



CALENDAR

Monday, May 25

No School—Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 26

8:00 2nd Grade Field Trip
3:30 Basketball Clinic
3:30 Drama Kids

Wednesday, May 27

8:30 4th & 5th Grade Field
Trip (Carnegie Hall)

Friday, May 29

No School—Shavuot

Candle Lighting times for May /June2009

Friday, May 22nd —Light 7:59pm

Friday, May 29th —Light 8:05pm

Friday, June 5th —Light 8:11pm

Friday, June 12th —Light 8:15pm

Saturday, May 23rd—Ends 9:08pm

Saturday, May 30th —End 9:15pm

Saturday, June 9th —End 9:22pm

Saturday, June 13th —End 9:26pm

DVAR TORAH BY RACHEL ANISFELD

That was a great play the kids put on last week. And the parsha helps us understand why. This week we begin reading a new book of the Torah, the book of Numbers, so-called because it begins with numbers, with a detailed census of the people. Now the counting of people is generally considered a dangerous affair by the Torah. In Exodus the direct counting of people is shunned in favor of the use of a half-shekel coin representative for each individual. This method of counting is said to avoid “a plague,” and indeed, later in history, in the time of David, a plague did come about as a result of a census (see 2 Samuel 24).

Today, because of these concerns about counting, there is a tradition of not counting people directly, but through the use of a special verse exactly 10 words long, or by saying “not-1, not-2.”

Why is counting people considered so dangerous? To count people as part of a group endangers their divinely given uniqueness, implies that they are only cogs in a wheel, animals to be branded, coins to be accumulated. The Nazis’ degrading use of numbers on their victims’ arms comes to mind. The Torah is insistent that each person is unique and irreplaceable, for each person carries within her a piece of the divine. As the Mishnah (Sanhedrin 4:5) says: “When a human being makes a number of coins out of one stamp, they are all alike; but the King of all Kings, the Holy One blessed be He stamped every person with the stamp of Adam, and not one is like any other.”

The Numbers census is allowable partly because it seems to have avoided this pitfall. Num 1:2 and 1:18 say the counting happened “listing the names,” and “head by head.” Nachmanides (on 1:45) interprets this phrase to mean that God insisted that they be counted “with honor and greatness for each and every one,” having every single person be brought out by name, rather than simply asking the head of each household for a tally.

But it’s not just that the Numbers census avoided this danger of erasing the individual. It’s also that the census was performed for an appropriate purpose. There is a danger to counting. But there is also a danger to not counting, the danger that the individual remains alone, simply an individual. That is not the Torah’s goal. Part of the purpose of the census in Numbers was to physically arrange the camp, to give each tribe its place within the larger group, these to the north, these to the south, etc. . . . They were to camp *ish al diglo*, each person with his flag, each at his special station, playing his unique role as *part* of a whole.

Like the Israelite camp, the school play combined the unique talents of many individuals into a working whole, each individual playing his special part to create a fabulous production.

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



LUCKY HERITAGE AUCTION WINNER—PRINCIPAL FOR THE DAY

Alix Zackon was one of the lucky winners from the Heritage Awards Dinner. She won a 1/2 a day as Head of School. Great job with the morning announcements!



LUCKY HERITAGE AUCTION WINNER—BE JANELLE FOR THE DAY

Alex Smith was one of the lucky winners from the Heritage Awards Dinner. He won a 1/2 a day in the office working side by side HACD's own Janelle Russell.



ALSO AMONG THE LUCKY WINNERS LUNCH WITH RABBI RAMI

Michal Drucker won lunch with Rabbi Rami. Quality time well spent and they even had dessert.



KINDERGARTEN CHICKS HATCH!!



SHAVUOT

Lag B'Omer is behind us, spring is well underway, and we will be celebrating the holiday of Shavuot on Thursday afternoon, May 28. In recognition of one of Shavuot's themes—a day of gratitude for and sharing of the earth's bounty—we are asking that your child bring in one item of nonperishable food and a fresh flower or two (cuttings from your yard are great) Both will be collected by the child's classroom teacher Thursday morning, brought as bikkurim" (symbolizing gifts to the Temple) during our school celebration, and donated.

Please ask your child to wear a white shirt on Thursday, May 28.

Shavuot is an especially appropriate holiday to "go green" by conserving paper, so all announcements and reminders will be electronic. Thank you for your help, and happy spring!

The Shavuot Committee



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

Send home with: _____ Grade: _____ Phone: _____

	One Challah per week Check off the week	More than one Challah per Week Write # per week	
Delivery Date	1 Pound Challah \$4.50 each	1 Pound Challah \$4.00 each	TOTAL
06/05/09			
6/12/09			
6/19/09			





HACD Annual School Picnic
 For students, families, faculty and staff
Wednesday June 3rd @ 5:00 p.m.



(RAIN DATE - Thursday June 4th @ 5:00 p.m.)

Everyone is Welcome!

Come and end the school year with a yummy barbecue, games, rides & fun!

The Parent Organization will provide a kosher barbecue picnic of:

- Hot dogs • Hamburgers • Veggie burgers • Veggie dogs • Garden salad • Fruit • Drinks



Bouncy Bounce, Face Painting and More!!

To help Parent Organization cover the cost, a charge of **\$10.00 per family** is needed.

We need volunteers to help in this event.

Please email Sherry Ashery at sashery@nycap.rr.com if you have any questions.

Fill out the form below and return it to the office by May 26th

School Picnic Form - \$10.00 per family. Checks made payable to: HACD

Name: _____ Check#: _____

No. of Adults: _____ No. of Children: _____ Cash: _____

Phone Number: _____

I would like to volunteer for: (please select)

- shopping (the more the merrier) set up grilling serving clean up

Please let the office know of any dismissal changes!



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.

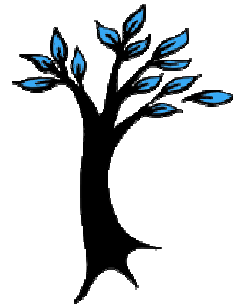
May 31

Ne'imah Jewish Community Chorus will mark its 17th anniversary by presenting a concert at WAMC's Performing Arts Studio, the Linda, at 318 Central Avenue on Sunday evening, May 31, at 7:30pm. The concert entitled *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav* (Jerusalem of Gold) will present songs in English and Hebrew. Special guest artist, Rebecca Teplow, composer and song stylist will join in the program. Tickets for the performance will be available at the door. General admission is \$14, Seniors, children and students \$10.00 Any questions, please call 438-9561

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



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

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE ROOTED IN TRADITION

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