



Stellar Education for Every Jewish Child

U'ahavta... ואהבת

Sept. 20, 2019

20 Elul, 5779

Better Together Opener

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Better Together is back for our third year and it is incredible!!! We were so excited to welcome our amazing, helpful seventh grade students to Better Together!!! RTA students enjoyed meeting and greeting new and old senior friends, at the Weinstein JCC, this past Wednesday.

We opened with an afternoon of sweet celebrations for the Jewish New Year. Seniors and students worked together to design a honey plate to be used on their holiday tables throughout this festive season!!

Then, we were fortunate to hear meaningful words of Torah from Rabbi Bart who spoke about the importance of starting the New Year off on the right foot with our actions and words, to set the tone for what we hope will be the rest of the year.

We learned about all the different simanim, traditionally eaten on the first night of Rosh Hashana, their meaning and significance. Of course, when learning about them, we needed to try all of them, so students and seniors shared a Rosh Hashana smorgasbord - apples and honey, round challahs, pomegranate, jelly fish, butternut squash kugel, beets, dates, caramelized honey carrots, gefilte fish and pomegranate ice cream.



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Candle Lighting

Friday, Sept. 20
6:52 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 21
Shabbos Ends
7:53 p.m.



Monday, Sept. 23

Art Club
3:40 - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 24

KG - Tashlich
@ Wellesley Lake
12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 24

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

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

Meat Order Pick up
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
@Shaarei Torah of Richmond
4811 Patterson Avenue

Wednesday, Sept. 25

SCHOOL PHOTOS
*(please see order form
on page 3)*

Thursday, Sept. 26

Taco Café - Hot Lunch
(please see flyer on page 4)

Chess Club
3:40 - 5:00 p.m.

Rudlin Torah Academy August High Holiday Appeal

Thank you for giving to the 2019 Rudlin Torah Academy High Holiday Appeal. Listing below is for donations received through Thursday, September 19, 2019.

Parents - Your Tzedakah Can Double!

We are grateful to all who have already donated to RTA's 2019 High Holiday Campaign. For RTA families, we have been granted a Match for this campaign and will receive **an additional \$1,800** when we reach at least **75% RTA family** participation. This means that your meaningful gift to RTA becomes an even greater investment in the education of our children.

We need your help! The High Holiday Campaign, together with tuition, Run-a-Latke and Grandparents & Special Friends Day, all allow RTA to meet the needs of our students, teachers and staff. Help us to invest in our children, support our scholarship needs, and contribute to our exciting, growing RTA family. This is a Mitzvah opportunity too great to miss!

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Adolf
Ms. Frances Amernick
Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Asher
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Barck
Shoshana Bart
Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Bajtner
Mr. & Mrs. Meir Binshtok
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Buehler
Mr. & Mrs. Amit Cahana
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Chester
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Cohen
Rabbi & Mrs. Edward Davis
Mrs. Adrienne W.L. Epstein
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Dranoff
Mr. & Mrs. Roben Farzad
Ms. Toby Friedman

Mr. & Mrs. Avi Gunzburg
Dr. & Mrs. Eliezer Gunzburg
Mrs. Sultana Habib
Mrs. Helen Horwitz
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Howard
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Ipson
Mr. Ronny Ipson
Kerns and Kastenbaum, PCL
Dr. Michael Kiken
Ms. Paola Korall
Rabbi & Mrs. Saul Koss
Ms. Ronnie Lesh
Mr. Robert Lichtenstein
Ms. Judith Levine-Maizels
Rabbi & Mrs. Shlomo Mayer
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Moes

Mr. Martin Nathanson
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Olshansky
Dr. & Mrs. Walter Rabhan
Mr. Michael Rosen
Ms. Toby Rosenthal
Mr. Richard Ross
Mrs. Sheila Selznick
Mr. Simon Sibelman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Siegel
Ms. Olga Solomonova
Mr. Todd Weinberg & Ms. Kate Moore
Dr. & Mrs. Yehoshua Weinstein
Mrs. Wendy Lusk Weisberger
Dr. & Mrs. Sam Weprin
Mr. & Mrs. David Winston

Mazel tov to Rabbi Yosef & Leah Skaist on the birth of a grandson, born to their children, Tzipora and Shlomo Modes and mazel tov to the entire Skaist family.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Christie & Mr. Jerry MacAulay on the marriage of their daughter, Lauren, to Joe Lewis.

Many thanks to our RTA PVA for donating a new interactive white board!!

WEAR YOUR BEST CLOTHES, COMB YOUR HAIR, IT'S TIME FOR...

SCHOOL PHOTOS

- **DATE:** Wednesday, September 25th
- Kindergarten–8th Grade
- Class and Individual Photos
- Sibling shots available
- Must order in advance. See details below.



