



Bet Shraga  
Hebrew Academy  
of the Capital District



March 27, 2009  
2 nissan 5769

## SHABBATON

Issue Number 27  
Volume Number I

### CALENDAR

**Sunday, March 29**  
1pm Play Rehearsal

**Monday, March 30**  
3:30 Play Rehearsal  
Parent Teacher  
Conferences Grades K & 2

**Tuesday, March 31**  
3:15 Drama Kids  
Performance

**Wednesday, April 1**  
3:15 Band  
3:15 Karate

**Thursday, April 2**  
Dismissal at 11am  
Parent Teacher  
Conferences

**Friday, April 3**  
Kindergarten Seder  
2:40 ONEG

#### Candle Lighting times for April 2009

Friday, March 20—Light 6:48pm  
Friday, March 27—Light 6:56pm  
Friday, April 3rd—Light 7:04pm  
Friday, April 10th—Light 7:12pm

Saturday, March 21st—Ends 7:49pm  
Saturday, March 28th—Ends 7:49pm  
Saturday, April 4th—Ends 8:06pm  
Saturday, April 11th—Ends 8:15pm

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

As the Board of Trustees continues on in safeguarding the mission of the school, being accountable for the financial well-being of the school and planning for its future needs through vision and strategic planning, I would like to share the following update with you!

- **Creating a professional development plan** – As a small private school, we rely heavily on our devoted lay leaders and volunteers to help in securing monies through fundraising efforts. While this focus has served us in the past, it is becoming increasingly clear that we could benefit from the direction and skill a professional development director could offer. With the help and guidance of community organizations and individuals we are moving towards creating a professional development plan with the hopes of eventually bringing on a professional development person to focus on securing endowments, accessing our many alumni and helping with the creation of a capital campaign. The board is committed to moving forward with this development plan as we organize our fundraising efforts to move the school forward.
- **Israel Trip Committee** – A formal committee has been formed under the leadership of Alan Ginsburg, to help promote and educate the entire school community on the 8<sup>th</sup>

Grade Trip to Israel. Creating a positive atmosphere around this trip that culminates students' years of study at HACD is a primary goal. Fundraising, financial, educational and curricular goals will be addressed. Representatives from the faculty and parent body make up the committee. Lower school parent representation is requested by Alan. Please contact him and get involved!

- **Strategic Plan** – Ira Zackon and Sandy Schuman will be presenting their findings from various segments of our school community and community rabbis in the process of streamlining our school's strategic plan for the next 5 years. Projections for the future – With the help and tenacity of our Admissions Director, Lorraine Arcus, we look to having a significantly larger kindergarten in the Fall. Lorraine has brought numerous families into our school and has been reaching out to area preschools and meeting with preschool directors. Our updated website has sparked an increase in interest and Lorraine communicates with all those that inquire.

This is just a small part of what is going on behind the scenes at HACD. I encourage any input and look forward to only wonderful things happening at our school!

Marta Koblenz  
President Board of Trustees

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



## MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION

Dear Parents-

I was extremely pleased by the results of our "special date" competition on Monday, 2/23--even without knowing at the time how the rest of the teams in the Capital District did, I knew how strong our showing was. Our team scored 42.75 (out of a possible but extremely rare 66 points). Our highest-ever score before that was 34.25. HACD also answered 9 questions out of 10 right on the team round--in past years we have gotten between 2 and 6 questions right. This is challenging stuff, and we did it well!

What pleased me most was the leadership of our older students--explaining math vocabulary so that younger students could solve harder word problems, and making sure that problems were divided up according to student experience--and the drive and talent of our 6th graders. I noticed that our youngest students scored unusually well for first-timers, and their accomplishments promise a lot of depth for the future.

The Capital District Mathcounts chapter competition was Saturday, February 28. This year featured a particularly talented field (I am acquainted with many of the top students from other teams), but we finished in the top ten (#9) for only the second time since I have been coaching. This means that we get our school name read aloud at the competition for all to hear. Other coaches I know are stunned that a 40-student middle school has such a huge number of participants and does so well. I've long since gotten over being stunned--I'm just proud.

And on a personal note, my five-year-old daughter woke up Sunday morning and told me, "I had a great dream! I dreamed it was the Mathcounts dinner again." It was a really lovely evening.

Thanks to you for your support and for your great kids!

Alexandra Schmidt



Hebrew Academy is only one of 15 middle schools in New York state (out of 190 participating in Mathcounts) to reach the Silver Level of the Mathcounts Club program. This speaks to our incredibly high participation rates and the student eagerness to work challenging problems together.

**LIBRARY VOLUNTEER NEEDED!**

One of our wonderful library volunteers is unexpectedly unavailable. We need someone to help out, especially with shelving books. If you can give us a couple of hours a week, please contact Nancy Eson at [neson@hacdalbany.com](mailto:neson@hacdalbany.com) or 482-0464, ext. 130.

No experience necessary!

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT**

Opportunity to host a foreign exchange student

Below is a bio on a young man that is looking for a host family during the 09-10 school year. As a representative for the Center for Cultural Interchange ([cci-exchange.org](http://cci-exchange.org)) Susan Moya welcomes any calls of interest from families at 489-9077.

<http://ayp.cci-exchange.com/aypdatabase/BioDetailRecord.asp?ps=9js4cu>

If you have further questions, please contact:

Susan Moya  
Albany City School District  
Dept.of Special Education  
Phone (518) 462-7217  
Fax (518) 462-7339  
[smoya@albany.k12.ny.us](mailto:smoya@albany.k12.ny.us)



## CHALLAH FOR SHABBAT



Challah for Shabbat delivered at School!

8th Grade parents will send challah home on Friday with your child.

Please make check payable to **HACD** and send along with this form to Julie Adler via Kiddie Mail, Orders MUST reach Julie by 5pm on Wednesdays.

No orders will be taken over the phone. A check, payable to **HACD** with Challah in memo line, must accompany every order.

All proceeds benefit the 8th grade trip to Israel.

\*\* HACD is not responsible for credits for snow day challahs. Efforts will be made to deliver to your home, or challahs will be frozen and sent home the next school day.

Challahs are from Rockland Bakery, and are Pareve/Kosher Certified and the price is discounted if you buy more than one each week.

Questions, please contact Julie Adler [Jamminwithjulie@gmail.com](mailto:Jamminwithjulie@gmail.com)

Send home with: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

	One Challah per week Check off the week	<b>More</b> than one Challah per Week Write # per week	
Delivery Date	1 Pound Challah \$4.50 each	1 Pound Challah \$4.00 each	TOTAL
04/03/09			
04/24/09			
05/01/09			
05/08/09			
05/15/09			
05/22/09			
06/05/09			
6/12/09			
6/19/09			

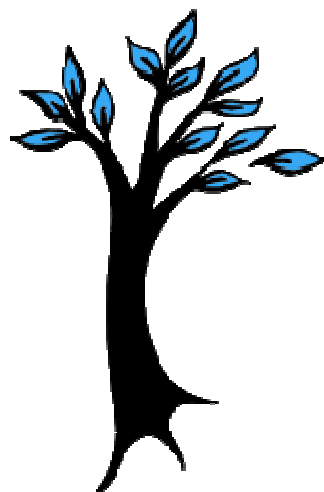


## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

If you would like to add something to the community calendar, please email (text only) to Janelle Russell at [jrussell@hacdalbany.com](mailto:jrussell@hacdalbany.com)

Submissions for the Shabbaton should be sent to [ndaigle@hacdalbany.com](mailto:ndaigle@hacdalbany.com).

Please email  
text information only.  
NO flyers please!



*ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE ROOTED IN TRADITION*

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