



Bet Shraga
Hebrew Academy
of the Capital District



December 11, 2009
24 Kislev 5770

SHABBATON

Issue Number 13
Volume Number II

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 13

5:00 PM Parent Org.
Chanukah Dinner

Monday, December 14

Tuesday, December 15

9:00 AM Open House
3:15 PM Drama Kids

Wednesday, December 16

3:15 PM Band
3:15 PM OVA

Thursday, December 17

School Picture Retake Day
3:15 PM OVA
6:15 PM Cub Scout Meeting

Friday, December 18

1:40 PM School Wide ONEG

Candle Lighting times for December/January 2009-2010

Friday, Dec 11th—Light 4:04pm	Saturday, Dec. 12th—End 5:09pm
Friday, Dec. 18th—Light 4:05pm	Saturday, Dec. 19th—End 5:11pm
Friday, Dec. 25th—Light 4:08pm	Saturday, Dec. 26th—End 5:14pm
Friday, Jan. 1st—Light 4:14pm	Saturday, Jan. 2nd—End 5:20pm

DVAR TORAH BY RACHEL ANISFELD

This year, the first and the last nights of Chanukah fall on Friday night. Twice we will be lighting double candles, those for Chanukah and those for Shabbat.

Chanukah candles are not like Shabbat candles. Shabbat candles are for use, for *oneg*, “pleasure,” to provide light to sit and eat by on Friday night. Chanukah candles, on the other hand, may not be used at all. *V’eyn lekha reshut le-hishtamesh bahem ela lirotam belvad*. “You do not have permission to use them but only to look upon them.” If you want light to eat or read by, light another lamp as well. These candles are not ordinary lights; they are *kadosh*, holy.

This law about the use of candles expresses a basic theme of Chanukah – its emphasis on what is out of the ordinary, the supernatural, the miraculous. Shabbat celebrates the creation of the natural world in 7 days, but Chanukah

has 8 days. It moves on into the realm of the supernatural -- the realm of the *nes*, the miracle.

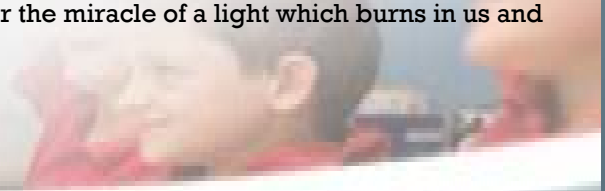
Chief among such miracles is the very existence of our nation. On Chanukah we celebrate the ability of our nation to have survived a war with the Syrian Greek army against all odds. *Rabim beyad me’atim*. They were mighty and numerous and we were few and weak. By the normal order of things, we should have been defeated. That we weren’t defeated, that we are still hanging on after thousands of years of persecution, is indeed a miracle.

This survival theme is also the meaning of the oil story, the story of the jug of oil which should have lasted only one day but ended up lasting eight. *We are* the flame lit by that jug of oil, surviving and burning for all these years beyond all reasonable expectations. We keep burning because we are fueled by a never-ending jug of oil, the Torah, fueled, in other words, by precisely this kind of story. You see, the story is actually speaking about itself, about its own future, its own tenacity to live and keep burning in us.

For here we are, not just alive, but lighting Chanukah candles, carrying on an ancient tradition. The Hebrew word *nes* means both “miracle” and “sign-post.” When we light candles, we are simultaneously commemorating a miracle of the past and creating a sign-post for the present and the future, a sign-post of our commitment to this memory, our heritage. While we are busy marking a miracle of the past, we are also creating a miracle in the present, the miracle of the past’s survival in ourselves and our children.

On Shabbat we thank God for creating the world with all its physical lights -- its sun and its moon and its stars. On Chanukah we thank God for the miracle of another kind of light, for the miracle of a light which burns in us and can never be extinguished.

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





SAVE THE DATE!!!

