



Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy of the Capital District

January 27, 2012

Issue Number 47, Volume Number III

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 20th-24th
Mid- Winter Recess
No School!

Candle Lighting times for January/February

Friday January 20th — Light 4:34
Friday February 3rd — Light 4:52
Friday February 10th — Light 5:02

Saturday January 21st — End 5:39
Saturday February 4th — End 5:56
Saturday February 11th — End 6:04

Dvar torah on Parashat Bo by Rachel Anisfeld

I've been thinking about the relationship between the old and the new in Judaism this week. In this week's parsha, you have the first commandment given to the Israelite nation as a whole, *hachodesh hazeh lakhem*, the commandment to declare the new moon each month. The word for month, *chodesh*, comes from the word for new, *chadash*. But what is really new about the moon or about our lives each month? More or less, things in nature and in our lives proceed and cycle along as before, and yet we are commanded once a month to stop and declare them "new," to see the sliver of the "new" moon as a rebirth.

The parsha also discusses the commandments concerning the Passover sacrifice, and here, too, there is a strange erasure of old and new. In the midst of the commands concerning the first Israelite Passover in Egypt – the paschal lamb and the blood on the doorposts – the Torah stops to talk about future Passovers for generations to come, the 7-day festival, the eating of matzah, the annual Passover sacrifice. It is as if, even before the Israelites in Egypt celebrated that first-ever Passover in Egypt – a new event – the celebration had already taken on the weight of tradition, the weight of something old and venerated, to be passed on forever. What was new had the feeling of something old.

Then there is the strange last line of the prayer (originally a Lamentations verse) we say upon returning the Torah to its ark: *chadesh yameinu kikedem*. "Renew our days as of old." New or old? Which is it? The idea here seems to be that the ultimate redemption, which will be a kind of national rebirth or renewal, will look a lot like the old days, making a complete circle between past and future.

I'm not sure how to tie these pieces together. One thing that emerges from all of them is a sense that old and new are subjective matters, not issues of the historical past and future, but a kind of other zone above history, a place in which old and new do not contradict one another, but co-exist. What is old is new, as in the moon, and what is new is old, as in that first Passover. The ultimate goal is to be in the place we pray for when we say, "Renew our days as of old," a place where old and new meet and feed off one another, where our attachment to tradition is the springboard for our energy and creativity in the world, and where the new projects we engage in have the weighty and sure-footed feel of antiquity behind them.

I think we actually have an instinctive understanding of the deep connection between the new and the old. When we hear an idea that feels right or true to us, we know it is right because it feels both familiar – as if we knew it all along somewhere deep inside us – and yet exciting and new. It thrills us with its brilliance and novelty and at the same time, connects to something deep inside us that is ancient and eternal. The Torah exists in this sphere, this place that is beyond the distinction between the old and the new, and in some way, maybe the Torah's goal is to help us exist in this sphere as well.

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

Partner Agency of
Jewish Federation
OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK





The First Grader students have been learning about other cultures

for the last week and a half. Last week they studied the Chinese New Year, which was celebrated on January 23. The students learned that the Chinese New Year begins on the first new moon in either January or February of each year, and that each year is assigned an animal. There are 12 animals that continually rotate through the years, and this year is the year of the dragon.

We also learned that, although most of the class is made up of the year of the rooster, we do have a few students from the previous year, the year of the monkey! That sounded right to us! Then the students practiced learning to write the Chinese character for their animal year. Many students wanted to learn about the people in their families, and what animals they were born under. So we cut out a wheel that was connected to another one under it, giving the years and animals for other people. The students also practiced writing other Chinese characters in sentences of their own.

This week the students started learning about the great serum race of 1925, and how the Alaskans celebrate that run with the annual Iditarod Race in either February or March. It has been difficult for all of us to truly grasp the meaning of temperatures of 30-60 below zero! We will continue to learn about the Iditarod throughout this week.

