

RTA Stellar Education for Every Jewish Child

וְאֶחָדָתָה... V'ahavta...

Feb. 8, 2019 3 Adar I, 5779

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Candle Lighting

Friday, Feb. 8
5:23 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 9
Shabbat ends
6:27 p.m.

RTA Middle School Shabbaton

The 2019 RTA Middle School Shabbaton kicked off with a bang at RTA on Friday afternoon, as the students gathered for a video presentation about how our attitudes affect our everyday lives. They learned the importance of "don't blame, don't complain", and how that simple motto can change our outlook on life. They then watched a short film with a marvelous story about how one man's house burning down led to a young girl re-discovering her roots and beginning healing years of pain.

The students were then brought to their host homes, gift in hand, and prepared for Shabbat. They all arrived in shul that afternoon ...



(continued on page 6 . . .)



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 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.

Dates to Remember



Grandparents & Special Friends Day

**Friday, March 15
@ 1:30 p.m.**

Saturday, Feb. 9
No PCL Program

Monday, Feb. 11
RTA vs. St. Bridget School
6:00 p.m. @ WJCC

Tuesday, Feb. 12
8th Grade Hot Dog Cafe
(Please see flyer on page 9)

**Tuesday, Feb. 12
(continued)**
What's Cooking?!
3:45 - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 13
7th/8th Grade Better
Together Program @
WJCC
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 14
Computer Coding
3:40 - 5:00 p.m.

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

Give or Get!

*Thank you & congratulations to the following families for completing
the Give or Get requirement:*

Aronowitz

Bender

Cantor

Ciment

Follick

Galpern

Gunzburg

Habib

Klestzick

Krumbein

Rosen

Lusk



There are many ways to earn points toward Give or Get & have fun doing it!
We hope you'll find an opportunity that works for you

Upcoming Opportunities to Earn Points:

BINGO, offered twice weekly

Volunteer for a Saturday night or Sunday game,
and earn \$200 toward Fundraising.
Contact Robin Odom in the RTA office to sign up.

Mishloach Manot for Purim

Help with packaging and/or deliveries!
Contact Yali Klestzick for more information.

Chessed DINNER, June 4th

Make phone calls to sell ads for the Chessed Journal,
or help the day of the dinner (set-up in the afternoon or clean-up
after the program concludes.)

Chaperone a Class or School Trip

Look out for notices from your child(ren)'s teacher
or the school office.

Don't forget to submit any points you have earned by emailing GiveOrGet@rudlin.com



The Rudlin Torah Academy and Weinstein JCC
BETTER TOGETHER PROJECT

would like to personally invite seniors in our community to join us for our Adar Celebration!

When the month of Adar comes our happiness is increased!

**WED
FEBRUARY
13** 11:00 AM -
12:30 PM
WEINSTEIN
JCC

5403 Monument Ave, Richmond, VA 23226

The program is free and refreshments will be served

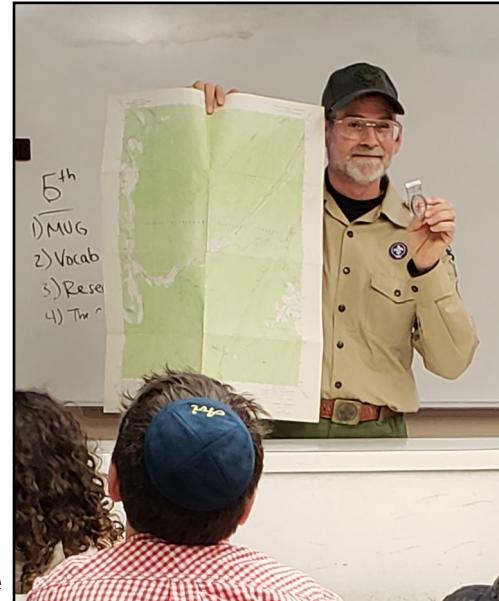
The better together project brings RTA students and seniors from the local Jewish community together for learning, sharing, and relationship building. To learn more please call Sorah Plotnick at 516-642-9067.



