



Bet Shraga
Hebrew Academy
of the Capital District



June 19, 2009
27 Sivan 5769

SHABBATON

Issue Number 36
Volume Number I

CALENDAR

Monday, June 22

Tuesday, June 23

12:00 8th Grade Rehearsal

Wednesday, June 24

7:00 8th Grade Graduation

Thursday, June 25

Friday, June 26

Candle Lighting times for June/July 2009

Friday, June 19th—Light 8:18pm

Friday, June 26th—Light 8:19pm

Friday, July 3rd —Light 8:18pm

Friday, July 10th —Light 8:16pm

Saturday, June 20th—End 9:20pm

Saturday, June 27th—End 9:30pm

Saturday, July 4th —End 9:29pm

Saturday, July 11th —End 9:25pm

DVAR TORAH BY RACHEL ANISFELD

Riddle: What do Bob the Builder and Calev ben Yefuneh from this week's parsha have in common? Answer: They both say: "Can we do it? Yes, we can!"

This week's parsha, *Shelah*, tells the story of the 12 *meraaglim* -- scouts who were sent by Moshe from the desert to survey the land of Israel in preparation for the people's entrance. 10 of the scouts came back saying, "We can't do it. We won't be able to conquer the land." They reported that the land does indeed produce incredible fruit (one bunch of grapes can be carried only by two people using a pole!), but that *efes*, "no matter" (Num 13:28), because the land's inhabitants are giants, and their cities are well-fortified. The other 2 scouts, Calev and Yehoshua, were steadfast and confident, arguing that since God is with the people of Israel, they will succeed in conquering this great land. They said: "We can surely do it," which in Hebrew sounds like a double can-do -- *yakhol nukhal lah* (13:30).

Why were Calev and Yehoshua so confident and positive, while the other 10 spies so hopeless and negative? What made Calev and Yehoshua see the challenge of the conquest of the land as an exciting opportunity to be seized, and the 10 spies see it as an impossible task, doomed to failure?

The 10 spies were intimidated by the largeness of everything they saw -- the fruit, the fortifications, and most especially the people. All that largeness made them feel small, like "grasshoppers," they say, like *efes*, zero. Why did they feel so small? Because they were evaluating everything on a purely physical basis, by size and strength. If that is all that a human being is, then indeed, the Israelites were doomed to failure, doomed to the ultimate end of all things physical -- death.

But Calev and Yehoshua understood that a human being is made up of more than flesh and blood. They say, *Hashem itanu*, "God is with us" (14:9). Perhaps what they mean is not just that God Himself is with the people, but also that God is inside all of us, that we all have a divine spirit, a special *ruah*. Yehoshua himself in fact carries God's name inside of his own, having had his name transformed from Hoshea to Yehoshua through the addition of a *yod* from God's name (13:16). And God says of Calev that he has a *ruah aheret*, "a special spirit" (14:24). These two felt that any task could be accomplished with the help of God and His spirit. They understood that it is this divine *ruah* which changes the equation, allows the weak to defeat the strong, the few to defeat the many. What is there in this world to be intimidated by when one has one's eye on God?

If we are only flesh and blood, as the 10 spies feared, then we will inevitably feel small, and death is our end, towards which we crawl on the ground, like grasshoppers. The punishment of death in the desert for the 10 spies and their generation was thus a fitting one. But if we are more than flesh and bones, if we also have a divine *ruah*, as Calev and Yehoshua believed, then we can do greater things than even Bob the Builder; reaching up to the sky to assert our connection to the Eternal One, we can conquer giants.

Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy Of The
Capital District Receives Substantial
Support From



ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A 5TH GRADER?

Thank you to all of the 5th grade parents who participated in our Judaics **“Are you Smarter than a 5th Grader Competition.”**

We appreciate their hard work and effort, however, the 5th graders surpassed them in their knowledge of Hebrew, Holidays, Prayer, Ethics of the Fathers and Important Israel People.



The Final Score

5th Graders	62
Parents	49

Thank you for trying. Better luck next year!



PARENT ORGANIZATION

NEW IDEAS FOR NEXT YEAR?

What programs would you like to see Parent Org bring to HACD? Brainstorm with us ... Look at some of the programs we currently provide for our school community. Think about what other ways Parent Org can expand and help out more. What are YOUR special talents and areas of expertise? Think about how YOU can make a difference in our school community.

