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Maimonides Community

BH. Cheshvan 5, 5787 / October 16, 2026

Community Newsletter of the Maimonides Hebrew Day School of the Capital District
404 Partridge St Albany NY 12208 518-453-9363 mhdsnews@gmail.com www.maimonidesschool.org
produced by Rabbi Mendel Rubin & students in the TNT (Torah 'n Technology) Program

Candle-Lighting: 5:53
Shabbos Ends: 6:52

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MAIMONIDES
404 Partridge Street
Albany NY 12208

RABBI RUBIN, OBM

Rabbi Yisroel Eliezer br' Moshe, passed away (at home, in his sleep) at age 78, on Shemini-Atzeres after participating earlier that night in Hakafot at Shteeble. 52 years serving on Rebbe's Shlichus to Albany, head-Shliach to Northeastern NYS, having arrived here with Morah Rochel (& baby Mendel) Sukkos 5735/1974. Rabbi Rubin was a pioneering Shliach, uniquely creative and resourceful. He was especially inspired by Rebbe's "Vayeitzei-Vayishlach" letter to Chabad of Albany in 1979, and Rebbe's 5725/1965 Hadran on Makkos shaped his Torah studies. A great (yet humble and accessible) scholar, an original thinker, he authored novel commentary on the Haggadah, on Pirkei Avot, and other topics, as well as "The Torah Times" which he began as a yeshiva student, later updated at Maimonides, and also many English articles all with a relevance emphasis. He was Rabbi of Shomray Torah where many of his Torah insights were shared & developed. He was a trailblazer of Jewish life and growth in our region, reaching, influencing & impacting many lives, ripple effects far beyond Albany. A founder of Maimonides School in 1980, he continued to lead and shepherd this school all the years (thru challenges & opportunities) until his illness, continuing to guide it & its community until his passing. Our school was his baby, a product of his (& Morah Rochel's!) love and dedication, broad vision, educational approach and style. Funeral & shiva reflected a spectrum of his years & impact here, he was buried here in Albany, where he planted and invested, in the place & people he loved and loved him. Much more to share and unpack of Rabbi Rubin's unique innovations & blessings he brought our school, our region and our lives. May his vision & legacy live on in our school, in our region, and in all we do!



SCHOOL STAYS OPEN

There was thought to close school on day of the funeral, but Rabbi Rubin would love most for children's Torah study to continue! The whole school came out for to escort Rabbi Rubin's funeral, all the children followed the Aron for a short distance outside school, most respectfully. School stayed open that day and all week, with wonderful learning, despite Morah Rochel and other teachers out sitting Shiva. Many thanks to Dr. Sweet for a full day presence, to Morah Leyee's arrangements and all the teachers who filled in & students who gave it their best. This was a great tribute.

NO NEWSLETTER LAST WEEK

While there was much learning at school last week, there was no MC Newsletter for Parsha Bereishis, the week of Shiva. This week's MC Noach Newsletter will combine some of last week and this week's student reporting, we'll try to squeeze in as much as we can!

MAZAL TOV SIMMY & CHAYA

Mazal Tov to Simmy & Chaya Rubin and family on the birth and bris of their newborn son named Yisroel Eliezer, the first name for Rabbi Rubin, given one day after the funeral. May they enjoy much happy, healthy nachas from him and all their children!

SO MANY PICTURES, MEMORIES AND RABBI RUBIN LESSONS!!!

We're starting a weekly MC newsletter feature with a Rabbi Rubin photo, its context, people pictured, background and a takeaway lesson! >

This "MC" Newsletter is dedicated in loving memory of

Rabbi Israel Rubin

- Yisrael Eliezer ben Moshe -

passed away on Shmini Atzeres
founder of Maimonides
Rebbe's Shliach to Albany
and Northeastern NY

Rabbi Rubin will be missed but his memory, vision, teachings and legacy is a great local blessing!

MAZAL TOV DINA R.

Mazal Tov 7th grader Dina R. on her Bas-Mitzvah this weekend! Wishing her parents Rabbi Yossi & Morah Leyee, siblings & family much Nachas!

MAZAL TOV RIVKA LABER

Mazal Tov to MHDS Rivka Laber on her upcoming wedding this week to Daniel Levy. Wishing the new couple, the Laber parents and grandparents and families much Nachas!

MAZAL TOV RABINOWITZ

Mazal Tov to MHDS alumna Mushkie (Kudan) and Shmulie Rabinowitz on the birth of a baby daughter. Mazal Tov to grandparents R' Ruvain and Shayna Kudan and Uncle Moishy, and family!

IYH TO BE PUBLISHED...