5th/6th Grade Guest Speaker

Both the fifth and sixth grade English classes are reading novels about a young boy's survival in the wilderness. In order to make our reading come to life, Mrs. Cantor invited Mr. Ben Melton, wilderness expert and Boy Scout Troop Leader, to speak to the students about survival skills. Mr. Melton spoke from personal experiences, while also expanding upon some of the challenges and solutions that the characters encounter in our class novels.

The beginning of the presentation highlighted what steps you should take to prevent a survival situation. Before going out into the woods, you should always share your itinerary with someone. You should also go with a buddy, bring a map and compass, and always consider the weather when packing your gear. Then, making connections to our novels, Mr. Melton discussed some of the more essential details for survival, including what to do if you get lost, how to collect rain water to drink, which wild plants and berries are edible, and how to build a shelter. Mr. Melton connected many of his points to sources from the Torah and halacha, as he talked about the kashrut status of certain fish and the mitzvah of sending away the mother bird before taking the eggs, making his points all the more relevant for our students. The students left the presentation with a better understanding of the characters' experiences in their novels, while also learning some real-world skills.



RTA First Graders Enthrall Audience at the JCC Preschool Shabbat Program

On Friday, January 25th, Morah Joan & Mrs. MacAulay's first graders gave a delightful performance at the JCC preschool Shabbat program. Their singing, Hebrew language and poetry skills were equally matched by their artistic expression and stage presence!



RTA Middle School Shabbaton

(. . .continued from front page)

to welcome the Shabbat with song, during evening prayers, led by our very own Daniel Gunzburg. The students were then hosted for dinner by three staff members: the Aronowitz, Sherman Sr. and Sherman Jr. families. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and the 5th grade even prepared and shared their own dvar Torah at the Aronowitz home!

All the students met back at the Shul, where Rabbi Sherman Sr. proceeded to lead everyone in some special Shabbos songs. They heard an amazing story from Rabbi Bart that highlighted a person's ability to ask for forgiveness and how men who had met in the past were brought together under extraordinary circumstances.

The students then went upstairs to the social hall where they had an Oneg Shabbat (Shabbat party). The table was filled with what a pre-teen child's dream must look like: cupcakes, cookies, candy and soda (sorry, parents) as well as many other treats were in abundance. At the Oneg, the students played a round of the very competitive 'friendship game'. Naava Plotnick, an 8th grader, gave an illuminating dvar Torah about the Torah commandment against cursing and striking one's parents and how the Rabbis warn us to take our words with the utmost seriousness as well as our actions. At the end of the evening, the children were escorted to their host homes.

All the students arrived bright and early on Shabbat morning at shul for Shacharit and joined together with the congregation. They even got to hear two of our own RTA students (Aharon Bart and Gavriel Rakofsky) read from the Torah for the whole congregation. Afterwards, RTA sponsored a kiddush for the whole congregation that featured ice cream and much more. The children then proceeded to go to discussion groups, that were selected by the students beforehand, on a variety of different subjects including: animals, moshiach, and the appropriate way to judge others. The students engaged beautifully, asked questions and learned a lot.



Next, the students joined together for an amazing lunch with the RTA staff. The food was delicious and plentiful, and while we ate, we heard thoughtful words of Torah from Aharon Bart about the power of the unity of the Jewish people. Next up, Rabbi Skaist gave an inspiring dvar Torah that included a story about the importance of keeping your word, even when it may diminish your chances at success. After a few songs and Birkat HaMazon, the children went to Mincha, the afternoon service. Afterwards, the students had some free time. They made good use of this by playing games and walking to a nearby park to enjoy the afternoon.

