בס"ד

Maimonides Community

BH. Cheshvan 25, 5787 / November 5, 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: 4:24
Shabbos Ends: 5:24

חיי שרה

MAZAL TOV KOVACH FAMILY

Mazal Tov on the recent birth (on Shabbos Noach) of Lielle Aviva Mendelson, daughter of Bina (Kovach) and Natan Mendelson, to the grandparents Ilana & Rob Kovach, and great-grandparents: Hesh Ungerman and Rainy & Stu Kovach. Much happy Nachas!

CHINUCH-TOOLS WORKSHOP

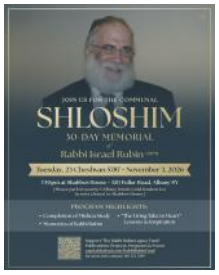
Many of our teachers enjoyed a workshop with MHDS alumnus Rabbi Zalmy Kudan, (and he spoke with two of our student groups, too). The workshop had lots of useful techniques, tools and approaches (even wording!) for



teachers to better and more constructively navigate student challenges and opportunities.

RABBI RUBIN'S SHLOSHIM

Shloshim was a very well-attended event at Shabbos House with a broad cross-section of community spanning various decades and eras of Rabbi Rubin's 52 years of Shlichus here, plus those who came in from NYC, Montreal, Philadelphia, NJ and even England. Speakers included family members (Morah Rochel shared dating stories!), alumni (including R' Zalmy who shared memories of creative hands-on lessons), friends (Rabbi Caras spoke of RR as Rabbi AND friend), and lay leaders, community, & Shlichus colleagues—many memories & so much inspiration shared! A booklet of a 52-page spectrum of written memories/condolences sent in this month since his passing was printed for Shloshim, the 1974 matchbook and Enjoy Torah sticker reprinted for the occasion. There was a Siyum Mishnayos and Kaddish. Rabbi Rubin Legacy Fund at capitalchabad.org/rabbirubinfund was announced to publish his 600+ page Hebrew Sefer, an expanded Torah-Times, a collection of articles and for communal programs, events and activities.



MAIMONIDES
404 Partridge Street
Albany NY 12208

MAZAL TOV SHEPHERDS

Mazal Tov Rabbi Mendy & Chaya Shepherd and family on the birth of baby girl whom they named Raizel at the Torah today. Mazal Tov to the baby's older siblings at Maimonides, to the grandparents Rabbi Avraham and Nechama Laber and great-grandparents R' Shmuel & Gittel Laber. Much happy Nachas!

Sponsor an MC Newsletter in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one.

Contact the School Office 518-453-9363 or info@maimonidesschool.org or email the newsletter at: mhdsnews@gmail.com

RABBI RUVAIN KUDAN

Mazal Tov to R' Ruvain Kudan upon completion of several years of diligent (mostly remote) course of in-depth study to earn his rabbinic ordination! The ceremony awarding Semicha will be this weekend Motzai Shabbos in Crown Heights. Mazal Tov!









MOHEL W.O.W. GUEST

Last Friday for Parsha Vayera and Avraham's Bris, Rabbi Mendel Kremer of Columbia County Chabad in Hudson NY (and parent at Maimonides) come into speak to 3rd & 4th grade about being a Mohel. The students loved the role play and it was a great hands-on activity and informative lesson!

HOCKEY TEAM SHABBOS

Elisheva's Gourmet catered a Shabbos for a Jewish hockey team (and parent chaperones) from Toronto playing in Lake Placid, Rabbi Zalman Lieberman, Yehudah Lieberman and Rabbi Arye Leib Alperowitz led Minyans and Torah reading, and even shared with them that week's "Torah Times" by Rabbi Rubin which they very much enjoyed!

MORE MIKVAH CEMENT

More cement has been poured this week for the new Mens Mikvah behind Shteeble. Much more needs to be done, and more funds to be raised to be able to continue and finish this long-awaited project: albanyminyan.com/mensmikvah/ or thechesedfund.com/shomraytorah/albanymensmikvah More to go! $50K match!

