



December 4, 2009
17 Kislev 5770

SHABBATON

Issue Number 12
Volume Number II

CALENDAR

Saturday, December 5

Eli Kligerman's Bar Mitzvah

Monday, December 7

3:15 PM Math Counts

Tuesday, December 8

3:15 PM Drama Kids

6:30 PM Cub Scouts Meeting

Wednesday, December 9

3:15 PM Band

3:15 PM OVA

Thursday, December 10

3:15 PM OVA

Friday, December 11

Candle Lighting times for November 2009

Friday, Dec. 4th—Light 4:04pm	Saturday, Dec. 5th—End 5:08pm
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

DVAR TORAH BY RACHEL ANISFELD

People are often bothered by the unseemly deeds of our ancestors, especially those of Yaakov, the trickster. What kind of role-model is he for us and for our children?

Actually, a very good role model. Not because of who he is, but because of who he works to become, because of how he changes and grows over time.

Yaakov transforms himself from a Yaakov to a Yisrael. He first receives this name change as a blessing from the angel with whom he strives. As Rashi points out, the name change is fitting because it is the first blessing Yaakov earns through an open, direct confrontation (related to the word Yisrael) rather than through deception and crookedness (related to the word Yaakov). He has fought the angel face to face as opposed to hiding behind the skin of his brother, fooling his father into giving him his brother's blessing.

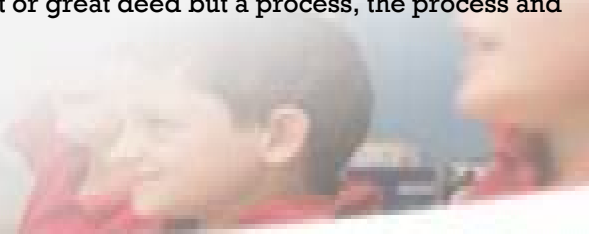
A new face-to-face kind of openness is at the heart of Yaakov's, or rather, Yisrael's, new way of being, as the Torah makes clear through the repeated use of the word *panim*, "face," in this story. Both Yaakov's encounter with the angel and with Esav are described using this word – the place is called *Peniel* because of the significance of *panim* in the angel encounter, and Yaakov describes his goals in meeting Esav as *seeing his face* and receiving forgiveness and favor, terms which in Hebrew use the word *panim* (see 32:21 and 33:10).

Yaakov has been in many situations in his life in which faces could not be openly seen. He fooled his blind father who could not distinguish his sons' faces, but could only feel their arms. And Yaakov himself was fooled, when, in the dark of night, not seeing her face, he was given the wrong bride. Yaakov wants out of this cycle of darkness and trickery. It is time for night to end and the honesty of daylight to shine forth.

And so it does. When Yaakov runs away from Esav in the beginning of last week's parsha, the Torah tells us the sun was setting (28:11), but here, when Yaakov returns, ready for an open-faced encounter with his brother, the verse instead reads: *Vayizrah lo hashemesh*, "And the sun rose for him (32:32)" A new day has dawned for Yaakov/Yisrael, one which is to be bright with honesty rather than dark with hiding and trickery.

Yaakov is not perfect. He is, like us, a struggler, a striver. And in that sense, he is a perfect role model, a perfect father for our people, as he models not a particular personality trait or great deed but a process, the process and the promise of personal growth and transformation.

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





Kindergarten and 1st Grade Celebrate Thanksgiving

The children shared fruit, stories and things that they were thankful for.



Please join us in congratulating Rabbi Aaron Kaplan on his engagement to Anna Avery. We wish them a big mazal tov on their upcoming wedding. May we continue to celebrate simchas (happy occasions) together.

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





TEVA Learning Center

The 6th grade attended the TEVA Learning Center's Shomrei Adamah residential program from Monday, November 16 – Thursday, November 19. The program focused on ecological ideas like energy flow, cycles, bio-diversity and interdependence. The 6th graders also participated in large and small groups discussions of Jewish concepts such as Tikkun Olam and Bal Tashchit.