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RTA Middle School Shabbaton

(. . .continued from page 6)

In the evening, the group made their way to Seudah Shlishit. The boys went to the Shermans and the girls went to the Goldbergs. There was yet more food to be eaten, and a great deal of socializing. At the girls' Seudah Shlishit, Chaviva David gave a wonderful dvar Torah about the importance of having and following a mentor, just like the prophet Yehoshua would not leave Moshe Rabeinu's side. At the boys Seudah Shlishit, Dovid Aronowitz spoke about the meaning behind the words Naaseh Vi'Nishma from an idea from the great Beis HaLevi. Before Birkat Hamazon, we heard from Rabbi Bart about the importance of taking one's own experiences and using them as a basis for understanding of what a fellow person is going through, which will lead to true empathy.

The students then davened Maariv and heard Havdala. Everyone then quickly scrambled back to their host homes, changed, packed their things, and thanked their hosts for their hospitality. The students were then picked up and it was off to G-Force! Most of the students raced go-karts at very high speeds, with Reuben Eichelberg taking the title of fastest lap. All the students competed in a team game of laser tag with very close results. After returning to KBI, delicious mac and cheese and baked ziti were enjoyed by all!

The Shabbaton concluded with a kumzitz, singing circle, led by Rabbi Sherman Sr. as well as some powerful, inspiring words about Emunah in Hashem. Gavriel Rakofsky gave a beautiful dvar Torah, based on an idea from Rabbi Shimon Schwab about the importance of devoting ourselves to service of Hashem and not overindulging in our own desires. Everyone sang until the close when the students were picked up.

The weekend was packed with exhilarating and inspiring moments that will live in the memories of each of these children forever. A special thank you to the staff who made this experience possible for the children: Rabbi Bart, Rabbi Sherman Sr., Morah Perel, Morah Aronowitz, Mrs. Plotnick, Mrs. Lessin, Mrs. Arielle Sherman and Mrs. Marlene Cantor. A big thank you to the following families who hosted students, gave rides, chaperoned, cooked and did anything and everything we asked for: Aronowitz, Bart, Bender, Chandler, Francis, Freedlander, Goldberg Jr, Goldberg Sr., Greene, Gunzburg, Ariel and Yali Klestzick, Yitzy and Deena Klestzick, Lessin, Plotnick, Rakofsky, Rosen and Weinberger. We also want to thank the many sponsors including a significant donation from the PVA. We were overwhelmed by the support that this Shabbaton received and feel so fortunate to have been able to provide this unique experience to the amazing students of RTA!

A very special thank you goes to the teacher whose vision, dedication and talent made the entire Shabbaton such an outstanding success for a third straight year - Rabbi Menachem Sherman!!



(more photos on next page . . .)

RTA Middle School Shabbaton

(. . .continued from page 7)



8th Grade Hot dog cafe

February 12th

*Hot dog, baked beans,
chips, lemonade
and dessert*

\$5





Cities

by the Third Grade

The third grade talked about cities and all the things you would see in them. They designed a scene from a busy city. They even made a street including cars, taxis and buses. They used oil pastels.



Kayla Galpern



Jacob Farzad



Nathan Krumbein



Phoebe Shoenfeld



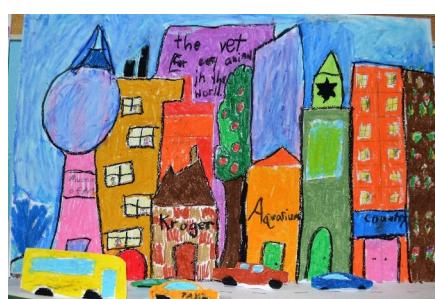
Simon Klestzick



Yehoshua Aronowitz



Miriam Follick



Elana Asher



Arianna Follick



Rivkah Eichelberg



Judah Hecht



Iris Krumbein

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Cities

by the Third Grade

(continued from page 10)



Chava Gruber



Yisroel Mayer

Stained Glass

by the 7th and 8th Grade

The 7th and 8th grade art class looked at many examples of stained glass. They learned how to design a picture with black borders between each shape. They used tissue paper to insert color and give their picture life.



