



CALENDAR

Monday, November 29

Tuesday, November 30

Wednesday, December 1
3:15 Band

Thursday, December 2

Friday, December 3
School Wide Oneg

Candle Lighting times for December 2010

Friday, Nov. 26th - Light 4:07pm
Friday, Dec. 3rd - Light 4:04pm
Friday, Dec. 10th - Light 4:03pm
Friday, Dec. 17th - Light 4:05pm
Friday, Dec. 24th - Light 4:08pm
Friday, Dec. 31st - Light 4:14pm

Saturday, Nov. 27th - End 5:10pm
Saturday, Dec. 4th - End 5:09pm
Saturday, Dec. 11th - End 5:09pm
Saturday, Dec. 16th - End 5:10pm
Saturday, Dec. 25th - End 5:14pm
Saturday, Jan. 1st - End 5:19pm

DVAR TORAH BY RACHEL ANISFELD

Our ancestors did not start out great. They grew, over time, through struggle and ordeal, into greatness. In the past few parshiyot, we saw Yaakov suffer and grow in his own way. Now it is Yosef's turn. Yosef starts out haughty and vain, taunting his brothers with his favored status and dreams of grandeur; we will watch him learn -- through the experience of being brought low, again and again -- to be humble.

There are three sets of 2 dreams in the Yosef narrative and each set marks a different stage in Yosef's development. The story begins with his own dreams, in which the earth and the sky bow down to him and revolve about him. What hubris! What blasphemy! While his father Yaakov dreamed of a ladder reaching up to heaven with God *nitzav*, standing still, at the top, Yosef's dream contains no God, no god except himself, the only one whose sheaf is *nitzavah*, standing, in contrast to the bowing sheaves of his brothers.

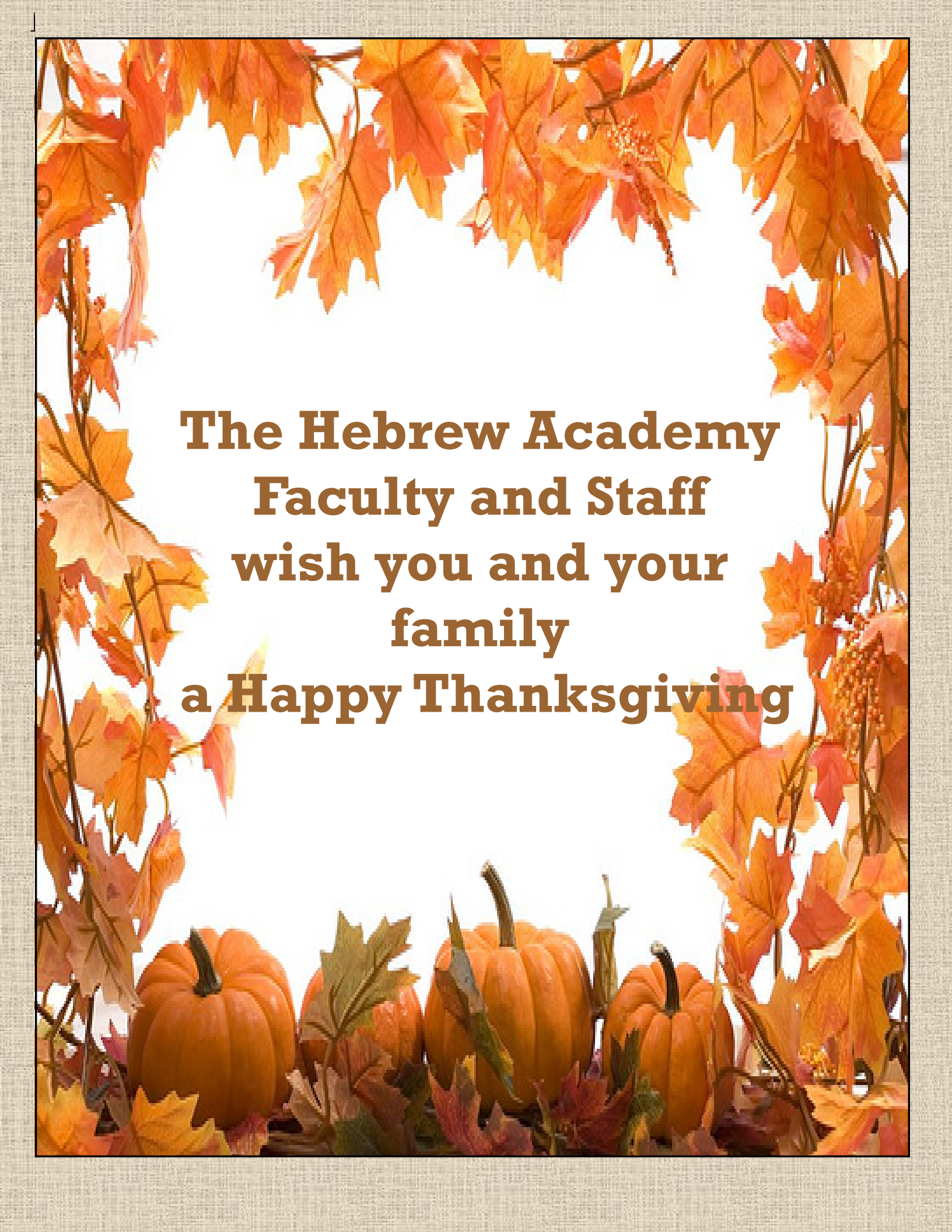
Yosef is quite literally lowered from his pedestal multiple times in this parsha -- thrown down into a pit by his brothers, *hurad*, "brought down," to Egypt, in the south, and then thrown into jail, also called here a "pit," a place of lowness.