In addition, I want to mention that this week is the 4th time the First Graders have all earned perfect Spelling Tests. Also, it is the second week in a row that they have earned them, **Congratulations!**



The Fourth Grade class would like to
acknowledge the Community for their
generosity in helping raise over **250\$** for the
Schoharie flood victims.
Your compassion and generosity is greatly
appreciated!

Thank you!

Ms. Balmer & her
Fantastic Fourth Grade Class!



HACD Dance Festival 2012

Mazel Tov for job well done!





COACHES UPDATE!!!

With alot on the line (First Place), the **7/8 Lions** came out flat last night and dropped a crucial divisional game to E. Greenbush, 61-49. We fell behind by 14 at the half and were down by 20 in the 2nd half, only to cut the lead to 8 w about 3 minutes to play. A 2nd chance bucket off a miss by 33 (Grasso) pushed the lead to 10 and ended the rally and a chance at a big comeback. Players appeared tired, disinterested, and/ unmotivated for a large portion of the game. We got outrebounded, particularly the first 20-22 minutes and we got beat in transition as well.

Coach Rich Drucker

2/3 Lions

Our defense looked as good as we have seen all season. The team is starting to come together on the floor. And, the players are beginning to take shots. At some point, they will go through the hoop. *Congratulations to Sam for making a great basket tonight!*

Coach Marci Galinkin

Upcoming Games

January 26th
HACD vs. East Greenbush
7pm

February 19th
HACD vs. Duanesburg
1:30

Practice Schedule

7/8 Boys
Sunday- 9-11
Thursday- 4:30-6 Fridays - 2:30 –
4:00

4/5 Coed
Tuesdays - 3:15 – 4:30
Sundays – TBD (to be determined)

2/3 Coed
Thursdays 3:15 – 4:30
Sundays - TBD

HACD News

Save The Date!
**Grandparents
and Special
Friends Day** will
be held on the
afternoon of
Friday ~
May 18, 2012
12:00-3:00 PM



BOOK FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH!

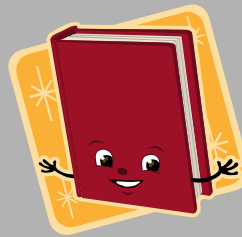
This year's HACD Book Fair will be held on Thursday, February 9th. The HACD Book Fair offers a selection of Scholastic Books as well as a number of Judaic titles for both children and adults, and benefits our school library program. The students really look forward to this fun event!

If you can come and help for a couple of hours (or more!), please contact Jane Shurin at jshurin@gmail.com or 783-5744.

PLEASE! The Book Fair depends on adult volunteers to help set up before the fair and to help students select and purchase books during the fair. We need help on:

Thursday, February 10, 2010 – Purchase day, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thank You!!!!



Hebrew Academy is now offering tutoring for adults in
Hebrew Language.

If you are interested,
please call **Sharon Strosberg 377-2510.**



2012 HACD BASKETBALL
STUDENT/PARENT/ALUMNI NIGHT
A BENEFIT FOR THE 8TH GRADE TRIP TO
ISRAEL!

DATE/TIME: March 10, 2012/7:30 pm

Order of the Night:

Game ONE: 4/5 HACD Lions vs Moms (two 10 minute halves – no clock stop)
At Halftime: First Round Grade 3 and Under Foul Shooting Competition!

Game TWO: 7/8 HACD Lions vs Dads (two 15 minute halves – no clock stop)
At Halftime: Final Winner Round of Grade 3 and Under Foul Shooting Competition!

Game THREE: Alumni vs Alumni (two 20 minute halves – regular clock stops and timeouts)
At Halftime: Drawing of the winning 50-50 ticket!

FRESH PIZZA, DESSERTS AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE!

No fee to play or enter the foul shoot contest!

