



Stellar Education for Every Jewish Child

# ואהבת... וואהבת

Feb. 1, 2019 26 Shevat, 5779

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## Tu B'Shevat Program

We celebrated Tu B'Shevat (the new year of the trees) last week with an exciting and educational program. Morah Aronowitz explained that on Tu B'Shevat Hashem decides how much produce the trees are going to yield this coming year. We say blessings on the foods because we are grateful to Hashem for the delicious food that He provides.



(continued on page 8. . .)



## Parent-Teacher Conferences are Monday, February 18th.

Reservations for Parent-Teacher Conferences, on Monday, February 18th, will now be taken. Please call Mrs. Klosenberg at 353-1110 or email [mrsklosenberg@rudlin.com](mailto:mrsklosenberg@rudlin.com) with your requests. Parents are encouraged to sign-up early to be able to schedule desired times. The deadline to sign-up is Thursday, February 14th.

The 8th Grade will be offering babysitting services for RTA conference day during the times of your appointments. When you sign up for conferences, please let Mrs. Klosenberg know if you would like babysitting for your children.



### Candle Lighting

Friday, Feb. 1  
5:15 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 2  
Shabbat ends  
6:19 p.m.

## REMINDER

**All Mishloach Manot orders are due Friday, February 8.**  
Please see information on pages 2-5.



**Friday, Feb. 1 -  
Saturday, Feb. 2**  
RTA Middle School  
Shabbaton

**Saturday, Feb. 2**  
No PCL Program

**Monday, Feb. 4**  
RTA vs. Montessori School  
6:00 p.m. @ WJCC

### Tuesday, Feb. 5

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

Meat Order Pick up at  
Shaarei Torah of Richmond  
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, Feb. 6

Board Meeting  
RTA @ Ohr Chadish  
Academy, Baltimore  
5:00 p.m.

### Thursday, Feb. 7

Computer Coding  
3:40 - 5:00 p.m.

Soccer  
3:40 - 5:00 p.m.

**Friday, Feb. 8**  
Mishloach Manot  
Deadline

RTA - PVA

# PRESENTS



Brunch Style

# PURIM



## MISHLOACH MANOT

- Bagels.....INCLUDED
- Pastries.....INCLUDED
- Coffee.....INCLUDED
- More.....INCLUDED

## ORDER FORMS

### SCHOOL WEBSITE

Visit <http://hudlin.com/> to find the form online

## **PVA Purim Project Frequently Asked Questions**

**The PVA Purim Project is the major PVA fundraiser of the year. The current format is in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year.**

**What are Mishloach Manot?** In Megillat Esther, Chapter 9:20-22, it says "These were to be days of feasting and joy, and *sending portions one to another*, and gifts to the poor." These "portions" are known as *Mishloach Manot*. Therefore, we send gift boxes including treats such as hamentaschen, candies, and other specialty items. In order to fulfill the mitzvah of giving Mishloach Manot, we encourage you to personally deliver one of your own.

**How does it work?** Orders are received by our wonderful office staff. The orders are then entered into a database. Once all orders are entered, hours of verification take place to ensure that the orders were entered correctly and are being sent to the correct addresses. As each address is entered, a map page number and grid are assigned. This is used to group the orders into routes. Once the routes are sorted, they must be reviewed for manageability. If one route is too large, it must be split into two or more routes.

While all of this is taking place, RTA shoppers are scouring the stores for delicacies to include in the Mishloach Manot boxes. At last, assembly day arrives. The entire gym becomes an assembly line with volunteers doing everything from assembling boxes, to putting items in the boxes, to carrying out the garbage. Cards are printed at this time and cards for out-of-town recipients are addressed and mailed. Then the fun begins — the distribution and delivery of about 800 boxes in just a few days.

**What needs to be done?** The PVA Purim Project has a job for everyone. The many jobs include shopping, assembly, and delivery. There is also a need at dismissal time to distribute the RTA/ST/YVA children and family Mishloach Manot. It takes the efforts of many volunteers. For example, last year there were 56 delivery routes!

**How many Mishloach Manot boxes are made?** This year's total won't be known until after the deadline. In the past it has been as high as 1200 Mishloach Manot boxes — 250 children's and 950 family size. We also mail greetings to approximately 100 families each year, including Israel and Canada!

**What are the delivery areas?** Our area of delivery includes zip codes 23059, 23060, 23103, 23112–23114, 23220, 23221, 23225, 23226, 23227, 23228, 23229, 23230, 23233, 23235, 23238, and 23294. For your friends outside our delivery area, we will send a lovely Purim greeting card.

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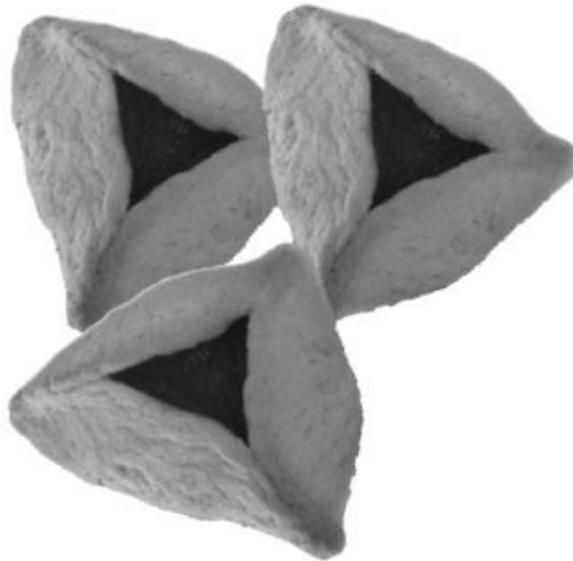
**How much does it cost?** Nine dollars (\$9) a name. A special package is offered, in which you may send Mishloach Manot greetings to every RTA/STOR/YVA parent, faculty, and board member for the low price of **\$125**.

