



Bet Shraga  
Hebrew Academy  
of the Capital District



October 16, 2009  
28 tishrei 5770

## SHABBATON

Issue Number 5  
Volume Number II

### CALENDAR

**Monday, October 19**  
3:15 PM Math Counts

**Tuesday, October 20**  
3:15 PM Drama Kids

**Wednesday, October 21**  
3:15 PM Band  
4:15 PM Cross Country  
Track Meet

**Thursday, October 22**  
7th & 8th Grade Field Trip to  
Adventure Ropes

**Friday, October 23**

#### Candle Lighting times for October/November 2009

Friday, Oct. 16th—Light 5:55pm	Saturday, Oct. 17th—End 6:53pm
Friday, Oct. 23rd—Light 5:44pm	Saturday, Oct. 24th—End 6:43pm
Friday, Oct. 30th—Light 5:34pm	Saturday, Oct. 31st—End 6:33pm
Friday, Nov. 6th—Light 4:25pm	Saturday, Nov. 7th—End 5:25pm

#### DVAR TORAH BY RACHEL ANISFELD

*Bishvili nivra ha'olam.* "The world was created for me." That is how the Mishnah (Sanhedrin 4:5) says each individual should feel about herself based on the creation story. When a single human is killed, it is as if the whole world is killed, because the world started from one single person. Each person therefore has infinite value; each person contains the whole world; and each person has a divine spark, having been created *b'tzelem elokim*, "in the image of God."

Now this notion can and should lead to great pride. Indeed, some hasidic masters taught that pride was actually a key ingredient for serving God. One can only be active and creative in the world if one believes that one has an essential, unique contribution to make, if one believes in one's own infinite incomparable value. Self-confidence may be more important than any other attribute in the success of a person.

But pride isn't the end of the story. What does it really mean to have been made in God's image? If it means that each of us is great, how are we to interact with one another? After all, there is only one God above ruling over the world, but there are many of us little gods on earth. If we are like God, are we meant to rule over one another?

No. That is why God uses the plural when it comes time to create human beings. *Na'aseh adam betzalmeinu.* "Let us make man in our image." Rashi says this plural verb teaches us about God's humility, that He thought it necessary to seek permission and include the angels in His decision. And, says Rashi, it also teaches us about how we are to act toward one another, not haughtily assuming we can do it all ourselves, but humbly seeking each other's advice and help, working together as a team, like God did.

How apt of Rashi to read these words, "Let us make man in our image" in this way! At the very moment when humans are being declared to be essentially *like* God – having been created in His image -- God is showing them what He is like, teaching them how to act *like* God. How does one act like God? Not by being a ruler. On the contrary, by being humble. By sharing responsibility, by working together, by generally seeking opportunities to act not just as an "I" but also as a "we."

The world was created for each of us, but also for all of us together.

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



## PRINCIPALS' BOARD



**Kindergartner Maya Earleywine** was nominated because she recognized that a friend was sad and was not able to enter the classroom Sukkah. It already had the amount of children allowed at one time. Without any hesitation, Maya graciously offered to exit the Sukkah so that her friend could enter.

**Kindergartner Aviv Drucker** was nominated because he took on a leadership role since the beginning of the school year. He often gave up his free time to help his classmates find their way through the hallways. He escorted friends to the nurse and the front office and waited for them as well.





## MATH COUNTS 2009-2010

Math Counts will begin on **Monday, October 19th from 3:15-4:15.**  
Any student wishing to stay after school **MUST** have a signed permission slip  
into Ms. Schmidt no later than Monday, October 19th.



**Math Counts Team 2008-2009**

## ETROGIM

**Kindergarten is looking for donations of Etrogim for their classroom.  
Any that you have to spare would be greatly appreciated.  
You may send them in with your child(en) to school.**



## GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY A BIG SUCCESS



## 2nd GRADE HAS FUN WITH WRITING

In Second Grade, the students played a game with their parents for “Meet the Teacher Night.” The students told each child five things that they really liked about that person. It was amazing to see how individual each comment was! I wrote their comments down. Then each child rewrote their own positive comments on a colored sheet of paper. They signed their names on the back in their smallest printing. I hung their writing around the classroom. Then they waited.

On “Meet the Teacher Night,” the parents were invited to try to find the comments that were about their child. They had to record how many “misses” they had before they found the comments about their child, and write them a short note. Some parents were very clever, and found their child by looking for the handwriting and not by reading the comments! The next day, most students read a note from their parents telling them how well they played the game. Every student hoped to REALLY trick their parents, but some parents are not so easy to fool! In addition to being a lot of fun and good sentence writing practice, the students basked in the positive feedback from their peers and parents.

Nancy Crom



## 8th GRADE FUNDRAISER



This Fall, the 8th Grade will be offering yard work assistance in order to raise money for their Israel Trip.

If interested, please contact Ilana Kovach at [jilanak@msn.com](mailto:jilanak@msn.com).

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### **October 18**

**Israel Dance Program.** Temple Israel has an award winning Israeli dance program for youth, open to the Jewish community. When children begin to learn at an early age, Israeli dance can enhance the development of motor skills, teamwork, and the love and enjoyment of Israeli music, dance, and culture. And don't forget that it is just plain fun!! On Sunday mornings, the dance groups Garinim (K, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>) and Shoreshim (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>) meet from 8:45 AM until 9:30 AM. The program is under the direction of Eve Cameron, who mentors teen teachers from our community as they hone their skills in teaching the younger dancers. You might also recognize Eve as the Director of the Israeli dance segment of HACD's Annual Song and Dance Festival.

Registration and first class will take place on Sunday, October 18. I encourage you to involve your children in this wonderful activity and I hope you will also encourage their friends to join them.

Please call me for cost, further information, or any questions at 438-7858 ext 126.

### **October 18**

**Mifgash, the Albany Troy Community Hebrew High School**, is selling tickets for the upcoming Knicks v. Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball game at Madison Square Garden to be held on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Fee for the tickets and round-trip chartered bus will be \$75. The bus will leave Ohav Shalom parking lot promptly at 9 AM and will be returning approx. 6 PM. For information about Migdal Ohr or about the basketball game, please open [www.MigdalOhrUSA.org](http://www.MigdalOhrUSA.org).

Send your check to **Mifgash, POB 5, Slingerlands, NY, 12159**. Be sure to include the names of all participants. No unchaperoned minors will be allowed to participate.

For more information, contact Ruth Malka at [mifgashalbany@gmail.com](mailto:mifgashalbany@gmail.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) by Wednesday.**



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