Door charges (applies to all): \$5 per adults (12 and up)
\$3 per child (under 12)
\$18 family maximum (immediate family members)

TO SIGN UP TO PLAY or enter Foul Shooting Contest:

Alumni and Parents, please email below (for either yourselves or your kids):

Rich Drucker rdrucker2011@gmail.com OR
Tom Kligerman tomkligerman@hotmail.com



SEE YOU at the GAMES on March 10th!!!!!!!!!!!!

2011-2012 Shomray Torah Fall Campaign Fund

GOAL
\$200,000

\$175,000

\$150,000

\$125,000

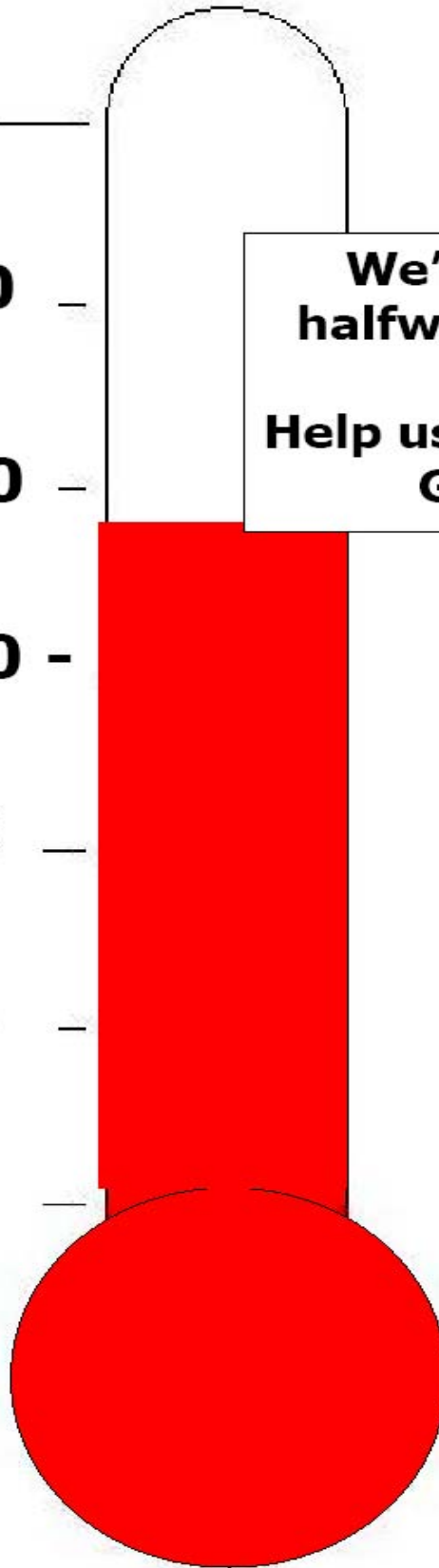
\$100,000

\$75,000

\$50,000

**We're OVER
halfway there!**

**Help us meet our
Goal!**



SHOMRAY TORAH ANNUAL CAMPAIGN DONORS 2011-2012

Todah Rabah to our extended family for your support. We're over halfway to our goal for the fall campaign! Help us add more names to our list of supporters by sending in your pledge.

Grandparents

Elizabeth and Moshe Anisfeld
Irene Ashery
Mirian Biskin
Malka and Eitan Evan
Sandra and Jerome Goldberg
Felice and David Gordis
Herbert Horwitz
Sedell and Bernard Kamenir
Leo Koppel
Rainy and Stu Kovach
Barbara and Howard Levine
Esther and Morris Massry
Norma Rosen
Evelyn Segel
Florence and Harvey Sharfstein
Valerie and Spike Solomon
Margo and James Strosberg
Ruth and Herbert Swift
Barbara and Harry Ungerman
Diana Yanklowitz
Cydney Yerushalmi
Dora and Mikhail Zelman