THURSDAY NEWSLETTER

because No School tomorrow on Friday...



MORAH ROCHEL'S LINEN SHIRT

Morah Rochel wore a linen shirt to her 6th grade girls Chumash class this week for the linen clothing that Pharaoh garbed Yosef in when elevating his position.

WAFFLES SIYUM

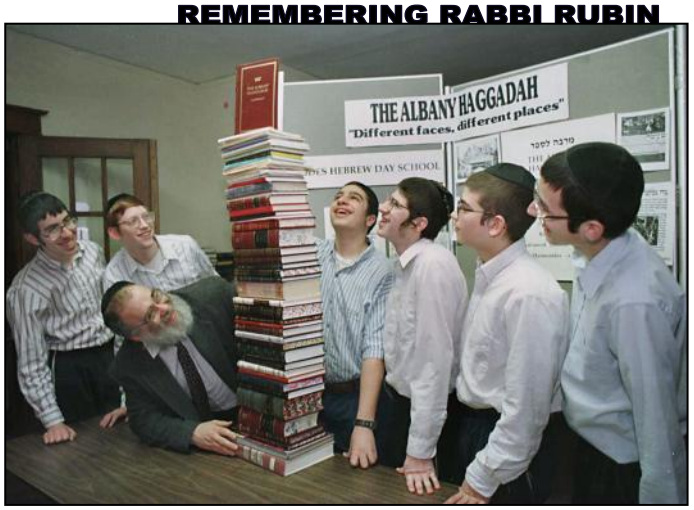
6-7 Boys enjoyed a waffles and ice-cream, whipped-cream, blueberries and syrup for a Siyum on Avot Chapter 2. Thanks Ruvi K. for the idea, even though he couldn't be there that day.

10 LITTLE MONKEYS

Morah Rochel's Yiddish class learning this song in Yiddish!

TRIANGLE PROOFS

In 10th grade Geometry class.





AVNER VS. ASAEL & YOAV

Wow, there's a lot of violent action and dramatic plot twists in this Chapter 2 of Navi Shmuel Bais!

NILE RIVER IRRIGATION

7th graders learned Rashi on this now in their Chumash Va'era class and remembered similar description of the Nile River's irrigation canal systems from their Ancient Egypt history class last year!



THINKING AND LEARNING TOGETHER WITH RABBI RUBIN

As Rabbi Zalmy Kudan was in town for the Shloshim and for Professional Development at school this week, here are two photos of him with Rabbi Rubin. *Top*: Among his classmates with Rabbi Rubin in this iconic photo for an illustrative visual on the many background texts going into "The Albany Haggadah". *Above*: Years back, as an alumni on a return visit to Rabbi Rubin in a younger classroom, thinking through an idea together...

VISIT TO GREENBUSH LABEL

Rabbi Rubin has been printing mitzvah promotion stickers for 50 years (going back to 1970's) with the Greenbush Tape & Label company in downtown Albany. It's in a big old brick factory building down on Broadway, not far from where the U-Haul truck swirls atop a nearby building. In honor of his Shloshim and for distribution at Shluchim Kinus this weekend, the company printed 6,000 "Enjoy Torah—It's The Real Thing!" stickers as a courtesy in memory of Rabbi Rubin. This sticker (styled like Coca-Cola) was one of Rabbi Rubin's first and it was a classic. In true Rabbi Rubin hands-on experiential style, the boys went downtown to the factory where the welcoming owner gave them a tour of the factory floor with machinery at work churning out labels. They saw a sampling of the thousands of diverse labels they print each year. Fun fact: When the Rebbe encouraged the *Hareini Mekabel* and *Ach Tzadikim* additions to davening, not all Siddurim had them yet, so large stickers were printed with these additions, along with Tzivos Hashem logo in time for Chanukah 5744. Those stickers were printed in Albany at Greenbush Label. The Rebbe kept one inside his own Siddur for quite a while that year!



