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Maimonides Community

BH. Cheshvan 12, 5787 / October 23, 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: 5:42
Shabbos Ends: 6:41

לך לך

RABBI RUBIN'S SHLOSHIM SET

Please save the date: Tuesday evening, Nov 3rd, 7:30pm at Shabbos House for communal Shloshim (30 Days) memorial event for Rabbi Rubin. Event includes Siyum of Mishnayos, memories & life-lessons of Rabbi Rubin.

SPEAKING OF NOVEMBER 3RD

Adults: please do not forget to vote!

MAIMONIDES
404 Partridge Street
Albany NY 12208



This "MC" Newsletter is dedicated in loving memory of our Bubbes:
Bubbe Risha Piekarski
Yartzeit 4 Cheshvan
Bubbe Bluma Galperin
Yartzeit 11 Cheshvan
by Mendel & Raizy Rubin & family

MAZAL TOV RIVKA (LABER) AND DANIEL LEVY

Often (MHDS alumna) Rivka (Laber, now Levy) is the one to send the MC newsletter "the Albany Picture" from Simchas (and she is a professional photographer) but her own wedding was so lively that the traditional Albany picture wasn't taken until closer to the end! Not all pictured, Albany was very well represented! Mazal Tov to Rivka and Daniel, her parents R' Avraham and Nechama, grandparents R' Shmuel and Gittel Laber and the whole Mishpacha!

MAZAL TOV NECHAMA F.

Mazel tov to MHDS alumna Nechama (Krimmer) and R' Eliyahu Friedman on the birth of a baby boy. Special Mazal Tov to the Zeide, Yitzchok Krimmer of Albany and great-grandmother Gloria Krimmer and family!

MAZAL TOV HERTZBERGS

Mazal Tov to MHDS alumnus Daniel Hertzberg on his engagement to Fayga Karp of Cincinnati. Mazal Tov to his parents Dr. Shmuel and Leah Chava Hertzberg (formerly of Clifton Park). And Mazal Tov to her parents Rabbi Yaakov and Miriam Karp who also have a Albany/Rabbi Rubin connection!

FAREWELL BRANCAS



This Shabbos will be Will & Estee (Sigal) Branca's last Shabbos at Shteeble (they're sponsoring Kiddush) as they prepare for a study-sabbatical (of a TBD duration). (Next Shabbos they'll be at Shabbos House). We wish them much happy hatzlacha!

MAZAL TOV VOLOVIKS

Mazal Tov to MHDS alumnus R' Mendel and Tzivia Volovik (Campus Shluchim) of Williamstown MA on birth of a boy! Mazal Tov to his parents and siblings, Voloviks of Chabad of Berkshires (in Lenox MA).

CONDOLENCES CEPLERS

Condolences to Sheryl (of Albany's PJ Library) & Dr. Aron Cepler on the passing of her grandmother Bubbe Miriam Hoffman.

MIKVAH CEMENT POURING

Next week! albanyminyan.com/mensmikvah/ or thechesedfund.com/shomraytorah/albanymensmikvah More to go! $50K match!



MAZAL TOV DINA R.

Beautiful Bas-Mitzvah last weekend, with wonderful project on the morning blessings.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTANCE

The week of Lech-Lecha about Avraham and Sarah's journey is a good time to recognize our students who really go the extra mile and travel long distances each day to get to and from school! This year all students traveling an hour each way got a directional compass on a carabiner clip for their daily travels! This week is also fitting for two other reasons: Zayin Cheshvan reminds us to be sensitive to those who travel the furthest and the 11th of Cheshvan yartzeit of the biblical matriarch Rachel Imenu who was buried on the roadside, says the Midrash, to be there for the Jewish people on their journeys. (Only a few of the long-distance traveling students pictured).

"HOW MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN"

This is one of the famous lines in David's poem eulogizing the fall of King Saul at the hands of the Plishtim/Philistines at the end of Shmuel Alef. Morah Rochel asked her 7th grade Navi students to each write a poem of their own based on one of the lines of King David's poem. And illustrate it, too!

LOCAL ERUV-CHATZEIROS CASE

Rabbi Motti's 5th grade Yahadus class is now learning the rabbinic laws of Eruv-Chatzeiros for Shabbos carrying in shared hallways, joint stairwells or closed courtyards and the class realized that two of their classmates live in separate dwellings in exactly that situation. Their learning came alive & local!



DRIED LEAVES BIRD FEATHERS

Last Friday Morah Rivi's art students used dried colored leaves (and their texture) to create "feathered" wings of dove birds, a connection to last week's Parsha of Noach.



PACKING SUITCASES

Morah Mussie's Kindergarten "packed" paper suitcases as they learned about Avraham & Sarah's big journey in Parsha Lech-Lecha.

WASHING HANDS IN KITZUR

Rabbi Shlomo & the 6-7 Boys are learning the laws of washing one's hands in the morning in the text of Kitzur Shulchan Aruch, and why many do it twice after awakening.

