



Bet Shraga  
Hebrew Academy  
of the Capital District



May 1, 2009  
7 Iyar 5769

## SHABBATON

Issue Number 30  
Volume Number I

### CALENDAR

- Sunday, May 3**  
1:00 Play Rehearsal
- Monday, May 4**  
3:30 Play Rehearsal
- Tuesday, May 5**  
3:30 Basketball Clinic  
3:30 Drama Kids  
6:30 Basketball Banquet
- Wednesday, May 6**  
3:00 1st Grade  
Siddur Decorating  
3:15 Band  
3:15 Karate  
3:30 Play DRESS Rehearsal
- Thursday, May 7**  
12:00 Science Fair  
3:30 Play DRESS Rehearsal

#### Candle Lighting times for April 2009

Friday, May 1st —Light 7:36pm	Saturday, May 2nd —Ends 8:33pm
Friday, May 8th —Light 7:44pm	Saturday, May 9th —Ends 8:51pm
Friday, May 15th —Light 7:52pm	Saturday, May 16th —Ends 9:00pm
Friday, May 22nd —Light 7:59pm	Saturday, May 23rd —Ends 9:08pm

#### DVAR TORAH BY RACHEL ANISFELD

*Ve'ahavta Lere'akha Kamokha.* Love your fellow as yourself (Lev 19:18).

This phrase is from the second of this week's two parshiyot, Kedoshim. Our children sang this phrase at the Song and Dance Festival, and they also sing it regularly at Friday onegs. The song they sing includes this biblical phrase as well as Rabbi Akiva's assessment of the centrality of this commandment to Jewish life: *zeh klal gadol batorah*, "This is an important rule in the Torah."

Okay. So it's important. But what does it mean? A number of commentaries point out that the Torah does not say, *Ve'ahavta et re'akha*, "Love your fellow," but rather, *Ve'ahavta le-re'akha*, "love for your fellow." What does this mean? According to the famous medieval commentator Nachmanides, it means one should *wish for* one's fellow all the good things in life one wishes for oneself: wealth, health, wisdom, etc. One should be generous in one's wishes for one's fellows, and not be jealous of their good fortune.

In other words, one should be what my father calls in Yiddish a *ferginer*, one who is glad of his friends' successes even when they involve some area in which he himself is lacking. We can all call to mind a couple who manages to be happy at

their friends' baby's birth in spite of their own trouble conceiving, or a person who is glad to hear of his friend's promotions at work in spite of his own unemployment. The classical biblical example of *ahavah*, love, is that felt by Jonathan, Saul's son, toward David, the future king of Israel. This love indeed was that of a *ferginer*, for as King Saul's son, Jonathan would normally have expected himself to be the future king. He nonetheless loved David without jealousy.

Such an attitude is extremely difficult. The words that follow this commandment in the Torah provide insight: "I am the Lord." Ibn Ezra comments: "Because I am the one God who created all of you." It would help us to take the perspective of God as creator and parent of us all. In a family, the children may be jealous of each other, but from the parent's perspective, as from God's, any good fortune that happens to one child is cause for the whole family to celebrate.

As we and our children rejoice and take pride in each others' children's accomplishments, the Bet Shraga community strives to cultivate a feeling of generous well-wishing, a true *veahavta le'reakha kamokha* feeling.

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





**Thursday, May 14 7:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 17 2:00 p.m.**

**Tickets Prices:**

**In Advance (by May 12):**

\$5.00/Adult (9<sup>th</sup> Grade and Up)

\$3.00/Child (Pre/K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**At the Door:**

\$7.00/Adult (9<sup>th</sup> Grade and Up)

\$5.00/Child (Pre/K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

***To purchase tickets in advance (on or before Tuesday, May 12) Please complete the form below and return it to the HACD office with a check made payable to "HACD" in an envelope labeled "Play Tickets, c/o Howie Goldberg."***

*Note: Tickets purchased in advance will be held at the door; they will **not** be distributed via "kiddie mail."*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

	# of Tickets Thursday, May 14	# of Tickets Sunday, May 17		\$ Total
Adult (Grade 9 and up)			@ \$5.00 each	
Child (Age 2 – Grade 8)			@ \$3.00 each	
			Total Enclosed	\$