These efforts were already underway during Rabbi Rubin's lifetime: we hope to get his 600+ page Sefer published, and an expanded version of The Torah Times also coming soon!

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. Maimonides Candle-Lighting Magnets are also available at the school office.



AVOT

It's tradition to learn Mishna (same four Hebrew letters as Neshoma) in memory of the departed, and Rabbi Rubin loved and taught and wrote extensive commentary on Pirkei Avot, so 6-7 boys Gemorah class is taking some time to learn all of Mishnayot Avot in memory of Rabbi Rubin.



PHASES OF THE MOON

Rabbi Shmuly's 4th grade Mishna class used this device to better understand the phases of the moon in the monthly cycle, and they learned this on the day of Rosh Chodesh! Some of his older classes discussed the 365 Solar Year vs. the 354 Lunar Year, and how solar has artificial months, lunar has artificial years, & how Judaism combines both. They also talked how the 7-day weekly cycle has no natural source and is solely based on Creation!





HEBREW LEAF COLORS

We're nearing peak fall color now! Morah Devora's 1st graders traced leaves, colored and labeled them with their Hebrew color names.

WAMPUM BELTS

Ms. Carreno's 5th graders are learning about and making Wampum Belts—how the patterns and materials kept records and messages.



WHAT A SQUASH!?

During recess one day these boys discovered an enormous long twisted squash growing in the school garden! Stay tuned to what will be made of this long twisted yellow squash...

WORDING MATTERS!

Morah Raizy's 6th grade Pitgam Poetry learned & wrote poetry about Talmud's teaching that Parsha Noach uses a more roundabout wording for non-Kosher animals to teach us to carefully choose to say things in a more pleasant, polite & positive way.

VOLCANO IN HAWAII

Ms. Lynch's 4th graders learned about an active volcano in Hawaii (and about volcanos in general) with a national park around it—some parts are considered safe to visit.

THE "CHARLES" ESSAY

7th grades read about a fictional "Charles" and did an essay comparing & contrasting Charles to any fictional character they wished.

VESSEL #'s ONE THRU THREE

6th grade Halacha class with Rabbi Caras learned how transferring hot liquid from the original heated vessel to a secondary one, and then a third—allows for Shabbos cooking laws to be allowed (to make coffee and tea etc).

REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY

Rabbi Caras' 6-7 history class learned the battle of Bunker Hill, the life of John Adams and more from that important time period.

BY 2,3, OR EVEN 4 DIGITS!

4th graders learned to multiply by 2, 3 and even 4 digits! One added digit at a time...

TEN APPLES UP ON TOP



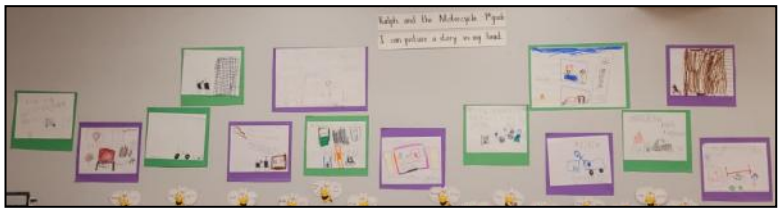
Mrs. Hoffman's Kindergarten read this book by Dr. Seuss with words & math, and made their own posters of it.



"CAPTAIN NOAH" & SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AS THE ARK



Many students today might not realize that part of our school building is an extension wing built (a few years after the Partridge Street building 2005 purchase) in 2008! Rabbi Rubin loved to turn almost anything into a learning experience! For Parsha Noach he dressed up as "Captain Noach", wore Mr. Stan Rosenberg's Ark tie, and wore a blue rain poncho and invited all the classes onto a Yefim-built gangplank to "board" the under-construction expansion, which he called a "Teivah". Many of the kids wore animal masks for the occasion. The yellow papers are "ship boarding passes". Rabbi Rubin made a big sign posted up inside school titled "Noah & Sons Construction" with lots of smaller words describing the Ark's unique features! Do you see him holding a dove in one hand and a raven in the other (both pretend)? This year, after Rabbi Rubin's passing we learned something new: Mr. Stan Rosenberg's weekly "Tie of the Week" tied into the Parsha began with Rabbi Rubin's enthusiasm that Parsha Noach in 2008 to borrow Stan's Ark-themed tie and use it for this educational experience at school. That got Stan going, and he now has a tie (or more!) for each Parsha and holiday! Which alumni can you find in these photos?



PICK WORDS

Ms. Carreno's told her 5th graders to pick random words from a dictionary to string into sentences.

I CAN PICTURE A STORY IN MY HEAD

Morah Daniella's 1st graders did these illustrative projects after reading "Ralph and the Motorcycle".