Daniel Gunzburg



Zalmi Mayer



Jeremy Levin



Ephraim Francis



Yael Kranz



Sheindy Paley

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Stained Glass

by the 7th and 8th Grade

(continued from page 11)



Joy Holi



Julie Weissman



Dovid Aronowitz



Shmuel Follick



Gavriel Rakofsky



Esti Mayer



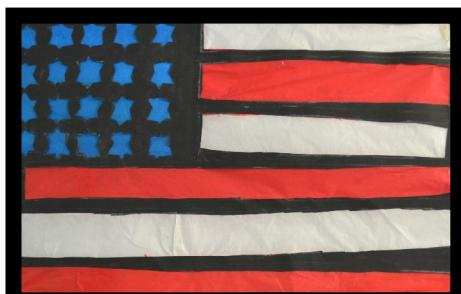
Chaviva David



Izabella Bender



Amira Sherman



Naava Plotnick

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Stained Glass

by the 7th and 8th Grade

(continued from page 12)



Aharon Bart



Reuben Eichelberg



Avi Greene



Basya Gunzburg



Tamar Kranz

UPDATED RTA IRON BLUE LIONS - 2019 SCHEDULE

Date	Tip-off	Team	Location	Notes
2/11/19	6:00	St. Bridget's 2	5403 Monument Ave. Richmond, VA 23226	5:30 in gym
2/14/19	4:00	At Waldorf (AWAY)	1301 Robin Hood Rd, Richmond, VA 23227	3:20 dismissal - carpool (Coach Avi)
2/17/19	4:00	Toras Chaim of Norfolk	5000 Corporate Woods Dr. VA Beach, VA 23462	Email Coach Avi if player attending!
2/18/19	6:00	Dads Game	5403 Monument Ave. Richmond, VA 23226	5:30 in gym, Senior Night
3/4/19	7:00	RTA/YVA Game	5403 Monument Ave. Richmond, VA 23226	6:30 in gym

Please note: Added games have been highlighted



Parsha Points

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

Trumah (Exodus 25:1-27:19) Holy Inside and Out

This week's Parsha describes the construction of the Mishkan, the portable Temple that traveled with the Jewish People during their 40 years in the desert (and for 500 years after), until finding its permanent home in Jerusalem.

At the center of the Mishkan was the Holy Ark which contained the Tablets of the Ten Commandments. This Ark was a square box made of wood. The Torah explains (Exodus 25:11): "You shall cover the wood with pure gold from the inside and from the outside."

The need to cover the outside of the Ark with gold is understandable: The centerpiece of the Mishkan should certainly be majestic and regal. But what need is there to cover the wood on the inside of the box as well?

The Talmud (Yoma 72b) explains: A person's outward appearance must be an accurate reflection of their insides as well. In other words, don't be a hypocrite.

We all know someone who is a fake - quick with a smile, yet ready to stab you in the back just the same. Sadly, part of getting by in life is the ability to discern the genuine from the fake. Maybe that's what King Solomon meant when he said, "Better the anger of a friend than the kiss of an enemy." At least you know what you're getting.

One of the wonders of Judaism is how the Hebrew language reveals truths about everyday life. The Hebrew word for face - "paneem," is nearly identical to the Hebrew word for interior - "pineem." This teaches that the face we present must reflect our insides. (Contrast this with the English word "face," which shares its origins with "facade," meaning a deceptive appearance.)

This aversion to hypocrisy is reflected in the laws of kashrut as well. The one Jewish law that everyone in the world seems to know is that a Jew is not allowed to eat ham, pork or anything else derived from a pig. Interestingly, there is nothing in the Torah that seems to make this prohibition more stringent than eating, for example, catfish or a chocolate-covered ant. Why then have we singled out this prohibition against the pig?

