



**CALENDAR**

**Monday, November 30**

3:15 PM Math Counts

**Tuesday, December 1**

3:15 PM Drama Kids

6:30 PM Cub Scouts Meeting

**Wednesday, December 2**

3:15 PM Band

3:15 PM OVA

**Thursday, December 3**

3:15 PM OVA

**Friday, December 4**

**Candle Lighting times for November 2009**

Friday, Nov. 27th—Light 4:07pm	Saturday, Nov. 28th—End 5:10pm
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

**DVAR TORAH BY RACHEL ANISFELD**

Another parsha, another barren woman, and another interaction between husband and wife over the problem.

Rahel complains to Yaakov of her situation, saying, “Give me children, or else I’ll die” (30:1). She is clearly an emotional wreck. What is Yaakov’s reaction? Anger. He says: *Hatahat Elokim anokhi?* “Can I take the place of God who has denied you fruit of the womb (30:2)?” I’m not God; I

can’t solve the problem. What do you want me to do?

According to the midrash, God disapproves of this reaction, saying: Is this how one responds to those in distress?

And what is the proper response to those in distress? Learn from God. Sometimes He fixes the problem, but other times, He merely comes and says, “Don’t be scared. I am with you. All will be well.” (See for instance Genesis 15:1, 26:24, 28:15 and 46:3). The answer to Yaakov’s question is: Yes! You are in fact in place of God, not in terms of fixing the problem – it’s true, that is out of your reach – but in terms of being a sympathetic, comforting presence for your wife.

Yaakov fails here. Perhaps he has too much work stress in dealing with the tricky Lavan. But not to worry. There is a *tikkun* (literally, “a repair”) for this lack of sympathy, a time when things will get repaired and redeemed. At the end of the book of Genesis, after Yaakov dies, the brothers come to Yosef, worried that Yosef will now wreak vengeance on them for selling him down to Egypt. But no. Yosef uses Yaakov’s words, but, as Nehama Leibowitz points out, in a new sympathetic twist: “Have no fear! Am I a substitute for God?” *Hatahat Elokim ani?* (50:19). I will not judge you and punish you for I am merely a human; such judgments are for God to make.

Sometimes it is appropriate to take the place of God and sometimes it is not. Yosef, in his kindness, knew when not to, had learned not to put himself above his brothers in that way. Yaakov, in his anger, did not understand that it is precisely in moments of distress for those we care about that we are given the ability to take the place of God, to offer the solace of our company and sympathy.

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





**The Hebrew Academy Faculty and Staff  
wish you and your family  
a Happy Thanksgiving.**

### **1st Grade Makes “Toast”**

Kitah Alef learned the Hebrew letter *tet* along with some vocabulary beginning with the same letter. A chef in Hebrew is a *tabach* and toast in Hebrew is *toast*. Oh what fun it was to have a toast party!



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](mailto: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.



# 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***





## PARENT ORG.



**HANUKAH DINNER: Sunday, December 13, 2009** – 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](mailto:HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com) if you can help.

**SHABBAT SPONSOR UPDATE:** Do you have a special occasion coming up? Share your simcha with our HACD community by sponsoring a Shabbat Oneg. Think: Birthday, anniversary, bar/bat mitzvah, etc. Email: [HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com](mailto:HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com) for your sponsorship form – lock in your special date today!

**CHALLAH:** Would you be interested in receiving a freshly baked challah (or two) at HACD every Friday? (Lots of families would love that convenience!) Our new hot lunch caterer is willing to bake challah and we need a Parent volunteer to coordinate orders and deliveries. We have all the forms you need to get started. Time - about an hour once a week to coordinate the orders and perhaps another hour to label and deliver the challah on Friday. Email [HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com](mailto:HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com) to learn more!

**DRAMA KIDS – After school Tuesdays – UPDATES & NOTES:**

\*\*\*NO DKI on Tuesday November 24\*\*\* **Session 2** starts December 1. If you are not already enrolled and would like to be on the waiting list in case some one drops out, please contact Deanna at #458-1313 or [dramakidsalbany@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dramakidsalbany@nycap.rr.com). Please note there are no DKI classes on Tuesdays December 22 and 29.

### **Entertainment Books 2010**

If you have not already done so, please send in checks for your entertainment books, \$30 payable to HACD. Also, remember to buy additional books (Local or Distant). They make great holiday gifts for friends, relatives, neighbors, the letter carrier and everyone else. Help support the 8th Grade Trip to Israel - Thank You !!!



## HACD Hosted American Mathematics Competition-8 (AMC-8)

Curious about the American Math Competition-8 that many of our middle schoolers participated in last week? If you like math challenges, check out these problems from last week's competition.

**#6:** Steve's empty swimming pool will hold 24,000 gallons of water when full. It will be filled by 4 hoses, each of which supplies 2.5 gallons of water per minute. How many hours will it take to fill Steve's pool?

- (A) 40 (B) 42 (C) 44 (D) 46 (E) 48

**#11:** The Amaco Middle School bookstore sells pencils costing a whole number of cents. Some seventh graders each bought a pencil, paying a total of \$1.43. Some of the 30 sixth graders each bought a pencil, and they paid a total of \$1.95. How many more sixth graders than seventh graders bought a pencil?

- (A) 1 (B) 2 (C) 3 (D) 4 (E) 5

**#17:** The positive integers  $x$  and  $y$  and the two smallest positive integers for which the product of 360 and  $x$  is a square and the product of 360 and  $y$  is a cube. What is the sum of  $x$  and  $y$ ?

- (A) 80 (B) 85 (C) 115 (D) 165 (E) 610

*You may find the answers on the last page of this Shabbaton.  
Good luck and no peeking!*

—Alexandra Schmidt



2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy  
**Family and Alumni**  
**Adult Comedy Night**

Thanksgiving Weekend  
at HACD

Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> 8:00<sub>pm</sub>

**Featuring the Humor of**  
**Joel Chasnoff**

*The Jewish Comedian Who's Redefining Jewish Comedy*

Bring your fellow Alumni, family, and friends for a night of  
unforgettable fun and laughs!

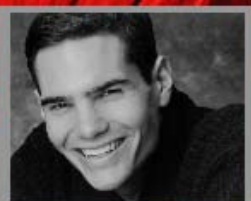
Social Hour with dairy Hors D'oeuvres before show,  
Dessert reception following

Limited seating- please reserve your tickets now-

Current & former HACD teachers are free!

Mail reservations & check to: HACD  
54 Sand Creek Road Albany NY 12205

for Credit Card call:  
518.482.0464



[www.joelchasnoff.com](http://www.joelchasnoff.com)

**If you need any additional information, please contact**  
**Liz Goldstein at 364-0108 or [emgold@nycap.rr.com](mailto:emgold@nycap.rr.com)**

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## **November 28**

**SAVE THE DATE — 2nd Annual Alumni Adult Comedy Night.** Saturday, November 28th at 8:00 PM at the Hebrew Academy. Featuring the Humor of Joel Chasoff, The Jewish Comedian Who's Redefining Jewish Comedy. Tickets at the Door \$25.00 EA. Advanced Tickets, \$20.00 EA or \$36.00/2. Mail reservations and check to: HACD or for credit card payment call 482-0464.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com) or 469-9995

## **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](mailto:sharon@areyvut.org).

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

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

## **American Math Competition-8 - ANSWERS**

**#6 = A**

**#11 = D**

**#17 = B**

## **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE ROOTED IN TRADITION**

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