Alumni

Rachel and Jeremy Arcus-Goldberg
Ellen and Jonathan Berkowitz
Annette Kriegel Davidoff and
Ravin Davidoff
H.M. Dollinger
Deborah and Hershel Ellenbogen
Tamar Silton and Jeremy Epstein
David Farber
Sarah Farber
Aaron Friedman
Harry Friedman
Sophie Friedman
Mindy Greene Huber and Josh Huber
Lea and David Kamen
Nadine and Raphael Kieval
Jenny Kovach
Maya Kovach
Nancy Kriegel
Aviva and Jay Leberman
Sarah Magidson
Lisa and Jason Packer
David Phaff
Wendy Phaff
Helena Rosenstruch
Paul Rosenstruch
Gina C.R. Fiss and
Joshua M.F. Rubinfeld
Aliza and Daniel Scher
Ariella Segal
Benjamin Segal
Samuel Segal
Talia Segal
Lee Setzen
Ruth and Joel Simon
Wendy and Steven Susswein
Meital and Howie Teitelman
Nehama and Lawrence Teitelman

Alumni Parents

Rochelle and Sheldon Abelson
Ellen and Richard Ancowitz
Les Apple
Rabbi Moshe Bomzer
Sally Bratspis
Nanette and Arthur Brenner
Barbara and Karl Brodsky
Sharona Wachs and
Rabbi Donald Cashman
Stacy and David Cohen
Marilyn and Herbert Cohen
Morris Cohen
Arlene and Sol Daum
Martha and Jeffrey Farber
Deborah Biskin Flancbaum and
Louis Flancbaum
Judith and Daniel Flax
Deborah Moskowitz Fleischner and
Arthur Fleischner
Sherry and Marvin Freedman
Beverly and Warren Geisler
Elana and Ephraim Glinert
Harriet and Neil Gold
Judy and Martin Goldman
Sally and Matthew Greenblatt
Nancy and Elliott Greene
Kimberly Hacker
Meridith Englander and Joshua Heller
Abbey Farbstein Herd and
Joseph Herd
Linda and Daniel Hershberg
Jennifer and Richard Honen

Charlotte and Stanley Isser
Laura and Edward Jacobs
Rosalind and Gary Judd
Shelley and Stephen Justa
Lisa and Joseph Kay
Rabbi Rena and Shalom Kieval
Gail Kendall
Marta and Mark Koblenz
Sheila and Paul Koppel
Ida Leberman
David Levine
Nancy and Norman Levine
Estate of Hannah Lorch
Rabbi Beverly and Richard Magidson
Phyllis and Lewis Morrison
Barbara and Edward Orris
Andrea and Neal Packer
Rona and Louis-Jack Pozner
Anita and Ken Rabinoff-Goldman
Ruth and Steven Rich
Joan and Jack Rosenblum
Claudia and Mark Rosenholz
Pearl and Harris Sanders
Joan and James Savitt
Barbara and Michael Scher
Ellen and Eric Schwartz
Stanley Segel
Nancia and Kenneth Segel
Roberta and Richard Seiden

Amy and Ron Sohn
Barbara and Les Stein
Lisa and Beno Sternlicht
Joyce Teitelman
Joyce and Melvin Toub
Barbara Wachs
Nini Wu and Ira Zackon

Current Parents

Karen and Mordecai Bienstock
Ana Sobel and George Bizer
Shelly L. Goldman Black and
Johnny Black, Jr.
Rachael and Yishai Cohen
Amy Gingold-Horwitz
Deborah and Tsvi Gold
Jill and Howard Goldberg
Michele Levy and Daniel Greenblatt
Elana and Steven Kamenir
Ilana and Robert Kovach
Carolyn and Jim Levine
Julie Solomon and Cole Libby
Rachel Anisfeld and Timothy Lytton
Suzanna Randall and
Rabbi Naomi Manon
Jerald O'Brien
Marian Alexander and
Rabbi Dan Ornstein
Rachel and I. Paul Rappaport
Anna and Jonathan Rosen
Tatyana and Benjamin Schwartz
Laura and Hilton Segal
Jane and Arkady Shurin
Sirafima Rits and Vladimir Vitkin
Tammy and Joel Weingarten
Chava and Adam Weisstuch