HEBREW ANIMAL NAMES

Morah Devorah's 2nd graders are learning Hebrew names for many animals—perfect timing for Parsha Noach! They also drew some animals themselves!





ERROL & JANET KRUPMAN VISITING

Rabbi Rubin was fond of bringing WOW (Wide Open Windows) guests into school to share interests, talents and experiences. We're trying to bring WOW back! Last week Rabbi Raskin of Vermont came & shared stories of his upbringing in Morocco (a story of the Moroccan king going incognito in France, and a story about Jewish pride walking to Shul in Casablanca). This week Errol & Janet Krupman were in town from Israel. They lived in Albany (she was a great ELA teacher at Maimonides!) before moving to Monsey for 17 years & 10 years now in Israel! At an assembly for grades 4-8, they shared the blessing of Birkat Kohanim every day, of mitzvot only possible in Israel, of walking same paths as our ancestors, of seeing Jewish history coming alive all over, and of surprising religiosity & connection from Jews who appear secular: Shabbat Shalom greetings from everyone, and secular Jews on their tour bus who preferred to pray at Kever David than shop at Machane Yehudah market. They described Chabad Tefillin stands in center of Neharia (grandfather of some of our students lives there, too), a city that's up in Israel's north just 8 kilometers from the Lebanese border.

2 TYPES OF THOUGHTS

Morah Bassie's 4th grade Tamim class (socio-emotional curriculum) learned the difference between involuntary vs. voluntary thoughts, the ones that just happen vs. the ones we choose to dwell upon and think about. They enjoyed seeing two sides of a flipped drawing, that allows you to see the same thing differently.



YIDDISH MATCH-IT

Morah Raizel & 7th graders played a Yiddish matching game she made.

NOACH VS. AVRAHAM

5th grade learned how Noach did his thing but didn't pray for or advocate for his sinful generation the way that Avraham did. They learned two ways of getting warm: The fur coat vs. lighting a fire. Fur only warms you but the fire can warm others, too.

SCIENTIFIC METHOD

Rabbi Caras' 6-7 grade science took a test on the scientific method and how to run & record experiments.

EXTRA LOVE UR FELLOW

4th grade Yahadus learned cases of extra Ahavas Yisrael mitzvah, such as loving & embracing converts, widows and orphans & those who may feel extra vulnerable or need support.

FIRST BAKE SALE

8th grade girls are doing Bake-Sale once a week. Parents can set up "tabs" as a credit for their students to draw on. Parents can also set limits or rules for their child(ren)'s tabs.



NEW NURSERY SENSORY TABLE

Nursery has a new sensory table for water or sand etc, with various accessories. Given the flood in this week's Parsha they filled it with water and all sorts of things to do with it!

TEACHERS MEETING

General Studies and Judaic Teachers had a productive faculty meeting during lunch & recess time on Thursday. Special thanks to the parents who pitched in to supervise recess to enable teachers to have this meeting time, thanks to Dr. Sweet for focused agenda and topics explored and areas for further (and smaller group) discussion.

AGRICULTURAL TITHES

As WOW guest Mrs. Janet Krupman shared, some mitzvot can only be done in Israel. Our 6th graders are now learning about these laws now in Yahadus Book #3.

PRIME #'S AND FACTOR TREES

6th grade math with Rabbi Caras had a test on prime numbers, factorization and factor trees.

SHMUEL I, NOW II

Morah Rochel's 7th grade Navi class finished Shmuel I, and they now started Shmuel II.

ELOKAI NESHOMA

This week, (those on time for) 3/4 boys davening class learned a melody to opening of this section of the daily morning blessings.

START OF VAEIRA

Both Morah Rochel's 7th grade girls Chumash and Rabbi Andrusier's 6-7 boys Chumash are now in Parsha Vaeira, 2nd Parsha in Sefer Shmot, Book of Exodus. And lots of Rashi!

PARENT-CHILD OBLIGATIONS

7th grade Halacha class with Rabbi Caras: What do children have to do for their parents, and what do parents have to do for their kids?

G.C.F. IN MATH CLASS

Ms. Cat's 7th graders learning how Greatest Common Factor helps simplify fractions.

UPCOMING EVENTS
at Maimonides and in the Community

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

10/16: EREV SHABBOS NOACH
School served "Ma(r)ble Cake" for lunch with umbrella toothpicks. High School girls baked it with Morah Rochel. It's a school tradition!

10/16-17: SHABBOS NOACH
This Parsha has so many universally well-known visual images: the Ark, the dove, the olive-branch, the rainbow, and the animals 2x2. And many layers of meaning, too! It's a Parsha many of our students are familiar with, and Rabbi Rubin's Torah-Times really brings it to life in a newspaper format with so many clever Midrashic references. Special Kiddush at Shteeble for Sid Stark's 80th birthday!

