

# Maimonides Community

Community Newsletter of the Maimonides Hebrew Day School of the Capital District  
404 Partridge Street Albany NY 12208 (518) 453-9363/3434 [www.maimonidesschool.org](http://www.maimonidesschool.org)  
produced by Rabbi Mendel & students in the TNT (Torah 'n Technology) Program

Candle-Lighting:  
5:11  
Shabbos Ends:  
6:13



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**EARLIER EDITION THIS WEEK**  
Maimonides Presidents Week break begins tomorrow (Friday) so this "MC" edition is ready for Thursday. Have a great week off! No school and no "MC" newsletter next week.

## PARSHAT SHEKALIM AND THE MHDS PUSHKA CAMPAIGN



This week we read the special Maftir about the Jews each contributing a half-shekel coin for the upkeep of the Mishkan

(Tabernacle). Rabbi Rubin launched the new Pushka Campaign, which encourages daily giving and the presence of a Mitzvah in our homes (and offices). Each new beautiful school Pushka is numbered so the school office can keep a record where the Pushkas are, and arrange for pickups when they are filled. Some Pushkas will be mailed to area homes around Purim-time, others can be picked up at the school office or call 453-9363 for a delivery.



## MAZAL TOV ON GORDON BRIS

The Gordons had a beautiful Bris for their newborn son at Maimonides, with a Minyan at 7:15am and the Bris just after 8am, and a delicious spread for family, community and all of the students. The Mohel, Rabbi L. Heber (as well as the Sandak, Rabbi A. Laber) were present at the Bris of R' Itche, the baby's father in Russia, just after the

*This newsletter is dedicated in memory of*

## Ethelee Paul

*She was buried this past Sunday alongside her husband in Troy's Spring Avenue Beth Tephilah Cemetery.*

*Ethelee and her husband Dr. Boris Paul, of blessed memory were upstanding pillars of Temple Israel, Shomray Torah and the greater Albany Jewish community.*

fall of the Soviet Union, so it was special to have them part of this baby boy's Bris, too. Family traveled in from California, Brooklyn and New Paltz. The baby was named Yaakov Tzvi after two of his maternal great-grandfathers. Morah Dini told the interesting story how the Plotkin family (her parents) only learned of the "Tzvi" name in the family when her grandfather died and a family friend traveled out (in the snow!) to an old forgotten cemetery near Pittsburgh to find the great-grandfather's gravestone, and that's where they realized his second name was Tzvi. The Mohel (from Brooklyn) was impressed how all the school children participated in the Bris ceremony and the Seudas Mitzvah meal, not just family.



...in March... would be... We'd, but... kung-fu...

...found more interesting about the flowers... and made her painting highlight it: up close... could be beautiful, vivid (and imaginary) colors.

**THE BACKWARDS MEGILLAH**  
This grade Mitzvah recently finished Ma'asid... to also accept responsibility for things, and... about money) and are now learning... Megillah, in time for Purim. Their... Mitzvah so far: "If you read... Megillah backwards, you did not fulfill... obligation!" (By the way, the Dal Shon... an inspirational, vibrant message... Mitzvah... Now that the Mitzvah... it's less than a month to Purim!

**LAGS**  
...the... PURIM BAKED GOODS SALE

**EXPERIMENT**  
Mrs. Laber's 5<sup>th</sup> grade did an experiment... about Newton's law of gravity, they... balloons, balloons and a penny in a... the balloon and the penny... moved by itself that because when you spin... something it moves in a circle and when you... stop, the penny will fall. **Text Box** it... to move by itself.

**More science**  
The winners of last week's balloon car race was... David Laber and Chase Laber... Laber got farther than his sister but... Chase Laber jumped into something... Their race class had a record watching a...

## THE UNEDITED PARAGRAPH

On page 2 of last week's "MC" there was a paragraph titled "Experiment". This week's newsletter will run the same story of the "penny orbiting inside the balloon" with additional and more accurate details. Several readers realized (we appreciate the careful reading of this newsletter!) that this was student reporting mistakenly left unedited. That's exactly what happened. This illustrates how the "MC" newsletter comes together each week. Students in TNT class report with their own news articles which are all entered into the newsletter format, later edited by Rabbi Mendel (sometimes with help of the older students) at the end of the week.

## THE KINGSTON SHABBATON

The HS girls enjoyed a Shabbaton getaway to Kingston NY last week. They stayed at the new nicely furnished & comfortable guest rooms in the Agudas Achim synagogue on Lucas Avenue. They ate Friday Night dinner at the Itkin's home and Shabbos lunch at the Hecht's.



