders read a selection of this book in their Reading Street literature collection. Some years some of our grades read the whole book.

SUKKAH AND LULAV

Some grades learned with Rabbi Mendel how these two key mitzvot of Sukkot correspond to "Despite VS. Because of Differences" in Jewish unity, and also how they represent Makkif vs. Pnimi. Rabbi Caras taught 7th grade the symbolism in what each of the 4 Kinds represent in our own lives.

FUN FRIDAY

Morah Bassie's 5th graders enjoyed their Fun Friday last week playing word games like Hang-Man and Wordle on the board and taking a vote on what book to read as a class next.

TISHREI CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Some of Morah Rivi's classes did a Hebrew crossword puzzle using Tishrei holiday words.

11 IN 11 IN GEMORAH CLASS

Rabbi Mendel and 6/7 Boys Gemorah class nearly finished their 11 Gemorahs on Prayer and Teshuvah in the 11 days of school, but fell slightly behind as two of the days were late start days. The boys should be taking home their booklets for some review over YomTov and try to finish whatever pages or worksheets they have missed—hopefully by a few days after Simchas Torah we should be all in! Lots of food for thought, and some very good learning in a short time!



GIVE YOUR OLD TOYS A NEW PURPOSE!

AS PART OF A UALBANY STUDENT ART PROJECT COMMEMORATING OCTOBER 7, WE ARE COLLECTING USED TOYS TO HELP CREATE A MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY ART INSTALLATION.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR SMALL TO MEDIUM-SIZED TOYS IN ANY CONDITION, INCLUDING:
LEGO • BUILDING BLOCKS • FIGURINES • COLORFUL PLASTIC TOYS • AND MORE!

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF NENY.



THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TURN OLD TOYS INTO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL!



Hillel University at Albany



GOT OLD TOYS??

This UAlbany project can reuse them in an artistic way for a Oct 7th Memorial on campus. Old worn, even broken toys that have some of their shape left can be helpful! Give to Rabbi Mendel or Shabbos House or drop off at Jewish Federation.



EDIBLE SUKKAHS

Morah Dini's 3rd graders very much enjoyed making and eating their edible Sukkahs. Thanks to Morah DL for bringing in the supplies.



WHO'S COMING TO YOUR SUKKAH?

In addition to the guests we can see, Morah DL's 3rd graders worked on their Ushpizin posters.

YOSEF IN...

Morah Rochel's 7th graders learned about Yosef's descent to Egypt, working for Potifar and getting in trouble with his wife, finally ending up in prison. More to the story when they get back to Chumash class after break. But they did learn a lot in these 11 days!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SIGNUP (FRIENDS/FAMILY) TO GET WEEKLY "MC"! tinyurl.com/MCNewsletterSignup

at Maimonides and in the Community

9/24: EREV SUKKOS

No school this Friday, much success with all the holiday (and Shabbos) preparations. Note that one can not prepare/cook on Shabbos for the YomTov meal on Sat Night, so there's lots more to prepare ahead on Friday.

9/25-27: FIRST DAYS OF SUKKOS

Sukkot is Shabbat and Sunday this year, which means the first night in the Sukkah is Friday night and the first day for Lulav is Sunday.

9/27: MUSICAL NIGHT IN SUKKAH



Rabbi Rubin & Morah Rochel invite community to an annual Motzai YomTov musical night in the Sukkah with soup and refreshments at Shabbos House in connection with Esty (Rubin)

Cohen's yartzeit soon after Sukkos. Laura Melnicoff on cello will be accompanied by pianist Max Caplan, should be beautiful!

9/28-10/1: KOSHER PIZZA OPEN

Shalom Kosher Pizza in Aviation Mall Queensbury will be open for Chol HaMoed with a Sukkah! Call Rabbi Abba 518-526-0773 for more info.

9/28: CHILDREN'S RALLY

Monday morning in the Shteeble Sukkah. 10:45am pre-event, 11am sharp start, with Rabbi Motti (contact him for sponsorship). Prizes, pesukim, mitzvot, games, nosh and fun.

9/29: SUSHI IN THE SUKKAH

5pm at Clifton Park Chabad, 495 Moe Road. Info: 518-495-0779 / cliftonparkchabad.com.