**Please Support the play fund and buy merchandise....**

**Western Leather Braided Bracelets \$2.50 each**  
(One size fits all adjustable hand-made bracelets)

**Blinking Light Up Magnetic Pins: \$1.75 each**

- 1) Cowboy Hat Pins
- or
- 2) Cowboy Boot Pins

***Order via kiddie mail and will receive purchased items the next day via kiddie mail.  
Please send envelopes to Jo-Beth Evan.***

*Thanks for supporting the HACD Play Fund*



## OKLAHOMA PLAY—WELL WISHERS

HACD's production of "Oklahoma" is coming up soon – and now is the time for every HACD family to get involved! It's simple, it's easy, and it's the perfect way to show your support for our students and parent-volunteers who have been working tirelessly on this amazing production:

Send a message of congratulations and support to the entire cast and crew or to a special individual ... or both, in the production "Playbill."

Here's what you need to do for each well-wisher message you want to have included in the production "Playbill":

- 1) Write a SHORT message (two lines / 30 words or less).
- 2) Send your message(s) by email. Please include in the body of the email:  
The exact text of the message(s) as you want it to appear in the program, including who the message is from.
- 3) Send the message by email to [HACDWellWisher@gmail.com](mailto:HACDWellWisher@gmail.com)
- 4) For each message you want included, there will be a nominal charge of \$1.50 to help offset printing costs and to support this year's production. After you have sent your email to [HACDWellWisher@gmail.com](mailto:HACDWellWisher@gmail.com) please print out a copy of your email. Send in the printed copy of your email, with cash or a check for the total amount due (\$1.50 x the number of well-wisher messages you are writing) to the HACD office.  
**Write "Oklahoma Well Wishers; attn: Marian Alexander" on the envelope.**
- 5) The emails and payments MUST be received by Wednesday May 6 to be included in the program.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Marian Alexander at [HACDWellWisher@gmail.com](mailto:HACDWellWisher@gmail.com)

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### "OKLAHOMA!" PLAYBILL INFORMATION

In addition to Well-wishers, our "Oklahoma!" Playbill will also have full page, ½ page, and ¼ page messages/notes that you can send!

#### **The prices are as follows:**

FULL PAGE -- \$36      ½ PAGE -- \$18      ¼ PAGE -- \$9

Please type message exactly as you want it to appear in the Playbill. Please email ad to Liz Goldstein at [emgold@nycap.rr.com](mailto:emgold@nycap.rr.com). Please send your payment either through kiddie mail to Marissa Burack, or give it to one of the play producers: Cheryl Burack, Sue Adler, or Jo-Beth Evan. Message, notes, or other wishes for the Playbill and payment are due by May 6th.



### **5TH GRADE FIELD TRIP**

Last fall, Bet Shraga's 5th grade was visited by a Jewish Day School from Northampton, MA, Lander Grinspoon Academy. This past Monday, after fundraising for several weeks, the 5th grade was able to visit Lander Grinspoon Academy. Once they arrived, the students quickly remembered each other and had a brief recess where they played basketball and ultimate Frisbee. Then they headed downtown where both classes took part in a scavenger hunt throughout the town. Later they climbed half way up Mount Skinner and had lunch. To round out the day, they attended an Inventions Fair. All inventions were created by the 5th graders from LGA. It was an exciting day and the 5th grade looks forward to seeing the students from LGA in the fall when we attend TEVA together.



### **SCIENCE FAIR** **Thursday, May 7, 2009**

**12:00-2:00 PM Grades K-5**  
**1:00-2:30 Middle School**



### **SUPPLIES NEEDED**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade is in need of paper towel or toilet paper rolls for their Piñatas.

Please send any you can spare into the office.  
Thank you!!



**Our Hope - Our Children - Our Future**  
***Honoring Julie Pollack***

Julie Pollack has made a lasting impression on the children of Hebrew Academy so we are taking this opportunity to honor her dedication and love for our students and prayer by creating an Etz Hayim - a Tree of Life - in her honor. This beautiful tree will live in the Bet Midrash - a place near and dear to Julie's heart.