HACD's Festival of Israeli Song and Dance

January 24, 2010 at 10:30 AM
Temple Israel



School Picture Retake Day is scheduled for Thursday, December 17th. If you would like to have your child's photo retaken, please send in their complete photo package (less the class picture-you keep this) to the office. Sibling photos will be available at our Spring Picture Day, scheduled for March 10th.

Dvar Torah Volunteers Needed!

We want to hear your words of Torah!
If you would like to write a dvar torah for the Shabbaton, please contact Rachel Anisfeld to arrange a week. ranisfeld@nycap.rr.com

Shabbat Sponsor—December 11th

Sponsored by Nanette Brenner in honor of Eva Halpern's
86th birthday - Ravi Brenner's grandmother



Hebrew Academy Open House

December 15th 9:00-11:00 AM



Dear Friends,

We hope you have had time to read the Shomray Torah Annual Fund information we sent to you. As essential members of our community, we wanted you to understand our new approach to fundraising and share in our excitement. This new campaign expands our historic focus to include supporting educational programming, teacher development and technology advancements. While still ensuring that tuition is accessible, this fund will help bridge the gap between tuition and our actual operating costs. It will help to strengthen our school's financial condition, allowing for future growth. We are reaching out to our extended community of parents, alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents and friends in the greater community to help us achieve this common goal. Throughout the year, we will be updating you about our progress and the accomplishments that have been facilitated through your support and hard work. Please feel free to contact us at shomraytorah@hacdalbany.org with any questions or ideas. Our first annual phone-a-thon is coming up. We need all the help we can get. Help us make our kickoff year a great success. This effort is about our children, our community and the Jewish community of the future.

Carolyn Levine and Liz Goldstein



Our 1st Annual Shomray Torah Fall Campaign Phone-a-thon a Success!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped out. We raised over \$5000 during the phone-a-thon making our grand total thus far, over \$85,000.



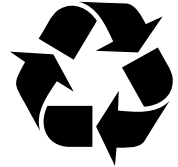
NEWS FROM PARENT ORG

HACD HANUKAH DINNER (Sunday, December 13, 2009 at HACD)

A special THANK YOU to all of our wonderful hard working volunteers who are making this Sunday such an incredibly special event for our Membership! See you all on Sunday!

RECYCLE to benefit HACD - TURN YOUR TRASH INTO CASH!!!

Drop your used ink cartridges into our **COLLECTION BIN** in the school office! Used cell phones? Drop them off at the front office in the collection bin, too. High volume of ink cartridges at work? Contact HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com for details on how to ship direct and help HACD earn more!



STOP! Don't throw away that empty package or lid until you check for these special fundraising opportunities! Look for the "Labels for Education" logo (pictured right) on participating products:



Simply save the **UPC codes** and caps from your favorite Campbell brands and drop them off at HACD via kiddie mail to Deborah Gold (Kira - grade 3). **The UPC must be intact.** Learn what products participate on line: <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/default.aspx>

PRICE CHOPPER "TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS"



We have 276 people enrolled -- are you registered? Who can you email right now and ask to support us? Register online now at: <http://www2.pricechopper.com/toolsforschools/single.shtml> Just enter your Price Chopper **AdvantEdge** card number, and our school code of **15939**.

ANYONE can register to support HACD - REMEMBER to ASK - Grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends...



HANNAFORD HELPS SCHOOLS

We will be participating again in the "Hannaford Helps Schools Program"! When you purchase 4 participating products, you will receive a \$3.00 school dollar certificate at the checkout register. If you purchase 8 participating products, the certificate will be for \$6.00, and so on. If you are shopping at the Hannaford Supermarket on Central & Colvin, you can turn them in there, otherwise, send them into school via kiddie mail, Attn. Jenn Jarose (main office).