INTRODUCTION VIA HINTS

Oriyah and Shai are two of this year's Jewish Agency/Jewish Federation Shinshinim serving the greater Albany Jewish community here for a year from Israel. They introduced themselves to our students using a fun Escape Room technique. dropping hints and clues along the way, for our students to learn more and more about them—until the reveal at the end.

ANCIENT EGYPT

6th grade is now learning Parsha Miketz (opens with Pharoah's dreams) in Morah Rochel's Chumash class and ancient Egypt with Morah Bassie's history class.

FROGS

(and Toads…) Rabbi Andrusier's 6-7 Chumash class is now learning plague of frogs in Parsha Vaeira. 4th graders read a fairytale titled "The Horn Toad Prince" in Ms. Lynch's class.

PHOTO COMPOSITION

Rabbi Caras' HS Photography class learned components of photo composition, from the Rule of Thirds, balancing heavier & lighter elements, frames & leading lines, using lighting to help contrast, seeing the picture as a whole not just the details… and more!

CIVIL WAR HISTORY QUIZ

7th graders did one of these with Ms. Maddie this week as they study the US Civil War.

G.R.A.P.E.S. IN SOCIAL STUDIES

Morah Bassie brought in grapes for 6th grade to enjoy as they learned this classic acronym: Geography, Religion, Achievements, Political System, Economy, Social Structure. This is the framework lens to view ancient civilizations.



WHY THE SAMECHS & PEYS?

2nd graders were wondering why there are Samech & Pey letters scattered throughout the Chumash. Rabbi Mathless came in to explain the system of "closed" and "open" sections of Torah and how Samech & Pey indicates that.

MLA STYLE & NOODLE TOOL

Ms. Lynch introduced her 7th grade English language students to MLA citation and a Noodle Tool program that helps with that.

KOHAIN KORRUPTION

Morah Dini's 6th grade Navi is now learning the Shmuel Alef story about Eli's two sons.

REMEMBERING RABBI RUBIN



TALE OF THE TWO UMBRELLAS

This photo dates back to 7 Cheshvan 5763 (2012) when Rabbi Rubin put white lettering on two black umbrellas: Umbrella on left has the rain-season Amidah prayer insert asking for rain that begins on the 7th of Cheshvan in the land of Israel. Why on this date in Israel? The words on umbrella on right explain: "Until the Last One Gets Home!" It took all this time since Sukkot for the last Jew to reach home after the pilgrimage festival. Everyone's prayer for (much-needed!) rain awaits that very last straggler at the end of the line! Sensitivity for others!



GOING THE DISTANCE

This photo was taken on the week of Parsha Lech-Lecha in the school office a few years ago with students—some of these are now alumni, most are still current students—who travel long distances (an hour plus!) each way to school to study. Each year during the week of Lech-Lecha school presents these longer-travel students with a treat or trinket in to recognize their long journeys each day!



REGARDS FROM LEVINS

MHDS alumni Bluma R. & Tzipora K. both studying in Tzfat, are spending this Shabbos at the Levin's home in Maale-Adumim. See the scenic mountains behind them!

SPECIAL BREAKFAST ITEMS

Some special breakfast & snack items this week included Honey-Nut Cheerios one day and Corn Chex cereal another, personal bags of popcorn and little bags of granola bites. For a fruit change, tart granny-smith green apples, later in the week a big box of grapefruit, & one day surprisingly delicious small oranges!

THURSDAY'S LUNCH...

There was beans & rice, salsa & chips, tuna & cucumbers, chilled cantaloupe wedges, plus bread, cheese & peanut butter. And a special pastry dessert for Rachel Imenu's yartzeit! Many thanks to Morah Fruma, Shira F. and our team of HS "lunch-ladies" who make lunch as ample, tasty and smoothly and friendly served as possible!

"THE STRONGEST ONE"

Morah Daniella's 2nd graders read their first-ever play! They each read their assigned roles, realized you don't read the character names aloud, and got used to the different format.



THE CALL OF DUTY!

This fire inspector is Jewish, and Rabbi Mathless helped him put on Tefillin!

SHOFTIM CYCLE

Morah Chana'le's 4th grade Navi students learned the Cycle that repeats in the Book of Shoftim.

BROOM, DUSTPAN, GARBAGE

5th grade Yahadus learned about the feather, spoon and paper-bag of Bedikas Chametz and realized it can be likened to a broom, dustpan & garbage can. Just then, while they were saying this, a student from a different class knocked to ask for their broom and dustpan!

A MATH SHORTCUT!

4th graders were excited to learn a shortcut to something they've been learning in math.

STATISTICS IN MATH

Rabbi Andrusier's 6-7 math students are now learning some parts of statistics, a type of math that gets a lot of use in many areas of life.

FIRST'S FIRST MATH UNIT

Morah Daniella's first graders finished their first math unit of the year!







THIRD GRADE CHAVRUSA LEARNING

Morah Dini's 3rd graders did some really nice Chavrusa paired-peer learning together!



KEVER ROCHEL—RACHEL'S TOMB—ART PROJECTS

Morah Rivi's art students did a beautiful job recoloring artistic versions of the iconic Rachel's Tomb for the 11th of Cheshvan Yartzeit.



