



CALENDAR

Monday, Oct. 31

Tuesday, November 1st

School Picture Day

Wednesday, November 2nd

Thursday, November 3rd

Friday, November 4th

Candle Lighting times for September/October 2011

Friday October 28th — Light 5:36

Friday November 4th — Light 5:27

Friday November 11th — Light 4:19

Saturday October 29th — End 6:36

Saturday November 5th — End 6:28

Friday November 12th — End 5:20

Dvar Torah on Parashat Noah, by Rachel Anisfeld

The Moroccan havdalah includes the recitation of a biblical verse about Noah, the main character of this week's parsha. *VeNoah matza chen be'eynei Hashem*. "Noah found favor in the eyes of God" (Gen 6:8, the last verse of last week's parsha). The verse is chanted by the havdalah leader, and the listeners respond: *Ken nimitza chen vesekhel tov be'eynei Elokim ve'Adam*. "So, too, may we find favor and understanding in the eyes of God and man." It's interesting, that added word at the end, *Ve'Adam*. We want to be like Noah, but we don't want to find favor only in the eyes of God, but also in the eyes of our fellow humans. Herein lies the crux of the Noah story.

Noah was a loner, for good and for bad. God chose him because Noah was able, as Morah Yisraela taught her second graders this week, to be a righteous person even when those around him were not, not a simple matter. The flood is a good image for Noah's

generation. He lived in a flood of evil, but somehow managed not to be swept away by the current, to stay morally afloat in a sea of wrongdoing, to keep himself perfect and pure, *tamim*, like an island unto himself, like the little ark-island he eventually inhabited.

But good is not meant to be done alone. Noah's good is shut inside a sealed ark, inside himself, and so, in some way it eventually becomes suffocated and twisted. When he comes out of the ark, he seeks only his own intimacy; he becomes drunk and "uncovers himself within his tent." The verb is *vayitgal*, a reflexive verb; he is closed in upon himself, doing the uncovering of himself to himself.

Such good cannot last. Our own internal good is partly a reflection of the goodness of those around us. Noah found favor in God's eyes, but he did not find favor in the eyes of those around him. Finding favor is work. It is partly a matter of *finding* the good in other people, seeing those buried good points in others (*nekudot tovot*, in Rav Nachman's terms) which in turn helps them see the good within us, and so a cycle of good is created.

Avraham is the model of this cycle of goodness. The midrash speaks of the many people he influenced and converted. If the symbol of Noah is a sealed ark, closed against a sea of evil, the symbol of Avraham is an open tent, drawing others in around him to the pursuit of good.

Later, when we hear of Avraham's nephew Lot in Sodom, we will think again of Noah. Lot, too, had a certain righteousness about him, but one that was purely limited to himself. The evil around him was so great that the only way for him to keep it out was literally to shut the door on the hordes of evil-doers at his doorstep, waiting to come flood his home like the waters outside Noah's ark.

There is something to be said for a closed door approach to evil. Noah stands as a model of great moral fiber and fortitude in his ability to withstand evil. And there are moments – Nazi Germany comes to mind -- when such strength of character is required. May we not be tested with such moments. The general work of the world, though, seems to lie mostly in the Avraham open door approach, the attempt to find good in the eyes and souls of those around us, the attempt to share our goodness with that of others and thereby increase good in the world. *Ken nimitza khen be'eynei Elokim ve'Adam*. So, too, may we find favor in the eyes of God and man.



Administrators Corner

Rabbi Rami Strosberg
Head of School

On Community

How are communities different from organizations?

Thomas Sergiovanni, Professor of Education and Administration at Trinity University in Texas defines communities as groups being organized around relationships and shared values. He says, they create social structures that bond people together with unity and shared values and ideas. He describes them as having a belief that there are needed conditions for creating a sense of togetherness instead of individuality.

Even our youngest social studies students could tell you that we used to be a hunting and gathering society, then became an agricultural society and then we moved onto an industrial society. Each step moved us more from a sacred community and more towards a secular lifestyle. In a community, individuals decide to associate with each other because of their natural interest. There is intrinsic meaning and significance in relationship development. In organizations or corporations, individuals relate to one another to reach a goal or gain some benefit, it's all calculated. Within a corporation, relationships are formal and prescribed by roles and expectations; culture is evaluated by universal criteria as articulated by policy and rules, codes and protocols. People are competitive and those who achieve more are valued more.

In communities, such as a school, community of mind is created from mutual goals, common values and shared purpose. We come together everyday because there is joy and meaning that can only be realized through collaboration, teamwork, and being together.

Some advantages of a nurturing school community include educators who know every child and can be attentive to the needs of the individual, meaningful relationships for students with faculty beyond the classroom in the form of coaches, advisors and role models, extensive and intensive extracurricular and co-curricular opportunities in art, math, music, athletics, and community service that tap deeply into the interests, passions and talents of students outside the classroom, as well as leadership and ownership for students over school life and culture.

As our school works to enrich our sense of community the questions we consider are:

What can be done to increase the sense of family?

What kinds of school-parent relationships need to be cultivated?

How can the web of relationships between teachers, parents and students be further developed to embody community?

How can teaching and learning environments maximize the feeling of home?

We need to constantly be asking ourselves, what are our shared values and commitments that elevate us to become a community of mind?

I believe that Hebrew Academy's powerful mission, purpose and values that infuse the educational experience with shaping character and engaging the heart as well as the mind, by definition create, and at the same time, rely on the support of our community including both teachers, students and parents (and sometimes grandparents) who are currently part of the school as well as alumni and all those who have been part of the school's history.



Second graders are off to a wonderful start!

Much of the first weeks of school were devoted to lessons and activities to prepare us for the fall holidays. Now that the holidays are over, we are enjoying settling into the routine of a five-day week!