The Torah identifies the pig as the *only* animal in the world (zoologists concur) possessing the outward symbol of kosher - split hooves - but not the inward symbol - chewing the cud. The pig therefore represents that which is kosher in outward appearance but is in fact unclean on the inside. This type of hypocrisy is described the Talmud as one of the categories of behavior that God detests. For that moral reason, the pig is universally viewed as reprehensible to the Jew.

Back to our Parsha... We're left with one glaring question: If the Ark is covered with gold both on the inside and the outside, then what need is there at all for the shell to be made out of wood?! Why not simply make the ark one solid piece of gold?

The answer is that attaining purity and sincerity does not necessarily happen overnight. Like any important goal, it is achieved through constant, steady growth. Wood - organic and dynamic - represents this idea.

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Parsha Points

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Judaism is not all-or-nothing. Observance of Torah might begin with the lighting of Shabbos candles. Or it might mean studying the weekly Parsha, 15 minutes a day. Or it might mean reciting Shema Yisrael before going to bed.

Imagine stumbling across a gold mine. Would you turn down the gold because you know you won't find all the gold mines in the world? So too, every Mitzvah is a gold mine. Of course, we strive ultimately to fulfill them all. But even if we do just one, our lives are enriched forever.

The important thing is not where we are on the ladder, but rather in what direction we're headed, and how many rungs we've climbed. One tree does not compare its rings against another. Growth through Torah is the same way. Whatever effort you make to come close to the Almighty, whatever Torah you learn - the impact is cumulative. Perhaps that's why the Torah likens a person to a tree (see Deut. 20:19). Steady and constant, every drop counts.

The Talmud (Brachos 28a) says that in the Yeshiva of Rabban Gamliel, the prerequisite for admission was that a student's internal character had to match his outer appearance. Rabban Gamliel did not accept just anybody into the Yeshiva; he accepted only those who were honest, sincere and free of hypocrisy.

The Talmud continues: After Rabban Gamliel left his position as head of the Yeshiva, they instituted a new policy whereby any student - fitting or not - could be admitted. Hundreds of new students flocked to sign up. At which point, Rabban Gamliel became depressed and said, "Perhaps, God forbid, I have withheld Torah from the Jewish People!"

The Chiddushei HaRim (19th century Europe) asks: What was Rabban Gamliel saying? Of course he knew all along that his strict admission policy prevented some people from learning! So why is he so surprised now and getting depressed?

The answer is that Rabban Gamliel saw that because all those new students spent time in the Yeshiva, they too became honest and sincere by virtue of having learned Torah. Torah has the power to transform a person from mediocre to great.

At the beginning of this week's parsha, God commands the Jewish People to "Make Me a Mishkan, so that I may dwell within them" (Exodus 25:8). The Talmud points out that the verse should have read, "Make Me a Mishkan, so that I may dwell within it." Why then the language of "dwell within **them**"?

Because, answer our Sages, the Torah is telling us that the goal of building the Mishkan is not merely to create a House for God, but to sanctify a place for Him within the people. Each individual Jew must personally strive to become a microcosm of the Mishkan: a living, breathing bastion of holiness.

Today, let us hope to find the strength and inspiration to build our very own Mishkan. And may its Ark be crafted of fine wood, laden with gold, both inside and out.



Mister G

Family Concert & Dinner



March 27 • Dinner at 5PM, Show at 6:15PM

A Latin GRAMMY Award winner for Best Children's Album, Mister G has been called "a bilingual rockstar" by *The Washington Post* and "irresistible" by *People Magazine*. Spanning genres from bluegrass to bossa nova, funk to folk, his dynamic, original music has won praise from *The Boston Globe*, *Chicago SunTimes*, *People*, *New York Post*, and *Parents Magazine*.

General Admission Cost:
\$15 Adult, \$10 Child, \$35 Family Max

JCC Members Cost:
\$12 Adult, \$8 Child, \$25 Family Max

This event is presented in partnership with the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond and PJ Library.



Jewish Community Federation
OF RICHMOND



For more information and to purchase tickets,
visit weinsteinjcc.org/events or call 285.6500.