WELCOME MORAH RIVKY C.

Mrs. Rivky (Rubin) Cohen was in from England for a day for Rabbi Rubin's Shloshim and during that short time taught High School a class on Modeh Ani. One lesson: Modeh Ani doesn't start in the morning! It starts with how (and with what mindset) we get ourselves to bed the night before...

HONEY BUNCHES OF OATS

One day this week we had this cereal for breakfast. This cereal was created based on people mixing different cereals (it has 3 types of flakes, plus clusters) and what they seemed to enjoy mixed together. The Post company followed that recipe to produce and sell "Honey Bunches of Oats" (and a bunch of varieties of it). This connects with a Talmudic expression: "Go out and see what people do!"



LEW GRAY VISITED SCHOOL

Lew Gray is a former Maimonides parent, the Grays lived in Albany for a decade or so after 2001. He was in town for the Shloshim and stopped by to see the school. He's pictured here in 5th grade, where he shared about his work as an auditor for NYS. Interestingly, they just learned about cross-examination in the laws of the new moon, and that nicely matched with his work of cross-checking files, claims and evidence etc.



OZONE REPORT

These 7th graders worked as a team to research, prepare and present a report on the Ozone Layer in Ms. Cat's class as part of a unit on weather & atmosphere.

MACHPELA (VIRTUAL) TOUR

In connection with Parsha Chayei Sarah, when Avraham purchased the Machpela double-cave in a Hebron field to bury Sara, Mr. Ed Mark came to school to share about his recent visit there and updates about the recent upgrades and renovations. He showed us the bird's eye view of the area on Google Maps (his son lives walking distance away in Kiryat Arba), a few short videos to show our way around inside the historic Machpela building, and then some of his own pictures taken recently of the newly installed skylit glass dome and the cleaned and polished 2000+ year old stones—it is so much brighter now! He even shared a sneak peak into an open doorway of the Ohel Yitzchak section (which is usually closed off to Jewish worshippers).

















MISHNA FOR RABBI RUBIN

At lunchtime on the day of the Shloshim, students (led by Rabbi Yossi) took turns reading Mishnayot on the microphone whose first letter spells the letters of Rabbi Rubin's two Hebrew first names: Yisrael Eliezer.

INSTANT MASHED POTATOES

What food blessing is recited? HS Halacha class discussed changes to food integrity that alter the blessing. Same with Pringles—it is not an actual slice of potato but reconstituted (but delicious) from potato powder/dough. The girls found a box of instant potatoes and are curious to try making it.

G.R.A.P.E.S. BOOKLETS

Morah Bassie's 6th grade history students are each making booklets on life in ancient Mesopotamia with one page of each booklet explaining another letter of G.R.A.P.E.S. (Geography, Religion, Achievements, Politics, Economy, and Social Structures).

LAYERS OF THE EARTH

Ms. Cat's High School Earth Science students made layered cupcakes of different colors and densities representing the layers of rock in the earth. Food for thought!



LAKE BONITA HIKE AT MOREAU LAKE STATE PARK

Last week HS girls hiked to Grafton fire tower, this week veteran hikers Varda & Jeff LeMonds led middle-school (6-7-8 grade) girls on a lake trail in Moreau Lake State Park. Thanks to Rabbi Yossi & Leyee, and Chani and Bassie Rubin for chaperoning and driving (and taking photos). Scenery was beautiful, weather was gorgeous, they saw all types of interesting things and had a wonderful time as a group together!





ALL IN THE MISHPACHA

Morah Devorah's 1st graders learned Hebrew terms for members of the family.

WOODWORKING IN LIFE-SKILLS

Mrs. Rice leads a woodworking class in life-skills and the 6th grade girls were very helpful bringing the wooden boards in.