10/18: ZAYIN CHESHVAN
Rabbi Rubin would always make a special school event for Zayin (7th of) Cheshvan when the last furthest Jew would return home after the holiday pilgrimage. It is also R' Meir Shapiro's Yartzeit (founder of Yeshiva Chachmei Lublin and the Daf Yomi Talmud study cycle). This year it's on Sunday, there will be a Zayin-Cheshvan short Study & Breakfast at Shteeble after 8:30am (switches to 8:10am when clocks change) Shachris this Sunday.

10/18: STEM-FEST AT S-JCC
1-4pm at the Schenectady JCC. Free admission. Geared for ages 3-11.

10/18: FIRE & FREEDOM LECTURE
2pm lecture at the NYS Museum by historian Thomas Wermuth, author of "Fire and Freedom: The American Revolution in New York."

10/18: SHEEP AND WOOL FESTIVAL
in Rheinbeck NY. $18pp, kids 11 and under free. More info at: sheepandwool.com

10/21: OPEN HOUSE *CHANGE*
In addition to Parent-Teacher Conferences on Nov 11th about individual children—school would like to bring back a general Open—House info night, about each class/teacher overall. It will NOT be Wed 10/21 as on the school calendar, stay tuned for a different date/medium. More info soon.

10/25: ALBANY COMIC-CON
10am-4pm at the Polish Community Center on Washington Ave. $10pp admission.

10/31: CHAF (20TH OF) CHESHVAN
Rebbe Rashab's birthday is on Shabbos this year. Speak to R' Michael Caras to contribute towards Kiddush/Farbrengen at Shteeble—perhaps a tidbit from Rashab's profound Maamorim as well!

10/22: RACHEL IMENU YARTZEIT
The 11th of Cheshvan. Another lesser-known Hebrew calendar date that our school celebrates!



"YISRAEL" VERSES & SAYINGS IN ART CLASS
In first art class after Rabbi Yisrael Rubin's passing, Morah Rivi's art classes decorated shields of biblical verses, Talmudic sayings & songs that prominently feature his name "Yisrael". See them on the main entrance bulletin board.

11/3: RABBI RUBIN SHLOSHIM
Please save the date: Tuesday evening, 7:30pm at Shabbos House for a Shloshim (30 Days) event for Rabbi Rubin, obm. Stay tuned for program details.

11/3: ELECTION DAY
Don't forget to vote!!!

11/5: THE SHOE IN THE DANUBE
Clifton Park Chabad hosts Peter Balint, author of "The Shoe in the Danube" as a Kristallnacht speaker, 6pm at the Clifton Park Library.

11/8: SHLUCHIM KINUS BANQUET
Watch online at Chabad.org/Kinus

11/11: PARENT-TEACHER CONF.
Stay tuned for (complex) schedule for parents to meet one-on-one with their students teachers. A schedule is drawn up matching teachers and families. If you can not attend in person, please let the office know so that you won't be scheduled (and can make up a different time to be in touch with your child(ren)'s teachers.

11/14: FIRST PIZZA NIGHT
HS runs Pizza Night at MHDS for eat-in/take-out once-a-month during wintertime early Sat nights It's their year-end trip & extra-curricular fundraiser.

12/8: SCHOOL'S RAFFLE-AUCTION
Raffle-Auction with A-Z Prize Packages will be mailed earlier for by-mail & online ticket orders, but the event and drawings will be on Chanukah.



ALARM FIX DELAY
We're under contract, the company has the permits and is now awaiting all the parts and supplies to begin the long-awaited total replacement of school's fire alarm system. The annoying beeping will hopefully end soon!!

AVAILABLE AT SCHOOL OFFICE:
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HELP KEEP OUR SCHOOL CLEAN!
Dr. Sweet noticed that some classes are being especially good with keeping their classrooms clean. We can all help with this—inside and outside the school! Let's each do our part!

A-Z PRIZE PACKAGES
Now is the time to finalize prize packages (A-Z plus split-the-pot & mystery) for this year's school raffle-auction to be held on Chanukah, (but mailed and emailed earlier). Got an idea for a prize package? Contact Raizy, raffle-auction coordinator. 518-772-7299

KOLLEL YISRAEL ELIEZER
There's an effort to increase study programs in memory of Rabbi Rubin. Rabbi Motti is starting with these two study programs: (A) Project Lekutei Sichos after weekday Shachris on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays. (B) "Basar V'Chalav" Halacha SCP after Sunday Mincha-Maariv.

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!"

Supported by Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York