



Bet Shraga
Hebrew Academy
of the Capital District



October 30, 2009
12 Cheshvan 5770

SHABBATON

Issue Number 7
Volume Number II

CALENDAR

Saturday, October 31
Jonah Levy's Bar Mitzvah

Monday, November 2
3:15 PM Math Counts

Tuesday, November 3
3:15 PM Drama Kids
6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting

Wednesday, November 4
3:15 PM Band
3:15 PM OVA

Thursday, November 5
3:15 PM OVA

Friday, November 6
1:40 PM School Wide ONEG

Candle Lighting times for October/November 2009

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
Friday, Nov. 20th—Light 4:11pm	Saturday, Nov. 21st—End 5:14pm

DVAR TORAH BY RACHEL ANISFELD

God commands Avra(ha)m to take a journey from his homeland and his father's house to a land that He, God, will show him. If God was referring merely to a physical journey from point A to point B, surely He would have made those points explicit and said something like: Go from Haran to the land of Canaan.

The way God did state the command makes those physical points unclear. The commentaries in fact argue about whether Avraham's homeland refers to Haran, where he resided at the time, or Ur Casdim, where he originally came from.

Moreover, why would God command a journey which Avraham was already in the middle of taking in any case? His father had set out with him from Ur Casdim toward the land of Canaan, and stopped at Haran. If God merely wanted Avraham to continue the journey his father had started, what would be so special or difficult about this command?

There is something more to God's command than a physical journey. God is also commanding a spiritual journey, a movement not just from point A to point B, but also from perspective A to perspective B, from the culture and perspective of his father's home to the culture and perspective of God. "To the land that I will show you." Come, take the same journey your father suggested, but take it with a different set of eyes. Come to the land *as* I will show it to you. See it through My eyes, and not through the eyes of your family.

Lot, Avraham's nephew, represents the perspective of Avraham's family. He looks at the land and sees wealth, choosing to live in Sodom because of its richness and fertility. God offers Avraham a different perspective, the perspective of eternity. He tells him to look at the land and know that his offspring will live there *forever*. He tells him to look at the stars and the sand and know that, *in the long run*, his children will be that numerous. Avraham journeys from Lot's perspective to God's, from an exclusive focus on wealth to a sense of destiny, of history, of eternity.

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





Exciting News from the Art Room!

I am pleased to announce that this year your child's art work will be published to an on-line website gallery of student art work world wide. Parents will be able to display their child's talent to friends and family members over the net. In addition, friends and family may leave kudos to their budding artist upon viewing their art work. More information will be forthcoming.

The New York State Art Teachers Association is supporting "Fundred" (combination of 'fun', 'fund' and 'hundred) and "Operation Paydirt". These projects were conceptualized by artist Mel Chin and have the objective to collect 300,000,000 paper 'fundred' dollars from school children across the country and have them delivered to Washington in exchange for 300,000,000 real dollars. This is the amount of money it will take to clean-up the lead polluted soil in New Orleans which affects thousands of children. Participating in this project is a great way for our students to get involved helping other children.

Proceeds from Square 1 Art were used this year for the school to buy kite-making kits for our multi-generational Sukkot program. I also purchased twelve new and improved manikins for sketching people and to help students learn about proportions of the figure and a few sets of Multi-Cultural Cray-Pas for portrait drawing. Additional Square 1 Art monies will be used to purchase interior paint for a lunchroom mural. Thank you for your continued support of the art program through Square 1 Art. Check out www.fundred.org for more information.

Amy Rosenstrauch



7TH AND 8TH GRADE FIELD TRIP TO THE ROPES COURSE



**Many Thanks to the Colonie Lodge
for their donation of new dictionaries to Mrs. Stein's 3rd Grade Class.**

Colonie Lodge 2192
P.O. Box 756
Latham, N.Y. 12110

To Whom it may concern,
We are so excited with our new dictionaries.
We know we will use them often.
We are sending you a bouquet of Thanks.
Mrs. Stein's Third Grade - Hebrew Academy



יום הולדת
שמח

Happy
Birthday

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Maxx Evan	November 3
Sean Setzen	November 6
Zev Siegfeld	November 6
Kira Gold	November 10
Etan Kaziyev	November 13
Matan Adler	November 23
Faythe Mundell	November 23
Melissa Kearns	November 25
Eli Kligerman	November 27



CONGRATULATIONS TO

JONAH LEVY

**ON HIS
BAR MITZVAH—OCTOBER 31ST**



Shabbat Sponsor—October 30th

Sponsored by Mark and Donna Mundell
in honor of their son Nathan's Birthday



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.



PARENT ORG.

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

What has PO Done so far this year?

Caramel Apple Day
Started a new hot lunch program and purchased all the necessary supplies
Our first Box Top submission is going in for the October 31st deadline of \$136.90
Rosh Hodesh Hallel special treat after services throughout the year
Sponsored the teacher workshop luncheon in September
Produced the “new and improved” school directory with ads (Thank you Liz!)
Faculty/Staff Hospitality Birthday Cards
Spirit Wear
Ongoing Recycling programs “Trash for Cash” fundraisers
Support teachers, staff by providing volunteers for special events

What exciting events do we have coming up?

School Picture Days
Sponsoring the Hanukah family dinner and concert
Sponsoring the December Teacher/Faculty Holiday Dinner

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

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY(s): URGENT – We already have some volunteers lined up and we really need a few more for a successful school picture day in November. A few more volunteers to help the teachers and children coordinate trips to the camera room will make the day go smoothly for everyone!

Email Liz Goldstein for more info. 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.

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.

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.



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.

November 1st

38th Annual Festival of Nations. Empire State Plaza Convention Center from 12-5pm. Celebration Global Arts and Culture in the Capital District Entertainment from Around the World. Ethnic Dances, Music, Food, Unique Crafts, and Israeli Dance. Performance at 2:00pm including many Bet Shraga Middle School Students and Alumni. Kosher food available at the Israel booth .

November 28

SAVE THE DATE — 2nd Annual Alumni Adult Comedy Night. Saturday, November 28th at 8:00 PM at the Hebrew Academy. All adults welcome. More details to follow.

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



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE ROOTED IN TRADITION

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