- Kaitlin Baker



PARENT ORG.

RSVP DEADLINE for HACD HANUKAH DINNER (Sunday, December 13, 2009 at HACD)

Our deadline for the Caterer has been extended to Tuesday 12/08/09. If you forgot to RSVP, please call or email ASAP. Forms are available via email from HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com or call the front office and ask to have one emailed to you.

How can you as a Parent Org Member help keep HACD a warm and wonderful place?

Hanukah Extravaganza Needs Helpers! *** Calling all dads! *** We need a few strong manly men to help set-up tables and chairs. We need a few more to help take them down after the party. Get a couple of your friends together and join the fun! E-mail HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com if you can help.

BOX TOPS: This is a very rare and special program that actually provides **CASH** for our school. Not supplies – actual cash. We can earn up to \$20,000 from the basic program and up to \$60,000 if we utilize all three components of the program. That would be like sending three kids to HACD for free or 12 at half tuition. WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY! We need a new coordinator with lots of enthusiasm for this great program. This is a bit more involved and can be lots of fun – especially if you have young kids at home.

Email Deborah Gold to learn more HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com.

PO EXECUTIVE BOARD: We do all the warm fuzzy stuff that makes HACD such a warm and welcoming community. We need new leadership with new ideas to keep fresh ideas coming into HACD. We need a succession plan, someone to take over next year. Consider participating as the Co-President or Vice President this year to “learn the ropes” and maybe take over next year. Help us keep the good times going. Get involved today! Email for more info.

HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com.

CAMPBELL's "LABELS for EDUCATION". tally & mail labels a few times a year.

Grade	PO – Volunteer	e-mail	Telephone	Kiddie Mail
Parent Rep – K	Amy Drucker	reemiviv@verizon.net	459-8443	Aviv – K
Parent Rep - 1st	Linda Carothers	Lindacarothers12065@yahoo.com	355-5303	Max - 1 st
Parent Reps – 2nd	Elana Kamenir Tanya Zelman	elana@nycap.rr.com tazelman@yahoo.com	475-1490 489-6033	Hannah – 2 nd Aviva – 2 nd
Parent Rep – 3rd	Barbara Asal	barbaraisbrown@gmail.com	446-0426	Gilad – 3 rd
Parent Rep – 4th	Jennifer Honen	jhonen@nycap.rr.com	456-6237	Nick - 4 th
Parent Reps – 5th	Susie Wolpe Susan Sharfstein	Susiemara@aol.com - SharfS@rpi.edu	C-779 6310, H-915-1520 H#377-7075	Jacob Schwack - 5 th Elan Shiang - 5 th
Parent Rep – 6th	Marian Alexander	malexand@nycap.rr.com	437-9140	Vered – 6 th
Parent Rep – 7 th	Paula Binyamin	Sienna04@yahoo.com	438-1377	Erez – 7 th
Parent Rep – 8 th	Marci Galinkin	levykins@aol.com	489-1059	Jonah - 8 th

CH ANUKAH 5770

Join us for a
Chanukah Dinner

Sunday, December 13 from 5-7pm
Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy's Large Gym

Featuring ...

The magical talent and
ballon animals of
Dan Scher

...

The musical talents of
Temple Israel Klezmer
Band:

*Sheino Meidl un di
Schmendricks*



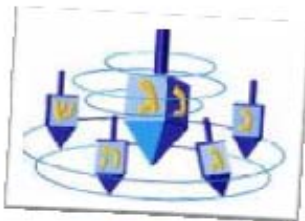
\$5 per family!

Essen Kosher Catering will provide special
Chanukah treats including a falafel bar, latkes
and sufganyot

Sponsored by Parent Org

Please RSVP by December 4th via kiddie mail

We will attend:



Family name: _____

of adults: _____ # of children: _____

Check enclosed Cash Enclosed

I/we can help with:

Set-up Clean-up

Volunteer name(s): _____

Contact Deborah Gold for more information at HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com or 469-9995

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

The Bet Shraga family mourns the loss of the father of
our 1st and 2nd Grade teacher, Nancy Crom.