KINDERGARTEN AT ELLMS

Mrs. Hoffman's Kindergarteners enjoyed a wonderful fall-themed trip to Ellms Farm.





CREATIVE CHUKAS CHUMASH

Morah Leyee's HS Chumash finished Parsha Chukas. Each student is working on a creative project that draws on at least 2 Meforshim commentaries, 2-3 Rashi and other criteria.

MASTERMINDS IN SERENITY

Morah Bassie's 6th graders are reading and enjoying a story titled "Masterminds" by Gordon Korman set in a town called Serenity.

THE LETTER "B" IN NURSERY

Morah Gittele and Nursery learned letter B this week, in many different ways: Blue Balloon Painting, playing with bricks & blocks and all types of things that begin with B!

MANY LECH-LECHA CONCEPTS:

Among Parsha concepts some of our classes learned:

- Why Torah starts Avraham at age 75?
- How does Lech-Lecha reflect ups & downs?
- Meaning of Fiery Oven between the Parts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

at Maimonides and in the Community

10/23-24: SHABBOS LECH-LECHA
Lech-Lecha begins with Avram & Sara's journey to Canaan, their descent into Egypt, separation from Lot, 4 Kings vs. 5 Kings, The Covenant Between the Parts/Pieces, their name change… Farewell to Will & Estee Branca Kiddush at Shteeble.

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

10/25: NORTHEAST WINTER EXPO
10am-4pm at Saratoga City Center. Free admission. Vendors include winter-gear, gear and travel.

10/25: FALL FESTIVAL AT WEST MT
9-2. Free admission. Pay for select fall activities.

10/25: SCP: LAWS OF MEAT & MILK
New Semichas Chaver Chabad Program covers laws of meat & milk in an in-depth format, Sundays after Maariv (Mincha is approx. 5:35pm this coming week). This should be a very useful and practical study! Contact Rabbi Motti for more info.

10/27: ISRAEL'S BIG ELECTIONS
All 120 members of Israeli's Knesset are up for election, and the make-up of the Knesset will determine who will lead the governing coalition.

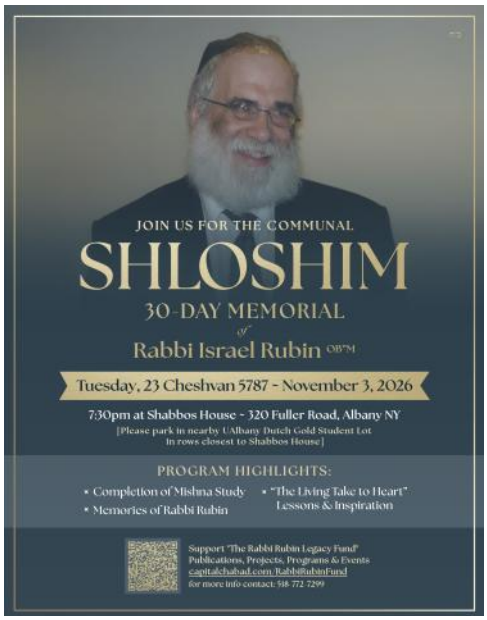
10/28: HS GIRLS HIKE W/ VARDA
Varda LeMonds will be leading the HS Girls on a outdoor hike next Wednesday all afternoon.

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!

11/1: RASHAB STUDY-BREAKFAST
Sunday morning at Shomray Torah after the last 8:30am Shachris of the season (changes to 8:10am once clocks switch) a study-breakfast of analogies illustrating Rebbe Rashab's "V'yadayta Moskve" a classic Maamar on the power of parable.

SHTEEBLE MORNING MINYANS
Since after Rabbi Rubin's Shiva, there's now two morning Minyans at Shteeble 6:15am and 8:10am each weekday morning. CBAJ has a 6:40am Minyan each weekday. Each Minyan (Mincha/Maariv, too) can use a little extra support, sometimes one person coming a few minutes earlier (or coming at all!) makes all the difference. Even if you can only come 2x a week!

11/1: FESTIVAL OF NATIONS
11:30am-5pm at Empire State Plaza Convention Center. Israel will be represented, among 27 nations!, Jewish community is asked to come, take part and show support. To volunteer/get free or cheap tickets contact Jewish Federation or Amidah. *(Fun fact: for a number of years Rabbi Rubin's Kosher Pizza & Falafel ran the Israel Kosher food booth at this Festival of Nations, while other local Jewish groups did the stage performances representing Israel)..*



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. Please park at nearby Dutch Quad Lot in rows closest to Shabbos House. Stay tuned for program details.

11/3: ELECTION DAY
Don't forget to vote!!! Exercise your civic duty and help ensure our community is represented!

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
1pm. Watch online at Chabad.org/Kinus

11/11: PARENT-TEACHER CONF.
Veterans Day. No School. 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, company has the permits, 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:
If you didn't get your useful and beautiful new Jewish Art Calendar from Capital Chabad in the Jewish World Newspaper mailing, please pick up at the school office. MHDS Candle-Lighting Magnets are also available at the school office.



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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"A Beautiful Blend: Torah & Worldly Experience!"

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