Each Hebrew Academy family has an opportunity to purchase a leaf on the Tree of Life to honor Julie and the children she has taught - your children!

The cost per leaf is \$25. Our artist will beautifully personalize each leaf with your child's name. Please fill out the form below and return it to the office to the attention of "Tree of Life." Thank you for your support!

***Yes! I want to honor Julie Pollack with a Leaf on the Etz Hayim for the Hebrew Academy Bet Midrash!***

Name for each leaf

- Leaf 1** \_\_\_\_\_
- Leaf 2** \_\_\_\_\_
- Leaf 3** \_\_\_\_\_
- Leaf 4** \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my check for \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to HACD or  
Charge my    VISA    MasterCard    Discover

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## PRINCIPAL'S BOARD



**2ND GRADE**



**5TH GRADE**

The **2nd** and **5th** grade classes are to be commended for their consistent leadership in the lunch room. Whenever we ask for volunteers to lead *Birkat Hamazon*, these two classes are ready, willing, and deliver. The students in these grades keep the flow of Birkat going. Both classes deserve to be recognized for their efforts and the pride they bestow upon each other, their families, their school and themselves.

**Jason Palatsky** is a 4th grader who loves the Yankees and he can often be identified by his Yankee hat, shirt or lunch box. He is on the principal's board not because he is a Yankee fan but because we are so proud of his leadership on the Bus rides to and from school. Many parents have told us that Jason is helpful to the younger students on his bus and he helps look after their needs.

**Anthony Vitkin** is a 4th grader who truly enjoys being helpful. At the end of the day, while he waits for his ride home, he can be seen holding the door for students and being ready to open and close it as teachers and students go in and out of the building. Anthony isn't the first "door man" ever in history but he sure is an enthusiastic one. There was once a time when his grandmother came to pick him up and he asked her if he could stay a few extra

minutes to finish holding the door for the rest of the students who were still waiting for their rides. Anthony's act of chessed (kindness) has spread and now many students like to help out in this way.

**Mollie Laniado** is a 5th grader who shows concern for those around her every day. Mollie knows the right thing to say, especially when her classmates are feeling anxious or upset. She is always willing to go over to someone when the person is hurting, and demonstrate empathy while calmly helping him or her to see the situation in a different light. Mollie, a true model of *meschlichkeit* (kindness), has a calming effect on her classmates and friends, and is a person who demonstrates her concern for others at all times.



## 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
05/08/09			
05/15/09			
05/22/09			
06/05/09			
6/12/09			
6/19/09			



## Welcome Home 8th Graders



## Southern Wall of Kotel



## Mifgash



## Banias

יום הולדת  
שמח

## Happy Birthday

May 4	Gilad Asal
May 5	Jenna Herr
May 5	Anthony Vitkin
May 7	Donald Goldstein
May 7	Jonathan Schaefer
May 8	Benjamin Segal
May 15	Nicholas Honen
May 19	Lauren Heller
May 20	Benjamin Binyamin
May 20	Dara Weingarten
May 23	Barak Binyamin



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

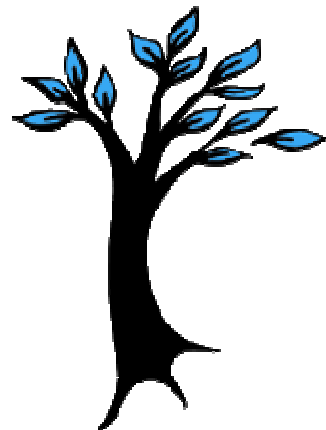
**May 28**

**Congregation Ohav Shalom** invites you to attend A SHAVUOT EXTRAVAGANZA. Please join us for a celebration of the Shavuot holiday, commemorating the giving of the Torah from 7-9:30pm. For more information please call or mail us 489-4706 or [nancy@ohavshalom.com](mailto:nancy@ohavshalom.com).

To put a community wide event in our e-shabbaton, please email a **text only** version to [ndaigle@hacdalbany.com](mailto:ndaigle@hacdalbany.com)

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

Please email  
text information only.  
NO flyers please!



*ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE ROOTED IN TRADITION*

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