FOR BAR-MITZVAH

Our 7th grade boys have Bar-Mitzvah prep studies with Rabbi Mendel Brownstein. This time they learned outdoors.

THE AVNER GOLD STORY SET

Thanks to the Yeshayev Family for donating the whole set of the Strassberg Series by Avner Gold, a wonderful Jewish historical series to the Esty Library. They are best read in order!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

at Maimonides and in the Community

11/6: NO SCHOOL FRIDAY
No School on first Friday in November. Friday off.

11/6-7: SHABBOS CHAYEI SARAH AND MEVORCHIM KISLEV
The Parsha starts off with Avraham's purchase of a burial site for Sarah. Most of the rest of the Parsha is about Eliezer's mission to find a wife for Yitzchak and his finding Rivka at the well. As we bless the new upcoming month of Kislev, many have custom to say more/most/all of Tehillim.

11/7: EARLY MOTZAI SHABBOS
Shabbos ends very early starting this week. This week at 5:24pm! Pizza Night is next week, but got plans for this week?

11/8: SHLUCHIM KINUS BANQUET
1pm. Watch this special annual event online at Chabad.org/Kinus This year's guest speaker is Israeli Ambassador to the US Dr. Yechiel Leiter.

11/8: ROCKETS OVER ROTARY
This is a scouting event (open to non-scouts, too) that our local Jewish Scouting troop is joining and bringing Kosher food for. This is by pre-registration only—and registration closed earlier this week. For more info on the scout troop contact Myles.

11/9: KRISTALNACHT AT UNION
Chabad at Union along with a dozen organizations is hosting Holocaust survivor Tibor Spitz 5:15pm at the Nott Memorial building on the Union campus.

11/10: KRISTALNACHT AT ALBANY
The Jewish Federation and the Judaic Studies at UAlbany host a screening of "This Ordinary Thing— forgotten heroes, unforgettable stories" 7pm at Page Hall on UAlbany's downtown campus (on Western Ave).

SHTEEBLE MORNING MINYANS
Since Rabbi Rubin's Shiva, now two morning Minyans at Shteeble 6:15am and 8:10am each weekday morning. CBAJ 6:40am Minyan.

MINCHA-MAARIV WINTER MODE
Shteeble's Mincha moved to 3:10pm (to be done in time for pickup) at school before dismissal, and Maariv at 8pm at Shteeble.

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!

11/11: ROSH CHODESH KISLEV
Veterans Day. As there's no school (Parent-Teacher Conferences instead) this month's Rosh Chodesh Minyan will be at Shul and not at school. Happy Rosh Chodesh Kislev!

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. This schedule is drawn up and sent out with time slots matching teachers and families. It is based upon the input from the form that was sent to parents. Please be timely for everyone's benefit.

11/14: FIRST PIZZA NIGHT


HS runs Pizza Night (also sushi, fries, etc) at MHDS for eat-in/take-out once-a-month during wintertime early Sat nights It's their year-end trip & extra-curricular fundraiser. Stay tuned for their order form! Thanks for supporting this hard-earned effort!

11/29: YUD-TES KISLEV SUNDAY
over Thanksgiving Weekend this year.

12/4: FRIDAY NIGHT CHANUKAH
Chanukah begins (and also ends) on Shabbos this year! First light is Friday Night (before Shabbos).

12/6: CHANUKAH OFF JAY
Change of location this year for this large-scale communal Chanukah event (brought to you by Jewish Federation and Capital Chabad Centers) to a hall at Union College in Schenectady. Stay tuned for more info on this year's event! It's an exciting time to celebrate as a greater community!

SCP: LAWS OF MEAT & MILK
New Semichas Chaver Chabad Program covers laws of meat & milk in an in-depth format, Sundays after Maariv. This should be a very useful and practical study! Contact Rabbi Motti for more info.

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. **There are some new, exciting and different prize packages this year. Stay tuned!**

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. Handy **MHDS Candle-Lighting Magnets** are also available at the school office.

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



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!!



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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