

# RTA Stellar Education for Every Jewish Child

# וְאֶחָדָתָה... V'ahavta...

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## Candle Lighting

Friday, Jan. 11  
4:53 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 12  
Shabbat ends  
5:57 p.m.

## RTA Spelling Bee

This year's RTA Spelling Bee was a treat for all who participated and watched, and a remarkable performance by our talented students. Following the format we have used in recent years, grades 1-8 held their own in-class spelling bees to determine the winners to represent their respective classes. They were:

**1st Grade:** Nossen Gruber & Josh Korshin

**2nd Grade:** Leah Habib & Isaac Nichols

**3rd Grade:** Nathan Krumbein & Sruli Mayer

**4th Grade:** Elina Habib & Ahava Sherman

**5th Grade:** Chanah Rochel Follick & Avi Gruber

**6th Grade:** Miri David & Skyler Legano

**7th Grade:** Chaviva David, Joy Holi & Jeremy Levin

**8th Grade:** Aharon Bart & Gavriel Rakofsky



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**Saturday, Jan. 12**

PCL Program  
6:45 p.m.

**Monday, Jan. 14**

RTA vs. Good Shepherd  
6:00 pm @ WJCC

**Tuesday, Jan. 15**

What's Cooking?!  
3:45 - 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, Jan. 16**

7th/8th Grade Better  
Together Program @  
WJCC  
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 17**

Trip to Jumpology  
1:40 - 3:30 p.m.

No after school programs

**Legacy Heritage  
BetterTogether**

The Rudlin Torah Academy and Weinstein JCC  
**BETTER TOGETHER PROJECT**

would like to personally invite seniors in our community to join us for our Tu B'Shevat program!

**WED.  
JANUARY  
16** 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM  
WEINSTEIN  
JCC  
5403 Monument Ave, Richmond, VA 23226

The program is free and refreshments will be served  
The better together project brings RTA students and seniors from the local Jewish community together for learning, sharing, and relationship building. To learn more please call Sorah Plotnick at 516-642-9067.

**RTA**  
RUDLIN TORAH ACADEMY  
RICHMOND HEBREW DAY SCHOOL

**jcc**

## RTA Spelling Bee

(. . .continued from front page)

This past Tuesday, teachers and students all watched the school-wide spelling bee competition with the class representatives. It was an all-around amazing, dramatic performance. **Every contestant successfully spelled their way through the first round, seven students (including a 2nd grader!) made it to Round 10, and six students spelled their way successfully to round 15!**

In the end it came down to two outstanding students (with a 3-way tie for 3rd!) And in the end.....

**Congratulations to the winner of the 2018 RTA Spelling Bee – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student Nathan Krumbein!**

A special shout out to our runner-up, 4th grade student Elina Habib (who was our all-around winner last year!)

Very special thanks go to Mrs. Williams, Dr. Bradford & Rabbi Sherman for all of their help with the Spelling Bee!

Thank you to Mrs. Press for photographing our student spellers.

Congratulations to all our participants, and best of luck to Nathan in representing RTA in the next round, at the Richmond Private School Spelling Bee Finals!



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### RTA Spelling Bee



 **Spelling Bee**



**SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY THE TALENTED RTA 2nd & 4th GRADERS  
at the Richmond Jewish Food Festival  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19**

All students should arrive by 11:45 a.m. with performance to follow.

Students should wear their most recent RTA shirt (navy and white).

**The 12th Annual  
Richmond Jewish Food Festival**



**Weinstein JCC**

5403 Monument Ave  
Richmond, VA

**SUNDAY January 20  
MONDAY January 21  
11:30a - 7:30p**

Food  
Live Music  
Family-Friendly

Vendors  
Raffle  
Food Delivery

Free  
Parking Shuttle

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OF RICHMOND**



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FOR MORE INFORMATION



(804) 288-7953



[RichmondJewishFoodFestival.com](http://RichmondJewishFoodFestival.com)

## RTA Basketball

### RTA Basketball Season Has Begun

The RTA Iron Blue Lions have started their season with a very exciting victory. The packed stands of spectators were fortunate to see such a great game.

The back-and-forth game was close all the way through, with neither team able to take control. With RTA up by 2 points, their opponents, St. Bridget's, tied the score in the closing seconds. At the end of regulation play, the score was 20-20.

In the two minute overtime period, Gavriel Rakofsky scored to give RTA a 22-20 win.

Everyone on the team got into the game, which is always great. Welcome to the new players - Eliyahu Francis, Zalmi Mayer, and Daneel Olihnenco.

The next two games (Jan. 14 & 21) are against annual rivals, Good Shepherd and Waldorf. Both games start at 6:00 pm at our home court at The Weinstein JCC.

We encourage one and all to keep attending games and cheering on our Iron Blue Lions.



## Box Tops for Education Program

Congratulations to the Gunzburg family for bringing in the most box tops during the month of December and winning an Amazon gift card.

Thank you to all of those who sent in box tops! They all add up!

Please remember to send in your box tops in a Ziploc bag labeled with your family's name and put it in the Box Tops for Education box located in the hallway.



## Parsha Points

Each week we feature an article on the weekly Torah portion.

### Bo (Exodus 10:1-13:16) The Big Minute

When G-d informs Moses of the tenth and final plague, he tells him that it will happen "about" midnight. The language is a little striking, and Rashi, the great commentator, asks why G-d was not more precise with the time. (Doesn't G-d have a cellphone?!)

Rashi answers that timekeeping was an inexact science in those days. Were G-d to have said "exactly" midnight, people might have confused their timings and thought that it was G-d, and not them, who had made a mistake. To avoid potential confusion, G-d says "approximately."

At first glance, this answer is bizarre. Let's put it in context for a moment: G-d has brought ten miraculous plagues upon Egypt - blood, locust with iron teeth, hail with fire inside, darkness that is palpable... These miracles are about to climax with the slaying of every firstborn Egyptian in a single moment. And G-d is worried that because someone might not have an atomic clock, he will think that G-d's not as omnipotent as he says He is?!

The answer, quite simply, is yes. We, as fallible human beings, are always looking for reasons to doubt G-d. We are constantly on the lookout for excuses. People often say that they don't believe in G-d. But if G-d were to perform an instant miracle and talk directly to them, then they certainly would!

There is no answer to such an argument, of course. G-d is not a performing dog, trying desperately to convince skeptics that He really exists.

But the truth is that even WERE such a miracle to happen, a person could, and probably would, still find a reason why it wasn't G-d! Maybe it was a dream, maybe he was hallucinating, maybe the Rabbi pulled a good trick because he wants to convince me that G-d exists...or perhaps it was just "a phenomenon!"

When a person does not wish for something to be true, for subjective reasons, all the evidence in the world will not convince him.

There is no lack of evidence for G-d's existence, for one who wishes to look. But for many, the thought of discovering G-d to be an objective reality has too many painful, even horrific ramifications: absolute morality, eternal consequences to decisions, and nowhere to run. Who would want all of that? People would so much rather that G-d not exist. And it is so easy to subconsciously ignore all the evidence, when one has already decided what one wishes to conclude.

For the person who does not wish to discover that which stares him in the face, then if the tenth plague begins a minute late, that will be excuse enough. It need not be rational. It need not be convincing. It need only be something to grasp onto. And a minute is plenty to grasp onto, when the consequences are great, and the conclusion has already been reached.

*Adapted with permission from the award winning website, [www.aish.com](http://www.aish.com).*