It is in jail that we begin to see a change in Yosef. The second set of dreams in the Yosef story does not belong to Yosef, but to the butler and the baker, his jail-mates. Yosef has grown. He is no longer narcissistically self-involved -- dreaming of a world that revolves around him -- but is able to hear the needs and stories of others. He also here acknowledges for the first time that God has something to do with his abilities, telling his dreaming jail-mates, "But God surely has interpretations! Tell me [your dreams]." This is new, this invocation of God as His partner, a definite step forward. And yet, at the same time, the statement implies an equation of himself with God -- Yosef doesn't spell out why they should tell *him* the dreams if it is God who has interpretations, making it seem like he is an extension of God in some way, also a kind of hubris.

Two more years of jail cure him. The final change in Yosef can be seen in next week's parsha, in Yosef's reaction to the third set of dreams, Pharaoh's. In one word he reveals a complete change of attitude: *Biladay*, "Not I," he says, but "God will see to Pharaoh's welfare." *Not I*. What a long way Yosef has travelled from those first dreams of self-absorption!

Ironically, it is now -- now that he can stand ego-less before Pharaoh, a humble servant of God -- that he realizes his dreams of grandeur, becoming viceroy to the king. True greatness cannot be achieved without humility. One's own dreams are only realized if one learns to listen to the dreams of others, becoming part of the world, not above it, a brother to others, not a god.

Yosef's journey of self-transformation was a long, hard one. It inspires us with the possibility of transformation and also with the challenge to, like Yosef, turn life's ordeals into opportunities for such personal growth.

The image features a central text block surrounded by a decorative border of autumn-themed elements. The border consists of vibrant orange, yellow, and red leaves, some with green stems, and several pumpkins of various sizes and colors (orange, yellow, and green) at the bottom. The background is a light, textured beige color.

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

Administrators Corner

Using Bet Shraga's "Natural Resources" to Learn About Natural Resources

By: Lorraine Arcus, Director of Admissions and Community Outreach



In an effort to welcome new community members into our school, the Admissions office has scheduled several PALS (Preschoolers and Little Siblings) programs related to the holiday cycle. Last week, Bet Shraga hosted its second PALS program in preparation for Thanksgiving. Our own teachers made the event special. Amy Rosenstrauch, HACD's art teacher, fashioned a large Iroquois longhouse on the wall of the lunchroom. Terry Frazer, HACD's Earth Science teacher and member of the Oneida and Cayuga tribes, led the kindergarten students and PALS friends on a journey to the longhouse. While "in"

the longhouse, Ms. Frazer told the story of "The Three Sisters". The Iroquois believe corn, beans and squash are precious gifts from the Great Spirit, each watched over by one of three sister spirits. According to Iroquois legend, corn, beans, and squash are three inseparable sisters who only grow and thrive together. This tradition of planting corn, beans and squash in the same mounds is widespread among Native American farming societies. By retelling the stories, Native Americans pass down the knowledge of preserving nature.

The seventh graders came to join their kindergarten buddies. Together, the parents, teachers, students, and guest were led by Ms. Frazer in a Native American social dance.