Each student prepared a Dvar Torah on the Parsha (mostly about the "Aseres HaDibros") and shared it at one of the Shabbos meals. Morah Moriah said a Dvar Torah at the Kiddush in Shul. The congregants were very friendly and happy to have the girls visit. On Motzai Shabbos Rabbi Itkin lit the fire-place, they baked homemade soft pretzels with different toppings, played ping-pong and air-hockey, and also helped send out a 1,800-piece mailing. They look forward to going back on March 4th for the "Siyum HaRambam" there.



**MAIMONIDES**  
404 Partridge Street  
Albany NY 12208



### FROG & TOAD IN FIRST GRADE

"Frog and Toad are friends..." Mrs. Carroll's first graders made their own frogs as they began to read this classic children's book.



### SAMECH & MEM DIFFERENCE

Samech and End/Shloss-Mem are both closed circular type letters, though Samech's are more rounded and End/Shloss-Mem's are more square-shaped. Nursery students used markers to try to pick them out from each other.



### MEGILLAH COVER CANISTERS

Kindergarteners decorated beautiful Megillah cases for the illustrated Megillahs they're working on in preparation for Purim.

### BRUCE & PRESIDENT SHAZAR

HS girls were working in the computer lab on a story of Israeli President Zalman Shazar's visit to Montreal in 1967, and Bruce Lorence was just then leaving the Bris, so Bruce told them that he met President Zalman Shazar at the official residence titled "Mishkan Nesiei Yisrael". Each year, the Israeli President had a Chol HaMoed Sukkot reception for the public and Bruce attended several times, meeting Presidents Shazar (who had Lubavitch roots and was close to the Lubavitcher Rebbe), Navon (who composed musicals), Katzir (an enzyme engineering scientist) and Herzog (who was the son of the former Chief Rabbi of Israel and before that of Ireland).

### AT THE SPA FOR BODY & SOUL

A diverse crowd of 120+ Jewish women from throughout the Capital Region enjoyed Kaila Lasky's story, engaging workshops, the luncheon and time together. The following story was also shared with the students at school: Mrs. Lasky told of a visit to a Rabbi's home when she was younger, and she was so impressed with the behavior and knowledge of the Rabbi's 4 kids, that she wished to herself, "I hope that I have kids like that when I get married..." Indeed, she now has 4 children, the same genders as at that Rabbi's table, and BH they too are following the ways of Torah...

### PURIM BAKED GOODS SALE

8th grade bake-sale will be offering baked goods for sale (as a fundraiser for their year-end trip) in time for Purim Mishloach Manot. \$5 per dozen cookies, \$6 per dozen for Rugelach and Hamantaschen. They continue to sell cookies each Wednesday. Call Chaya 439-8280 or Chana 833-0704 with any questions or to place an order.

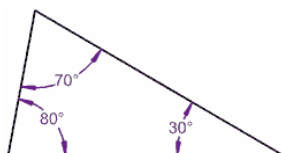


### HA'ETZ & HA'ADAMA BLESSING

Morah Devorah's first graders finished up a unit learning all about the different brachos for fruits and vegetables, and some of the tricky blessings (bananas, raspberries etc).

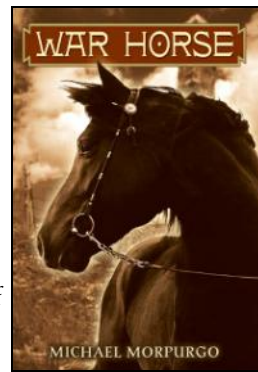
### MZT TO R' MATHLESS' TWIN

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Mathless & family on this week's engagement of his twin sister Souchie to Pinny Kievman.



### INTERIOR ANGLES

8th grade Math class is learning the formulas to determine the interior angles of a given shape, say this triangle for example.



### "WAR HORSE" ESSAYS

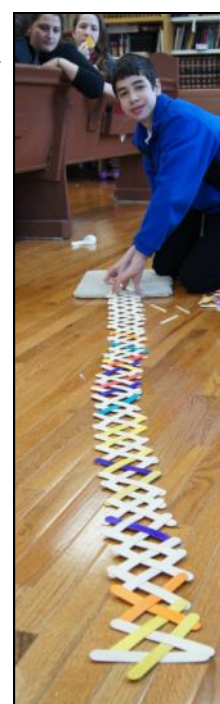
Now that middle school students finished reading Michael Morpurgo's "War Horse" they are each writing essays on a central theme of the story. Some students

are writing about the special relationship between horses and people, other students are focusing on the changing modes of warfare in WWI, and the effects of modernization.