Community

Helene S. Ainspan
The Sidney & Beatrice Albert
Foundation
Martin Barr
Evalyn and Joseph Basloe
Amy Bloom
Joyce and Sanford Bookstein
Dorice Brickman
Sidney Cohen
Toby and Arnold Elman
Evelyn and Laurence Farbstein
Joanna and Eric Fried
Selma Goldberg
Neil, Jane, William & Estelle Golub
Family Foundation, Inc.
Cindy and Neil Greenstein
Karen and Gerald Hausler
Michael Kupferschmid
Megan Levine
Karen and Alan Lobel
Davida Manon
Carol Ann and Rodney Margolis
Shirley and Irving Mennen
Kathleen and Ryan Miller

Jerald O'Brien
Pardus Family Philanthropic Fund
Barbara and Peter Rosenfeld
Mary Rosenstein of The Jewish
Community Endowment
Fund of Jewish Federation
of NENY
Lois and Richard Rubin
Phyllis Silverman
Linda Woodward and Frederick Stein
Gene and Howard Tarler
Philip Ziffer

Names listed reflect
those whose
payments have been
received.



Exciting
educational programs for
Preschoolers
And
Little Siblings
Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy
of the Capital District

Experience Tu B'Shevat
with the
Hebrew Academy
kindergarten

Celebrate
the environment and
ecology
with guest science
teacher, Ela Meir



Monday, February 6, 2012
1:30-2:30 PM

Let us know you're coming. Please email Lorraine Arcus at
Larcus@hacdalbany.com

Parent Org.

Shabbat Sponsorship



DATE: Every Friday

WHERE: Each and every classroom

WHY: To celebrate a birthday, honor a teacher, highlight a special day, or *JUST BECAUSE!!*

WHAT: \$36 covers challah and grape juice for the entire school

HOW: Fill out the Shabbat Sponsorship form and bring to the office

It's 2012!! Do you have a special something coming up to celebrate? Do it at HACD!

Questions? e-mail Jodi Eligberg at abbaeema@nycap.rr.com

Congregation Ohav Shalom Presents:

Torah Magic!

Kids in grades K-3 from all schools, and their families, are welcome to be with us for Torah Magic!

Torah Magic is a celebration of being Jewish and honoring the writing of Ohav's new Torah scroll in 5772.

Come join the fun on

Shabbat morning,

February 4 and

May 19, at 10:45 AM

in the large social hall.

Congregation Ohav Shalom

113 New Krumkill Rd. Albany

www.ohavshalom.com

Special performance by guest magician— Dan Scher!



SOCCER CIRCLE

@ Afrim's Latham Bubble

A Soccer Clinic tailored to Children with Special Needs ages 5 and up



Wednesdays - 6:15 - 7:15 p.m.

Jan. 18, 25. Feb. 1, 8, 15, 29. March 7, 14.
4 Jacqueline Ave., Latham, NY

\$40 per child for all 8 classes, \$30 each additional child.

FREE for all teen volunteers.

Teen volunteers will be on hand to assist the children

Space graciously donated by Guildland United Soccer

RSVP Required by January 15th.

To join as a participant or a teen volunteer, please contact Laurie at info@capitalfriends.org or 438-4220

No child will be turned away due to lack of funds.

FREE
T-shirt
for every
child!



FAMILY SERVICE

Welcome Shabbat at Temple Israel
with a family-friendly, musical service.

Sing, clap and have some fun.

Kid-assisted D'var Torah!

Shabbat dinner to please all!

Friday January 27, 2012 at 5:30PM



Adults 13 and over \$12

Children 5-13 \$2

Children under 5 FREE

Vegetarian option upon prior request

RSVP Linda at 438-7858 ext. 117

 TEMPLE ISRAEL

Partially underwritten by
the Shugar Outreach Fund