



Bet Shraga  
Hebrew Academy  
of the Capital District



October 23, 2009  
5 cheshvan5770

## SHABBATON

Issue Number 6  
Volume Number II

### CALENDAR

#### Monday, October 26

3:15 PM Math Counts  
5:30 PM 7/8 Boys Basketball

#### Tuesday, October 27

3:15 PM Drama Kids  
3:15 PM Cross Country Practice

#### Wednesday, October 28

3:15 PM Band  
4:15 PM Cross Country Track Meet

#### Thursday, October 29

3:15 PM 3/4 Boys Basketball  
4:30 PM 5/6 Boys Basketball

#### Friday, October 30

2:15PM 6/7 Girls Basketball

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

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
Friday, Nov. 13th—Light 4:17pm	Saturday, Nov. 14th—End 5:19pm

#### DVAR TORAH BY RACHEL ANISFELD

Noah is like a small child, and Avraham like a grown one, says the midrash Breishit Rabbah. For Noah is said to “walk *with* God,” holding God’s hand for assistance, while Avraham is said to be strong and independent enough to “walk *before* God,” to have the initiative to help God forge the path ahead.

Noah is nothing if not passive. His name means “rest.” He has no voice; God speaks to him but, unlike Avraham, who argues with God, Noah never answers back. God tells him how to build the ark, and Noah builds it exactly that way.

For now, this is what God is looking for. In contrast to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, God is looking for someone who will simply obey, who will be *tamim*, blameless or blemishless, pure and obedient.

The flood is a purely divine act. The waters of heaven overwhelm the earth, as God’s power overwhelms all living things. But, with the rainbow, God promises never to act in this way again, never to take such complete control of the earth again. From now on, humans must become partners with God in running the world. Indeed, immediately after the flood, God commands that humans be responsible for judging and executing murderers. God will continue to be partially responsible for the earth, but from now on, humans must play a role as well, a role in preventing and judging the kind of violence and lawlessness that led to the flood in the first place.

The next step, next week, is Avraham. In Avraham, God finally found a partner. Like Noah, he could be obedient, but unlike Noah, he also had initiative and independence. Avraham could on the one hand offer his son as a sacrifice to God, and on the other hand, argue with God over the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah. Avraham was not simply “with” God, like Noah, shut into an ark to be protected from the world. Avraham ran “before” God, into the large world, preaching justice and blessing where he went. As it turns out, such a combination of obedience and independence is what God really wanted in His human partners after all.

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



## 6<sup>th</sup> Graders Visit Daughters of Sarah

***Gemilut Hasidim***, Acts of Loving Kindness are not just ideals we learn about in middle school, they are values we experience. Each of the Bet Shraga Middle School classes participates in a community service program throughout the year that exemplifies this core value of Judaism.

The sixth grade has the unique opportunity of visiting Daughters of Sarah Nursing Home every other week to spend an hour and a half engaging in meaningful activities with the residents. Students, in groups, work on each of the residential units of the facility, assisted by the recreation staff. They run programs such as word games, cooking, bowling, Wii, arts and crafts, holiday celebrations, and so much more. The students build relationships with the residents and truly feel the reward of their efforts when the residents greet them with smiling faces upon every visit.

The true measure of our success in educating our students in the classroom is when we can watch them display with pride their ***menschlikeit*** outside our school building. We can all take pride in the way that our students always rise to the occasion.

Shara Siegfeld



**TREE OF LIFE DEDICATION TO JULIE POLLACK**



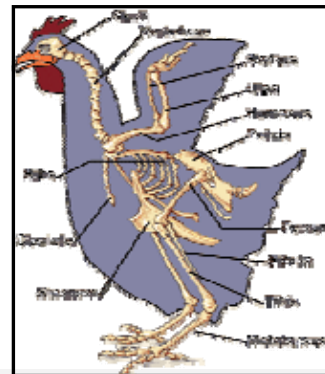
## Happy Birthday Rabbi Rami



**October 22nd was Rabbi Rami's birthday.**  
Ms. Crom's 2nd grade class honored him with a beautiful handmade Birthday Card.

## Wanted for Science Project!

After your Shabbat meal, if you have a clean, whole chicken carcass available, please send it in to Mrs. Stein for her school science project.



## PARENT ORG.

### Room Parent Contact List:

*Wondering who to contact to learn more or get involved? Check out our contact list below then call, email or kiddie mail us. Looking forward to hearing from you!*

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

### **PARENT ORG: Fun & EZ ways to get involved and make a difference...**

**SCHOOL PICTURE DAY(s): URGENT** - We need a Coordinator for our school picture day in November. We also would like a few more volunteers to help the teachers and children coordinate trips to the camera room. We offer a fall and spring photo op, and retakes for each, for a total of 4 days. Email for more info. [EMGold@nycap.rr.com](mailto:EMGold@nycap.rr.com)

**HANUKAH DINNER:** Looking for a FUN way to get involved at HACD? Want to MEET other Members? This may be your ticket! Our annual Hanukah dinner is a great way for our members to socialize and enjoy a festive meal together. We need a Coordinator (or 2) and lots of volunteers. Email for more info. [HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com](mailto:HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com).

**PO EXECUTIVE BOARD:** OK admit it, that sounds pretty fancy doesn't it?! I am not one for titles and just as happy to call myself a volunteer coordinator or Committee Chair rather than President. BUT our by-laws say we need a Board - hence the titles. So, we need a VP and we need one pretty fast. You see our Parent Org needs a succession plan. Usually, the VP or even co-President (if you prefer!) is getting up to speed with the goal of taking over the next year. I stepped up from VP last year when Nicole stepped down. We need someone who can be ready to step up next year when I step down. PO does all the warm fuzzy stuff that makes HACD such a warm and welcoming community. Help us keep the good times going. Get involved today! Email for more info. [HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com](mailto:HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com).

***Looking for some quick and EZ ways to get involved with a minimal time commitment?***

***Check out these great ideas:***

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

**RETURNABLE CANS & BOTTLES:** Parent Org would like to restart the collection of returnable cans & bottles. We need a volunteer to provide a once a month (or once a week) collection for Members who want to drop off their returnable's. We can not allow collection bins due to cleanliness issues (empty bottles attract bugs). Email [HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com](mailto:HACD.ParentOrg@nycap.rr.com) to learn more!

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### **November 1st**

**The Nassau Synagogue & Jewish Community Center**, with the support of the United Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York, present a: Jewish Storytelling Festival, *In honor of Jewish Book Month*, Featuring *Miriam Newell Biskin and Micki Groper* Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 2 p.m. East Greenbush Community Library -10 Community Way, East Greenbush, N.Y. This program is suggested for children and families of elementary, junior high and high school. For information, call Lynn Gross, Outreach Coordinator, Nassau Synagogue, 732-4037

**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.**



### **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE ROOTED IN TRADITION**

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