### DANIEL'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

Fellow 8th graders surprised Daniel with a birthday party at school complete with cards, nosh and a cake, and even a smashing "popsicle-stick-bomb" performance (>) by his friend Eli. Daniel's birthday *Hachlatah* (resolution) is to increase Tzedakah (to the extent possible). Last year around this time we celebrated Daniel's Bar-Mitzvah with a very joyous communal celebration at school!



### THE PENNY MENORAH

We're now filling up the 6th jar!

Please, remember to

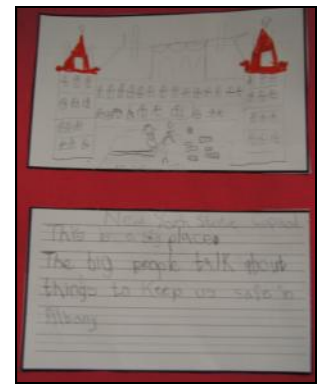
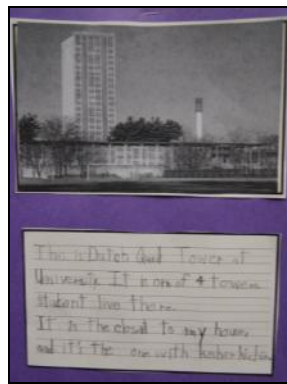
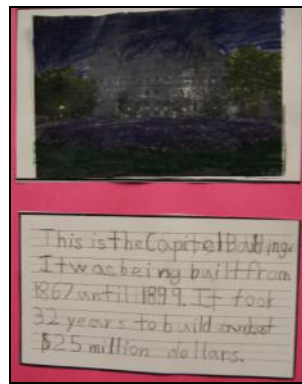
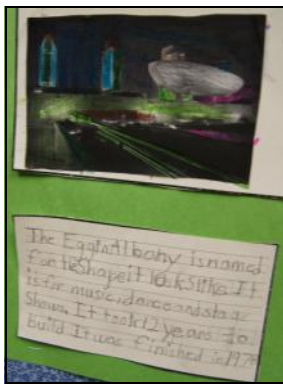
bring in pennies to school, so we can fill all 8 jars with pennies for Tzedakah. This week is Parshat Shekalim and a good time to try and complete the Penny-Menorah before Purim!





### “THE BOOK THIEF” MIXED-MEDIA PROJECTS

HS girls in Mrs. Mulder’s English class recently read Marcus Zusak’s “The Book Thief” which presents the Holocaust and WWII from an unusual, different perspective & it is written in a unique literary style. Each student worked on a mixed-media art project portraying aspects of the book in a visual, artistic perspective. (Our girls may attend the Federation’s upcoming “A German Life” event in connection with this book).



### LOCAL LANDMARK POSTCARDS AND DESCRIPTIONS

Each of Mrs. Carroll’s first graders had to take a photo of a local landmark and write up a description of it in their own words with some interesting details about the landmark building. Not all “postcards” shown. L-R are: The Egg (1976), Nott Memorial (1879) at Union College, NYS Capitol (1899) at night, Dutch Quad Tower at UAlbany, and a hand-drawn NYS Capitol building.

### PENNY ORBIT IN A BALLOON

Talking about pennies, 6/7 grade did an orbit experiment. They put a penny inside a clear (see-thru) balloon, shook up the balloon until the penny started spinning. Then they stopped the balloon from moving, but the penny kept swirling around inside. They also tried it with a hex-shaped hollow bolt, which added a funny sound as it orbited inside the balloon.

### FIRST MISHMAR OF THE YEAR

A group of boys stayed with Rabbi Andrusier after school on Monday. They paired up to study “Maayon-Chai” on the Parsha (about rational explanations for Mitzvot, and how Shlomo HaMelech understood all the Mitzvos aside for Parah-Aduma), and then got together in a group to discuss what they learned. They also enjoyed cake & soda, and the background on why soap may need a Hechsher.

### PRESIDENTIAL TRIVIA

Did you know that Jefferson kept bear-cubs as pets? Or that Washington produced 11,000 barrels of whiskey?

### THE MORNING BLESSINGS

3rd graders with Morah Moriah are learning the meaning of the daily morning blessings thanking G-d for basic things many might take for granted: eye-sight, freedom, clothing, etc...