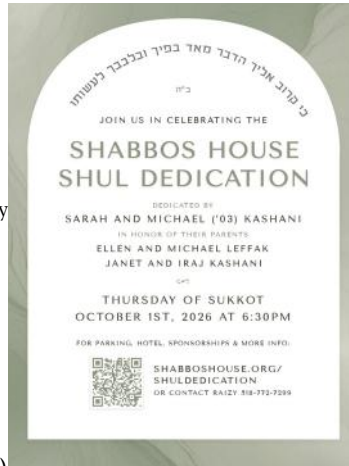
9/30: SUKKAH PARTY & DANCING

4-6pm, this year at the Libermans home on New Scotland—in and around their Sukkah (with panels from several continents!) Music & dancing, light refreshments, fun and community.

For more info, or to help sponsor, contact Moishy Kudan or Elisheva Liberman.

SEE MORE SUKKOT EVENTS IN BOX ON RIGHT WITH SIMCHAS BEIS HASHOEVA CELEBRATIONS >>

10/1: SH SHUL DEDICATION



Shul portion of Shabbos House will be dedicated by the Kashani family at an event for students, alumni and adults in the community 6:30pm on Thursday evening, with food, music and program on eve of

Hoshana Rabba, see shabboshouse.org/shuldedication for RSVP, info and more details.

10/5: SCHOOL RESUMES

After the long Sukkot and Simchat Torah break, Maimonides School resumes 9:30am (late start) on Monday morning with davening class.

10/8: TEACHERS MEETING

We're trying to keep up monthly teachers meeting during the lunch/recess hour. Parent assistance for recess-time supervision helps make these valuable meetings possible.

10/11: THE CARROT FESTIVAL

Annual festival at Agudat Achim in Schenectady that goes way beyond carrots.

10/11: THE WAY WE WERE CARS

Annual vintage car show on city streets in the village of Ballston Spa.

10/18: SHEEP AND WOOL FESTIVAL

in Rheinbeck NY. \$18pp, kids 11 and under free. sheepandwool.com

10/21: SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

3:30-5pm. We're working on creating opportunity for parents to meet teachers, see inside classrooms, with a children's program. This is not individual Parent-Teacher conferences but a step into their

WELCOME HOME RABBI RUBIN

Baruch Hashem and thanks to the medical team at Albany Med, Rabbi Rubin is home before Sukkot! May we share good news.

SIMCHAS BEIS HASHOEVA SUKKAH CELEBRATIONS

mostly informal casual farbrengen gatherings in the Sukkah, most later evenings, aside for some events earlier evenings as noted. Stay tuned for updates!

Friday after meal—First Night: Libermans

Motzai Shabbos—2nd Night: Gordons

Sunday—Motzai YomTov: Esty Musical Night 8:30pm at Shabbos House

Monday Morning: 10:45am pre-start, 11am Children's Rally at Shteeble

Monday Night: Caras on W. Lawrence

Tuesday Night: 8pm for Women at the Sussmans

Tuesday Night: Mathless on South Lake

Wednesday Late Afternoon: 4-6pm at Libermans Communal event with Music, Dancing & Nosh

Wednesday Night: Goldwasers on Mario

Thursday: 5:30 Family Sukkah Hop

Thursday: 6:30pm Shabbos House Kashani Shul Dedication Event

Thursday Late Night: Midnight Hoshana Rabba at the Shteeble

of course Sukkah Kiddushin on Yom Tov Days and more Sukkot events, too!

CHOL HAMOED OUTING AND ACTIVITY IDEAS

Many of the local events are both Sundays of YomTov, but we do have a full week of weekday Chol HaMoed. In addition to the many parties and events above, here are some ideas...

- Hikes and Trails if the weather is nice!
- Try one of the nearby rail trails.
- Check out some of the America 250 historic sites—many are in this area!
- Lake George is still an option, and now there's Kosher Pizza there open on Chol HaMoed with a Sukkah on-site.
- Tour of Libraries, or Used Bookshops. Maybe with a scavenger hunt.
- Do a \$5 per kid at Walmart or \$1.25 in a Dollar Tree to choose a gift for another assigned person in the family/group.
- Many local farms have Fall activities.
- Drive to a local town you have never been to, check out its parks, main street and more!



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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