Parent Org – year to date events:

- Caramel Apples for Rosh HaShana
- Rosh Chodesh Hallel Snacks
- Teacher/Faculty Workshop Breakfast 9/2/08
- Donuts and Juice for Rosh Chodesh on 10/29/08 & 12/22/08
- Sponsoring the Shlock Rock Concert 12/22/08
- Sponsoring the Teacher/Faculty Holiday Dinner 12/18/08
- Production of the “New & Improved” School Directory
- Ongoing Recycling programs – “the Greening of HACD”
- School Pictures
- Faculty/Staff Hospitality Birthday Cards
- Spirit Wear
- HACD Fridge-a-thon – working to replace the dead school fridge
- Start a new lunch program for the 2009-2010 school year
- Support teachers, staff by providing volunteers for special events



Please share your ideas with us via email at HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com and also let us know how you can support those ideas for the coming year.

We're Looking for A Few Good Friends...To lend a hand.

CAMPBELL's “LABELS for EDUCATION”. Minimal time commitment – basically, collecting labels, tallying and sending them out once a month or a few times a year. If you are interested in having fun while lending a hand, please email HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com.

RETURNABLE CANS & BOTTLES: Parent Org would like to restart the collection of returnable cans & bottles (metal & plastic only please for safety). We need a Parent volunteer to set-up collection bins and, more importantly, coordinate the returns, as the bins fill up. Email HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com to learn more!



Many Thanks

Pozner Fund

Rona and Louis-Jack Pozner in memory of
Rabbi Gerald I. Wolpe; Yahrzeit of Dr. Harry Pozner
and Raie Hames



Happy
Birthday

SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

August 3	Max Heller
August 14	Jacob Schwack
August 15	Talia Segal
August 17	Shore Goldberg
August 22	Vered Ornstein
August 23	Yoni Israel
August 25	Netania Kligerman

Summer Reading Lists

There are some wonderful resources for summer reading available on the internet. You can find many good lists by searching, but I have selected two I particularly like, one for Jewish books, and one for general books, below. Please use the links to find great reads for your children. Happy reading!

Jewish Titles

[2009 ~ 5769 Jewish Suggested Reading Lists,](#)

<http://www.ajaj.org/assets/pdf/educationalResources/readingclub/SmrJRdgClb09Lst.pdf>

This list from CAJE recommends Jewish titles, is arranged by age level, and includes a brief description of each title.

General Titles

HAISLN Recommended Reading Lists 2009:

<http://www.haisln.org/recommendedreadinglists.html>



This list of titles has been compiled by librarians at member schools of the Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network (HAISLN). It includes both fiction and nonfiction books, with annotations, by some of the best authors for children and young adults.

Coming Next Year!!!!

Students in Grades K-6 will be invited to Bring a Jewish Friend to School.

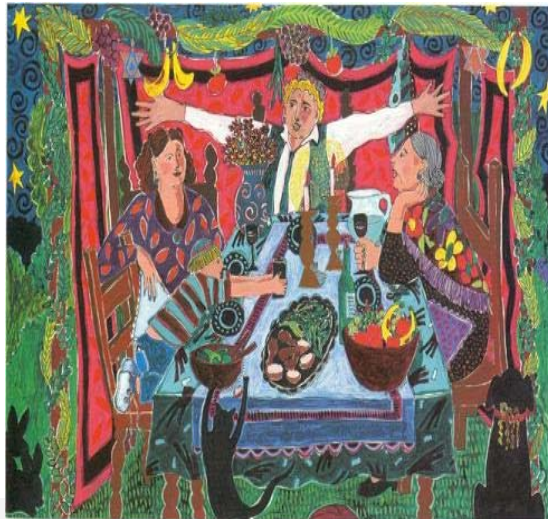
Monday, October 12, 2009

Details will follow.



**Save the Date
Grandparents and Special Friends Day**

Friday, October 9, 2009



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June 29

Camp Givah's 50th Season June 29 is approaching fast!!! Do not forget to enroll your child(ren) in Camp Givah for its Spectacular 50th Season. Forms and brochures are out and available now. Contact Gregg Fox at givahdirector@gmail.com with any questions or visit the Camp Givah website at www.campgivah.org.

To put a community wide event in our e-shabbaton, please email a text only version to ndaigle@hacdalbany.com

June

The Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center and Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. welcome the return of scouting to the JCC. Troop 33 will be meeting throughout June on Thursdays at the JWV room at the Albany JCC. Meetings begin at 7:15PM. For information about Boy Scout Troop 33, contact Troop co-Leader Bob Adler at bobadler@nycap.rr.com or Twin Rivers Jewish Committee on Scouting chair and Cubmaster of Pack 18 Adam Selsley at hacd-pack18@hotmail.com.



Submissions for the
Shabbaton should be sent to
ndaigle@hacdalbany.com by Wednesday

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