### A TALMUD STORY MESSAGE

6/7th graders learned in Pesachim 106b about an argument if one can still make Havdalah if you already ate something or not, and how that played out in the story of R’ Asi (and R’ Asi’s wife) and R’ Yirmiya which shows that people can make mistakes, and that you can tolerate an opinion different than your own.

### JOHNNY TREMAIN UPDATE

5th graders read much of the book, then watched the film. Because of his accident, and later a false accusation, Johnny got a job with the “Boston Observer” which led to his role (historical fiction) in the Boston Tea-Party.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY M’ ROCHEL

Today is Morah Rochel’s (Hebrew) Birthday!

### CLASSROOM WISH LIST

- Morah Devorah is looking for tall Pringle-cans and empty 2-liter plastic bottles.
- Mrs. Carroll’s class needs plastic bins (12-15 quart size) with lids, color pencils and 2nd-4th grade reading level chapter books.
- “Nathan’s Kitchen” can always use plastic cutlery and paper-goods.
- Nursery is looking to get empty cottage cheese or butter containers, a fresh bag of sand for their sensory-table, and any scraps of material (felt, cloth, fabric etc).
- 8th grade can use a wall-clock, new whiteboard markers, rulers, & lined paper.
- A working CD-player.
- Tissue-Boxes for each classroom.
- A few pairs of scissors and masking tape.
- We just got new soccer goals, but we can use a few more balls, also for basketball.
- Handy, easy-to-use classroom cleansers.
- Dress-up hats and clothes for Nursery.
- HDMI cables (laptop to screen).
- Pennies for the Penny-Menorah!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## at Maimonides and in the Community

### 2/16: SIYUM TALMUD/SHLOSHIM

Daf-Yomi Siyum on Talmud Erchin following the 5:15pm Mincha/Maariv at CBAJ, also a Siyum of Shloshim for a Whitehall Station woman whose husband brought her along when he made Minyan.

### 2/17-26: PRESIDENTS WEEK BREAK

No school from Friday the 17th thru Sunday the 26th, school resumes 8am on Monday the 27th.

### 2/18: THE HALFS & HALF-NOTS

In honor of Parshas Shekalim & the Half-Shekel Rabbi Rubin (at Shomray Torah/Shteeble) will speak on "The Halfs and the Half-Nots" and after Musaf there will be a Shekalim Kiddush featuring (Pareve) chocolate coins.

### 2/18: RABBI REISMAN'S SAT NIGHT

Rabbi Yisrael Reisman's Navi class live from Brooklyn, Sat Night 8pm at CBAJ. Note the later time, a sign that the days are inching longer now.

### 2/22: "MONEY MATTERS" JLI CLASS

7:30-9pm at Maimonides, 6 Wednesdays on Jewish Business Ethics about current economic issues. Visit: [myJLI.com](http://myJLI.com) or call Rabbi Mathless 522-1872.

### 2/26: HANA'S SUITCASE @ SJCC

"Hana's Suitcase" was shown earlier this year at the Kristlnacht commemoration (our HS girls went). The film traces a Japanese search for the story behind Brady's suitcase to Thereisenstadt, her life before and during WWII. Schenectady JCC is showing it 6pm - part of a film festival co-sponsored by CGOH Sisterhood. \$8pp, \$3 students.

### 3/2: CAMPERSHIPS DEADLINE

Apply by 3/2 for Federations' camperships (beyond local camps) or enrichment trips and opportunities scholarships for local youth thru May 2013.

### 3/4: 30TH SIYUM HARAMBAM

Hosted by Chabad of Ulster County, at Cong. Agudas Achim, 254 Lucas Ave in Kingston. 3:30pm Divrei-Torah & Siyum, with simultaneous children's program, & Siyum Dinner at 4:30pm.

### 3/4: ZELDA'S SHEVA-BRACHOS

11:45am at Beth Tephilah. Mazal Tov Morrisons! Please RSVP to: 894-3491.

### 3/7-8: PURIM 5772!

Start planning your costume! Purim falls this year Wed night into Thursday. See column on right >>

### 3/11: MIFGASH POST-PURIM

Mifgash is hosting hypnotist Ronny Baras, at a post-Purim event and wine-sale open to the community, 6-8pm at Temple Israel. Call 439-0170 for info.