To help keep the beat, Ms. Frazer used a musical instrument fashioned from bone and leather and filled with dried cherry pits. Everyone enjoyed a snack of pop corn and strawberries. Strawberries play a large part in the Native American folklore and culture.



The next PALS event will be a Chanukah Party hosted by the kindergarten students on Monday, December 6 at 1:30. Rabbi Rami will lead singing. There will also be dancing, games and refreshments. Contact Lorraine Arcus larcus@hacdalbany.com

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that Turkey Day is almost upon us and the start of the Shomray Torah Annual Fund Fall Campaign is just around the corner. Please grab a few minutes over the holiday weekend to look through our Fall Campaign mailing. Big picture (for those who like the short version) the Fall Campaign is about all of us and for all of us. Every one of our children benefits from funds raised.

We all depend on the Shomray Torah Annual Fund to pay for the difference between tuition charged and the actual cost of educating each of our children. The fund supports new educational programs, teacher development and technology advancement. It ensures that tuition is accessible to all who desire a Jewish education. Whether it is \$5, \$500, \$5000 or an extra ad solicited, we need your support and the message it sends. It tells the rest of our extended family (alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents and community members) that our school is a winning investment, which is not so easy to find these days.

As the children are learning this year, we are all one team. And as any coach will tell you, in order to win you need 100% participation.

Thank you in advance and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Please feel free to contact us at shomraytorah@hacdalbany.org with any questions. Volunteers and ideas welcomed!

"2nd Annual Shomray Torah Fall Campaign Phone-a-thon"



**Kickoff : Sunday December 5th @ 9:30am
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.**

EXTREME FUNDRAISING!!!!

We go to great lengths to make sure we don't miss anything!

Kindly make sure all monies for fundraising, donations etc. are in a clearly marked envelope. We would hate to lose Liz Goldstein to County Waste while searching for missing unmarked envelopes!

Thank you!!!



Shabbat Sponsor November 26, 2010

Rachel and Paul Rappaport
In Honor of
Rebecca Rappaport's Birthday



HACD TALENT SHOW

Show us your talent!

Parents, let your child's teacher know if they will be participating in the HACD Talent Show.

We are looking forward to seeing all the amazing talent that HACD has to offer.

We are getting excited about the Chanukiot!

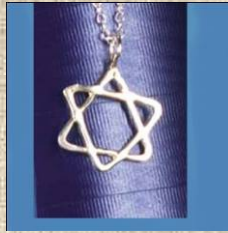
Please remember to have your child bring them in by Monday, November 29 for exhibition!



REMINDER

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This coming Monday and Tuesday is the "Hanukah Kidz Boutique" run by Parent Org. Volunteers. Remember to send money in the envelope sent home last week to make it easier for your child at the boutique. The primary shopping day is Monday, during school hours. We will open the boutique again on Tuesday, during recess hours, for those who were either absent or need to purchase more items. There will be many items available at low cost including pencils, dreidels, puzzles, clips, costume jewelry, cups, etc. The minimum and maximum price range is .30 Cents to \$10.00. There are gifts for siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. This will be a fun and inexpensive way for the children to shop themselves for family members.

If there are any questions, please email us at HACDPARENTORG@NYCAP.RR.COM.



NEWS FROM PARENT ORG

Here is your Parent Org. Executive and Operating Board members for 2010-2011

Presidents:	Donna Mundell Mark Mundell
Vice President:	Brian Lapiner
Treasurer:	Tammy Weingarten
Secretary:	Cheryl Lord
Teacher Rep:	Rebecca Harrell (Newly Created Position)
Kindergarten Parent Rep:	Elana Kamenir
1 st Grade Parent Rep:	Goldie Lapiner Cheryl Lord
2 nd Grade Parent Rep:	Linda Carothers Amy Horwitz
3 rd Grade Parent Rep:	Tanya Zelman Schwartz
4 th Grade Parent Rep:	Barbara Asal
5 th Grade Parent Rep:	Tsvi Gold Ruth Heller
6 th Grade Parent Rep:	Marci Galinkin Susan Sharfstein
7 th Grade Parent Rep:	Marian Alexander
8 th Grade Parent Rep:	Paula Binyamin

Keep current with Parent Org. If you have not already done so, send us an email to add you to our Parent Org. email list. We will be communicating almost entirely by email this year. We are unable to send you Parent Org emails without your prior approval, even if it is listed in the school directory. Your email address will not be shared with anyone, nor will it be displayed to others on our emails.