We begin each day with tefillah (prayer). We have been studying the prayer "Baruch She'amar" which praises God for the creation of the world. We have been comparing some of the ideas of this prayer with the story of creation that we are learning in Humash.

In Hebrew Language Arts, we are working on a unit based on the daily activities of the classroom. We read stories, sing songs, play games, speak to each other in Hebrew and write our own sentences in Hebrew. This past week, we wrote riddles based on the Hebrew names of our classmates and had fun trying to solve them.

We have begun the formal study of Humash! We completed an introductory unit designed to help us understand the division of the Torah text into books, weekly portions, chapters and verses. Now we are studying the creation of the world in Hebrew. Songs and art help us to remember and visualize what we are learning. Our discussions have raised some interesting questions. For example, we observed that light is created on the first day, but that the sun is not created until the fourth day. Where did the light come from? Also, each day God sees that creation is "good" except for the second day. Why isn't the creation of the sky on the second day "good"? Curious? Ask a second grader!

Another favorite area of study is our special unit on Shabbat. This unit will reinforce and expand our knowledge of the rituals, traditions, songs and prayers of the most important day of the week.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning and growing together!

Morah Yisraela
(Julie Pollack)



HACD SPORTS BULLETIN

The Lions X Country Team

had three top ten finishers in their respective divisions during their last meet at The Crossings of Colonie.

Michal Drucker finished in **7th** place with a time of **7:36**

Ari Levy finished **7th** place (**tied with 6th**) with a time of **6:47**

Marissa Burack finished in **9th** place with a time of **7:35**.

Congratulations to all of our Fantastic Athletes!

Visit our website www.hacdalbany.org for more exciting HACD News!!

Click on the Bulletin Board tab!!!



Want to be on the Journal?

Coming Soon.....

The Academy Journal

For More Information on the *Brand New* School
Newspaper Contact...

Samson Goldberg or **Julia Crooks**

Both Samson and Julia are available at their Homeroom (210) from 1:39 to 1:47 (9:58-10:18 on Fridays), and Lunch from 11:34-12:00 (11:36-12:00 on Fridays).



Hebrew Academy's 8th Grade presents
FAMILY RUN FOR ISRAEL!

Help the 8th Grade raise funds for their trip to the Holy Land!

Sunday, November 6, 2011

The Crossings (Maria Dr. Entrance)

5K run/walk for all ages!

Register in advance or by 9 am on Nov.
6th. Run begins at 9:30 am.

Awards & Post race snacks at 10:00-10:30

Entry Fee: \$18 (12 & over)

(check to "HACD") **\$ 8 (under 12)**

Best Buy! \$25 (whole family!*)

*(includes parents and siblings only)

Name (s) _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____ Age on Nov 6 ____ (Families,
list all ages and sex next to names above). Mail form w/check by Nov.
1 to HACD, 54 Sand Creek Rd., Albany, NY 12205. Waiver: I/We the

undersigned, intending to be legally bound, hereby for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damage I may now or in the future have against HACD, its representatives, agents and assignees, for any/all losses and injuries suffered by me/us in association with this event.

Signature _____

Date _____

Questions? Email tomkligerman@hotmail.com or call 512-5094.

Gas Card Raffle

**\$5 for a Chance to Win
\$100 Gas Card**

Benefit 8th Grade Israel Trip

**Drawing to be held on Tuesday November 8th, 2011
HACD 8th grade Home Room**

For more info contact: Joan Sheridan

(459-5664 or jsheridan6@nycap.rr.com).

Turn in raffle tickets and money by Friday November 4th, 2011 the latest to:

Joan Sheridan c/o Zahava – 8th Grade via Kiddie Mail



Parent ORG

SHABBAT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Be part of the Shabbat experience at Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy with a sponsorship! Every Friday our students enjoy a wonderful Shabbat program with recitation of the blessings over the candles, wine (grape juice) and challah. They sing Shabbat and holiday songs and enjoy visits with the Rabbis and Cantors. Your *sponsorship* will help offset the costs associated with this fun and spiritually uplifting program.

Shabbat Sponsor - October 28th

Sarah, Yonatan, & Miriam Eligberg
In honor of their Abba receiving his
honorary Doctorate
from
Jewish Theological Seminary



Community Event Calendar

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

Look in the coming weeks for our Community News Bulletin featured on our new website!



Come study at the new

Open Bet Midrash of Albany

Fun, meaningful, creative communal Torah study in an honest, open environment.

No previous knowledge required. Both men and women welcome.

Meeting time: 7:30-9:30 PM once a week, day to be determined.

Facilitator: Dr. Rachel Anisfeld, who writes the weekly parsha blog “[Parsha Thoughts & More.](#)”

Pilot Session: Come try it out! Tuesday, October 4 at 8:00 PM at my home, 148 Milner Ave, Albany. Please let me know if you plan to attend: ranisfeld@nycap.rr.com, 489-5756

Cost: \$275 for the school year

The program is affiliated with the [Elul Bet Midrash program](#) based in Jerusalem, a Torah institute dedicated to the study of classical texts and creative responses to Torah.

DAUGHTERS OF SARAH

Mystery Challenge



NOVEMBER 19, 2011 * 7:30 PM * NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

Please join us

For a whimsical and adventurous evening of sumptuous hors d'œuvres*, delectable desserts, a fabulous silent auction, and the opportunity to dazzle your friends with Your wit and wisdom all while supporting our region's only Jewish, kosher senior community.

724-3261 * foundation@dossc.org * www.daughtersofsarah.org

**\$50 PER PERSON UNDER 40
\$85 GENERAL ADMISSION**

* All food prepared under supervision of the Vaad Hakashruth of the Capital Region