Many Thanks

General Fund:

Mark and Donna Mundell, in honor of their daughter Marilyn's Torah Reading.

Irene Ashery, in honor of her grandchildren, Aaron and Anna Ashery.

Gerald Zuckerman, general contribution.

Milton Judkowitz Fund:

Vivian Judkowitz, in memory of Yahrezeit of Milton Judkowitz.

Rona and Louis Jack Pozner, in memory of Yahrezeit of Milton Judkowitz.

Rona and Louis Jack Pozner, in honor of a speedy recovery of Amitai Drucker.

Vivian Judkowitz, in memory of Sidney Brummer, father of Carole Andersen.

Pozner Family Teacher Training Fund:

Rona and Louis Jack Pozner, in honor of a speedy recovery of Tani Strosberg.

Non Cash Contribution:

Josh Heller and Meredith Englander, donation of new picnic tables and a new tree for HACD.

American Chemical Society, Eric Davenport, Chair, donation of Science Textbook for middle school.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

ELI KLIGERMAN

**ON HIS
BAR MITZVAH—DECEMBER 5TH**



Shabbat Sponsor—December 4th

In honor of Eli Kligerman's Bar Mitzvah sponsored by his parents and siblings, Netania, Adina and Ilan

School Wide ONEG Dates

December 18, 2009

January 29, 2010

February 26, 2010

March 19, 2010

April 30, 2010

May 14, 2010

June 18, 2010

Second Annual HACD Alumni Comedy Night a Success!

The Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy of the Capital District held its second annual Alumni Comedy Night on Saturday, November 28th at 8pm at the school. Over one hundred guests enjoyed the evening, which featured a social hour with hors d'oeuvres, followed by internationally known comic Joel Chasnoff and a dessert reception. The Kevin Barcomb Trio entertained with their jazz music for both receptions.

Comic Joel Chasnoff warmed up the audience by reminiscing about his day school experience. Noting the basketball banners on the wall, he riffed the crowd about the fact that a Jewish school plays ball in the CYO (Christian Youth Organization) League, as well as other spontaneous comedic observations of the school and audience that had the crowd in stitches. He closed his routine with a serious message about continuing support of the school and Jewish Education. Chasnoff noted that he has a book due out in February, called "The 188th Crybaby Brigade: A Skinny Jewish Kid from Chicago Fights Hezbollah."

The event was a success due to the hard work and dedication of Chair Liz Goldstein and her husband Jerry, volunteers Deb and Chelsea Herr, Meridith Englander, Marta and Mark Koblenz, Cheryl Ginsburg Smith and Danny Smith. The Starbucks in both Crossgates Mall and Stuyvesant Plaza donated coffee and supplies, Price Chopper and Hannaford generously donated gift cards to help cover the cost of food for the event, Harold Rockowitz from Uptown Beverage donated drinks, and Jerry Sykes from the Party Warehouse donated many of the paper goods for the receptions. Rabbi Rami generously sponsored the services of the Kevin Barcomb Trio and their wonderful jazz music at the social hour. Current Hebrew Academy eighth graders Daniel Furman, Jenny Kovach, Sarah Kazyev and Maxx Evan, organized by Ilana Kovach, helped serve hot hors d'oeuvres and drinks and engaged guests as ambassadors of the school. A special thank you to the Parent Organization for sponsoring all former and current faculty who attended.



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

"1st Annual Shomray Torah Fall Campaign Phone-a-thon"



**Kickoff : Sunday December 6th @ 10am
at the Hebrew Academy**

We are calling for your support to help us reach our
Fall Campaign Goal of \$200,000!

Volunteers, Parents and Kids,
Bring your appetite, enthusiasm and phone.



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

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

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.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE ROOTED IN TRADITION

54 Sand Creek Road Albany, NY 12205
Phone: 518-482-0464 Fax: 518-482-0129
www.hacdalbany.org hacd@hacdalbany.com