Remember to **ASK** relatives and friends to help you in raising money for HACD! In March we will receive a check for the total certificates collected. In addition, each Hannaford Supermarket will award a \$1,000 education grant to the registered school that raises the most dollars. Learn more at: http://hannaford.com/Contents/Our_Company/Community/wh_hannafordHelps.shtml



TARGET: Take Charge of Education

This is a really great program for bringing some extra cash into our school for smaller programs not in our regular budget. Please consider signing up for the REDcard and Take Charge of Education at HACD today!

Once enrolled, 1% of your REDcard purchases at Target and Target.com and 1/2% of Target® Visa® purchases elsewhere are donated to the eligible K-12 school of your choice.* For some schools, it adds up to as much as \$10,000 a year, distributed twice a year, in March and September. Donations are available to any K-12 public, private or parochial school that has a 501(c)(3) or 509(a)(1) tax-exempt status. See Take Charge of Education program rules for more information. **HEBREW ACADEMY OF CAPITAL DIST. School ID:11798** Check it out on line at: <http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-001825>

Great News from the Admissions Office!

We would like to announce our new “Refer a Friend Program”

1. Refer a friend to Bet Shraga & receive a \$500 tuition discount.
2. Refer another, receive another \$500 discount.

Our greatest ambassadors are YOU our parents! To thank you for helping us grow, we will give you a \$500 tuition discount for every family you refer who applies and enrolls.



Why are we doing this?

- ◆ To create a shared communal responsibility in spreading our school's outstanding program in General and Judaic studies to our larger Jewish community.
- ◆ To help our school grow.
- ◆ We value the contribution of our volunteers and want to thank them for their efforts.

How does this work?

- ◆ When a new potential parent, someone not already on our list, contacts the school, they are asked to indicate on the enrollment form who recommended HACD to them.
- ◆ Current families may call the school to give names and contact information of their friends who are currently not at another local Jewish day school.
- ◆ The \$500 tuition reduction will be applied to the following year's tuition.

***Please contact: Lorraine Arcus
Director of Admissions and Community Outreach***

Larcus@hacdalbany.com



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 12

Albany River Rats-Chanukah Night. December 12th at 7:00 PM. Tickets only \$13 for Adults/\$9 for kids. 100 sold tickets for menorah lighting. To order tickets please contact Rabbi Nachman Simon by December 9th at (518) 439-8280 or DelmarChabadSimon@gmail.com.

December 13

Parent Org Sponsored Chanukah Dinner— Sunday December 13th from 5-7 PM. Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy's Large Gym. \$5.00 per family. Essen Kosher Catering will provide special Chanukah treats including a falafel bar, latkes and sufganyot. RSVP by December 4th. Contact Deborah Gold for more information at HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com or 469-9995

December 24-27

Jewish Girls Retreat for girls ages 8-15. Join us for our fourth annual Winter Retreat! Get ready for a fun weekend of excitement, friendships, and tradition. This year's theme "GET GLOWING" explores Girls Lighting up Our World! Register online at www.jewishgirlsretreat.net. A project of the Bat Mitzvah Club. Registration closes December 14th. For more information contact Nechama Laber at 518-833-0704 or nechama@jewishgirlsretreat.net.

December 25

Areyvut's Annual Bnai Mitzvah Video Essay Contest! for Students in the 5th -10th grades who are constantly inspiring us with their acts of chesed (kindness) and giving back to the community- this is for you. To enter, student(s) should send a video describing their mitzvah project, the impact it's had on them and others! All submissions must be received by Friday, December 25th, and must be 7 minutes or less. Please send your video (DVD or VHS tape) to: Sharon Stahl c/o Areyvut Bnai Mitzvah Video Essay Contest 147 South Washington Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ 07621 or email the video or webpage link with video (i.e. You Tube) to sharon@areyvut.org.

For more information and for official rules, please visit: www.aryvut.org or contact Sharon Stahl at (201) 244-6702 or sharon@areyvut.org.

January 24

Save the Date!!. Sunday, January 24th at 10:30 am for HACD's Festival of Israeli Song and Dance at Temple Israel. More details coming soon.

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

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