### 3/11: "A GERMAN LIFE"

7:15pm at Agudat Achim in Schenectady, a Joint Society event, featuring Bernd Wollschlaeger, MD, (son of a decorated WWII Nazi tank-commander) who was born, raised, and educated in Germany, emigrated to Israel, served in the IDF, now a physician in Miami. Call 783-7800 for cost & info.

### 3/14: SHARSHERET FOUNDER

Sharsheret is a support and advocacy group for Jewish women with breast cancer, founded by Rochelle Shoretz, a 2-time survivor. She'll be speaking for Federation's Women's Philanthropy, 7pm at CNSE/Nanotech. Call 783-7800 for info.

### 5/31: JERUSALEM CELEBRATION

JERNY is planning their 3rd annual Unity Celebration of Jerusalem, along with partnering orgs, this year Thurs, 5-9pm at Beth Emeth.

### 6/5: TENTATIVE DINNER DATE

The annual Maimonides Dinner is now in the planning stages, looking for honorees etc. Stay tuned for further details, save this tentative date.

### NEW "EL-BNAY" TORAH JOURNAL

MHDS alumni will once again be putting together a journal of local and alumni Torah scholarship (Hebrew/English) in time for Pesach. To submit your piece email it to: [lebedik1@gmail.com](mailto:lebedik1@gmail.com).

### FYI: \$2 HOT FRENCH FRIES @ KPC

The "Kosher Price Chopper" in Colonie now offers French-fries for only \$1.99 a serving. Pick up a fresh hot batch at the Kosher Deli Counter and sit down and enjoy it at the sit-down Market Café area near the Bagel Factory. **NOTE:** The fries are made in a meat-fryer and are therefore "Fleishig" (Meat).

### A MONT PLEASANT CHALLAH...

The "New Mont Pleasant Bakery" on Crane Street in Schenectady is the only Kosher fully Pareve (and Pas-Yisrael) independent bakery around, and they make a super delicious Challah! (also great éclairs, petit-fours and cookies, doughnuts and pastries..)

### BE A MINYANAIRE at sundown!

Even if you can't go regularly, try to stop in when you can for a Mincha/Maariv Minyan at Shomray Torah or CBAJ, some days you might be #10!



## PURIM 5772 / 2012

### COMMUNAL EVENTS

In addition to Shuls etc, here are "themed" Purim celebrations:

### 3/7: PURIM EVENING

- "Mexican Purim" at East Greenbush Firehouse
- "Israeli Purim" at Saratoga Chabad, 6pm
- "Occupy Purim" at Shabbos House, 6:15pm
- Megilla Reading & Party at Delmar Chabad
- "Beth Tephilah Great Show" Purim Party, 6:30
- Friendship Circle Megillah at Maimonides
- Purely Purim, No-Frills at Shteeble: 6:30
- CBAJ Puppet Show (4:45pm) Maariv/Megillah (6:35pm) followed by Ice-Cream Social
- Megillah & Costume Contest at Beth Israel

### 3/8: PURIM MORNING

- 7am Megillah at Beth Israel, Schenectady
- 8:45am Megillah at Shomray Torah after 8am Shachris and Zachor Torah Reading
- 10am Megillah at Maimonides, followed by 11am Purim Prunch & Pushka Paradise!
- 12pm-1pm Megillah @ U Heights Chabad
- UAlbany on-campus readings by Shabbos House.

### 3/8: PURIM LATE AFTERNOON

- "Red Hot Purim Fiesta" Clifton Park at West Crescent Firehouse (1440 Crescent Road) in Clifton Park. RSVP 495-0772/9.
- Bethlehem Chabad's "50's Purim" 5pm at the Normanside Country Club. \$10pp/\$36 family. Call 439-8280 for info and RSVP.
- CBAJ's 4pm Megillah, 5:45-7pm Talent-Show and Sing-a-long. Call 489-5819 for details.
- 4pm "The Great Show Cont." at Beth Tephilah
- 4:45pm Megillah and Seudah at Shabbos House
- Purim Seudah open to community at Rabbi Mirsky's home in Schenectady, call to RSVP.

Look for additional Purim event details in next "MC" (after Presidents Week)...

### ORDER "PURIM CARDS" FOR OUT-OF-TOWN FRIENDS & FAMILY

\$18 donation buys 10 cards that you can mail to friends and family in-lieu of Mishloach Manot. (Of course, this does not fulfill the actual obligation of giving at least one package of two foods to a friend on Purim day). Call 453-9363/495-0772 or email: [maimonidesschool@gmail.com](mailto:maimonidesschool@gmail.com) for more info.

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(Nursery / Elementary / High School)

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