Send your email approval to HACDPARENTORG@NYCAP.RR.COM

**Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving,
Your Parent Org.**

Cub Scout Pack 18 begins Capital Campaign for Pinewood Derby Track



The HACD Cub Scout Pack 18 is looking to purchase a new 42-foot, four-lane Pinewood Derby Track to continue the longtime Scout signature event into the future. The estimated cost of the new track, including a finishing line and software to track cars, is \$1,500. The Scouts have begun this capital campaign to raise funds for to purchase the new track, and donations are gratefully accepted.

Pack 18 traditionally holds its Pinewood Derby in March. According to the BSA Museum Web site, the first-ever Pinewood Derby took place in 1953. Pack 280C of Manhattan Beach, California gathered at the Manhattan Beach Clubhouse and made Cub Scout history.

Cubmaster Don Murphy had been looking for an activity that his 10 year old son Donn could participate in after being too young for a soap box derby. Remembering the cars and airplanes he used to carve as a child he decided his Cub Scouts could work with their fathers and carve their own race cars. He felt this activity would foster a closer father-son relationship and good sportsmanship through competition.

Murphy approached his Cub Scout committee who eagerly took on the project. A car and track design were quickly worked out. The racing kit consisted of a block of pine wood, two wood axles, four nails, and four wheels. The track was 32 feet long with a declining four foot down ramp for the gravity propelled cars. The electric finish line was built with door bell coils powered by batteries to signify the winner.

The first race day was set for May 15, 1953. Contestants raced in three classes: Class A: 10 years old, Class B: 9 years old, and Class C: 8 years old. The race was a hit from the second the first group of cars started down the track. News of the Pinewood Derby quickly spread. A city wide Pinewood Derby was sponsored by the Herald Express newspaper and the Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks department in 1954. When word reached the national office of the Boy Scouts of America they decided to promote the race nationwide. A race car kit was even included in the Boy Scouts of America's supply catalog.

Today, most of the rules and regulations of the Pinewood Derby remain the same. Cub Scouts and their parents look forward to the race each year. Don Murphy, the father of the Pinewood Derby, still takes great pride in the event he started more than 50 years ago.

For more information about the capital campaign or to make a donation, contact Nicki Weinstein, Pack 18 Cubmaster at nickiweinstein@yahoo.com or Adam Selsley, Pack 18 Committee Chair at hacdpack18@hotmail.com.



**Exciting
educational programs for
*Preschoolers
And
Little Siblings***

**Bet Shraga
Hebrew Academy of the Capital District**



**Thursday, November 18
1:30 PM**

*Bet Shraga teacher, Terry Frazer, of the
Oneida and Cayuga tribes, will tell stories
of her people and lead activities to
experience aspects of this
beautiful culture.*

**Monday, December 6
1:30 PM**

*Join the kindergarten students for a
Chanukah party.
Singing with Rabbi Rami
Stories, Dancing, Games,
Refreshments*



Community Event Calendar

December 2, 2010

2nd Annual Israel heroes Dinner, hosted by The Israel Center/JERNY Congregation Beth Israel, 2195 Eastern Parkway, Schenectady, NY Recognizing those who have provided outstanding service to the State of Israel and its people. Honorees: Bernie and Reeva Norwitz, Rabbi Paul and Faye Silton, Josie Kivort and Jack Lauber (of blessed memory). Please join us, \$75.00 per person, for information contact Alex Hallenstein at alexhallenstein@gmail.com or 459-0065.

December 5, 2010

The Coalition for Tomorrow presents, JFed Mitzvah Day Connecting Through Social Action, 1:00pm—5:00pm. at the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York 184 Washington Ave. Ext. Albany. Projects will include assisting at Daughters of Sarah Nursing Center, an opportunity to help out in the secular community, an interactive project for young families with seniors at the Massry Residence. Questions please call Leah at Federation, 518-783-7800 ext.222 or lgolby@jewishfedny.org. Make your reservation now register online at www.jewishfedny.org or call 783-7800.

December 12, 2010

The Community Coalition for Jewish Education invites all 6th graders to “Gather Us Together: The Ethiopian Jews Come Home” at The Golub Center 184 Washington Ave Ext. Albany, NY from 10:00am-11:30am. Please RSVP to your education director, Questions? Call Marci Gainkin, 783-7800 or email mgalinkin@jewishfedny.org.

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