**What is Auto-Reciprocity?** If you want to make sure you haven't forgotten someone, auto-reciprocity is the answer for you. We will check your order to ensure that you are sending Mishloach Manot to everyone sending Mishloach Manot to you. We do require credit card payment for this feature. Nine dollars (\$9) for each name added to your list will be included in the amount charged to your credit card.

**Who do I call to volunteer or if I have questions?** Please call the RTA office (353-1110).

DEADLINE: February 8!

פורים שמח!



Happy Purim!



### Students Perform at Richmond Jewish Food Festival

The second and fourth grade RTA students entertained a huge crowd this year at the Richmond Jewish Food Festival at the Weinstein JCC.

Special thanks to Mr. Leo Vaynberg for taking beautiful photos of the students.

**Thank you to Mrs. Plotnick & Morah Aronowitz for directing this special performance!**



*(more photos on next page . . .)*

### Students Perform at Richmond Jewish Food Festival

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The Richmond  Jewish Food Festival

## Tu B'Shevat Program

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We also discussed how we can show our Hakaras Hatov (appreciation) to people around us. The best place to start with Hakaras Hatov is at home. Since school is our home away from home, it was befitting to thank our principal, teachers and staff for all that they do.

Each student in grades K-3 chose a teacher to thank and made them a beautiful thank you card. The card expressed what the students are thankful to their teachers for. The students then got to design trees using different kinds of fruit.

In grades 4-8, the students were arranged into different "brachos" groups. Each group had a list of four teachers/office staff that they had to thank in a presentation and the school had to guess which teacher they were thanking. The students also designed beautiful brachos posters (which were hung in the gym). The program concluded with making fruit kabobs.

There are many people who helped and assisted with the program. Thank you to Morah Jane, Mrs. Plotnick, Mrs. Bender, Mr. Copeland and all the wonderful students who volunteered to help with the setup and cleanup.

**Special thanks to Morah Aronowitz for creating and running this amazing, enriching program!**



(more photos on next page . . .)

### Tu B'Shevat Program

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### Accelerated Reader Program

The Accelerated Reader Program is going full blast at RTA. Two readers have been given Barnes and Noble gift cards for a combined total of over 1,000 points!

Congratulations to Lily Lusk and Chana Rochel Follick!



## Parsha Points

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

### Mishpatim (Exodus 21-24) Down-To-Earth Spirituality

Last week's Parsha told of the dramatic revelation of God to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai. It was a spiritual trip so powerful that every Jew literally had an out-of-body experience. The ultimate.

This week's follow-up, Mishpatim, is one of the longest Torah portions, containing an exhaustive list of over 50 separate mitzvot. Included are laws regarding kidnapping, cursing authority, personal injury and property damage, occult practices, helping the poor and vulnerable, returning lost objects, and alleviating the suffering of animals.

The juxtaposition between the two Parshas is striking: After the spiritual high of Mount Sinai, why would God "bring us down" (so to speak) with all these details of daily life?! It's like being all heated up and then thrown into a cold shower. The two Parshas, it seems, are 180 degrees apart.

The truth is that they are two sides of the same coin. The spiritual high of Sinai is gratifying, but it doesn't solve one problem of the world in which we live. Spirituality is not achieved by meditating alone on a mountaintop or by learning in an out-of-the-way monastery. Jewish spirituality comes through grappling with the mundane world in a way that uplifts and elevates.

Jews don't retreat from life, we elevate it. On Friday night, we raise the cup of wine and use it - not to get drunk - but to make Kiddush and sanctify the Sabbath day. Spirituality, says Judaism, is to be found in the kitchen, the office, and yes, even in the bedroom.

#### FLASH OF INSPIRATION

If that's true, why did we need Mount Sinai in the first place?

Because a powerful spiritual experience is what jump-starts our engines. Many of us have experienced such a moment of insight – perhaps it was standing at the Western Wall or atop Masada, or a particularly inspiring Yom Kippur sermon, or an exhilarating Discovery Seminar. But - that feeling lasts only a short time.

Maimonides explains this metaphorically as follows:

Imagine you're lost at night, trudging knee-deep in mud through a dark and vicious rain-storm. Suddenly a single flash of lightning appears, illuminating the road ahead. It is the only light you may see for miles. This single flash must guide you on through the night.

So too, says Maimonides, one burst of inspiration may have to last for years.

The Torah message is to capture that moment of inspiration and use it transform our daily living. The moment of insight needs to be concretized.

And as a simple example - after being commanded in awe-inspiring fashion from G-d Himself in last week's Parsha "Thou shall not steal" - this week's Parsha gets into the nitty gritty – details of the legal process of how to prosecute a thief.

The lofty level of yesterday is no guarantee we'll retain that level tomorrow. It is only with the follow through of G-d's laws in our daily life that can we hope to elevate ourselves and our world.

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