If you would like the opportunity to purchase your child's yearbook photo, you must send in the order form below with payment by September 24th. For \$10, you will receive a photo sleeve with your child's class photo and a 3 1/2 x 5 individual photo. A 5x7 sibling group photo sleeve is also available at \$10 a sleeve. Please specify individual or sibling. You also have the option of purchasing additional photos at \$10 a sheet if and only if you have purchased the corresponding original photo sleeve. Sheet options are 1-8x10, or 2-5x7s, or 8 wallet-sized photos. If you would like the reproduction rights to your child's/children's individual or sibling images, you may purchase them for \$25 per image with the purchase of the corresponding individual or sibling photo sleeve (you will be provided with a CD).

Individual Photo sleeve (including class photo) at \$10 per child.

List each child's name and grade:

Sibling Group at \$10. List sibling group:

Reproduction rights on CD at **\$25 per image** (in addition to purchasing photo sleeve)

_____ Sibling _____ Individual

TOTAL \$ _____ **CASH** **CHECK**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PHOTO OPS BY ADRIENNE

Additional sheets requested at \$10 per sheet:

(In addition to purchased photo sleeves)

Individual:

_____ 1 (8x10)

_____ 2 (5x7)

_____ 8 wallet

Sibling:

_____ 1 (8x10)

_____ 2 (5x7)

_____ 8 wallet

Taco Thursday!

Lunch cafe

Thursday, the 26th,
we're serving tacos with
mock meat, cheese, baked
beans, corn, fruit &
dessert.

All for only \$5!



Better Together Program Opener

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Next, the students and seniors enjoyed a walking “get to know you” bingo game. The big prize was spending time together, listening to each other, sharing amazing stories and learning something new about each other and about ourselves. And this is what Better Together is really all about - building relationships - Midor L'dor, from generation to generation.

Thank you to the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond for their generous support of the Better Together Project. Thank you to Shari Barck and the Weinstein JCC for partnering with us. We appreciate all of our dedicated volunteers for driving, serving, scooping ice cream, helping students/seniors and cleaning. A special thank you to our community seniors for making Better Together a priority and joining us for this meaningful experience. We thank you for all of your support!!!!

A special thank you to Helen Griffin, Emi Legano, Ilana Gimpelevich, Rus Jankowitz and Leah Paley. Also, an honorable mention to our very own Baal Tokea, Ephraim Frances, for stepping up and blowing the shofar at the last minute.

Thank you to Susan Press for the beautiful photos you see here!!!

Please join us for our next program on Wednesday, October 30, from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Weinstein JCC.

For more information please contact Sorah Plotnick at BetterTogetherRVA@gmail.com or 516-642-9067.

***The Better Together Project is generously supported by the
Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.***



(more photos on next page...)

Better Together Program Opener

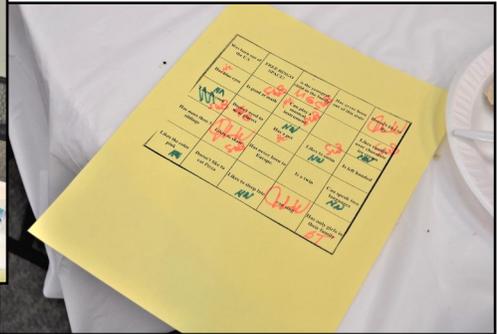
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Better Together Program Opener

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Parsha Points

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

Ki Savo (Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8)

Did it? Admit it!

Everyone knows that Adam and Eve made a bad mistake in the Garden of Eden. But was their primary mistake eating from the fruit? No. A look at the verses (Genesis 3:8-13) reveals something much deeper:

"[After eating, Adam and Eve] hid themselves from God among the trees of the Garden. God called to Adam and said: "Where are you?"

"I heard Your voice in the Garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

God asked: "Who told you that you are naked? Did you eat from the tree which I commanded you not to eat?"

Adam replied: "The woman that you gave to be with me — she gave me to eat from the tree."

So God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Rashi explains the sequence: God obviously knows what Adam has done, yet He does not attack with an accusation. Rather, God strikes up a conversation, asking in a gentle, non-threatening way: "Where are you?" He gives Adam a chance to admit his mistake, and express regret.

Instead Adam hides and blames it all on Eve. Eve passes responsibility off to the snake. Everyone claims they did nothing wrong!

That was their worst mistake.

God knows we're not perfect — He's the one who created us this way! But He does expect us to take responsibility for our actions and admit when we've done wrong. Because without doing so, there is no hope to correct it in the future.

This lesson can be applied to raising children. Imagine walking into the kitchen to find your child up on the counter and reaching his hand into the cookie jar. Don't accuse, don't attack, and don't back him into a corner. The deed of snatching cookies is already done; the only question that remains is how he will deal with the mistake. Try a casual, "Hey, what's goin' on with the cookies?" This gives him a chance to state the truth without feeling threatened.

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Parsha Points

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Anti-Suppressant

Why is it that so many people have trouble admitting when they're wrong?

One possible reason is that without an absolute standard of right and wrong, there may be no compelling reason to admit wrongdoing. In Western society, aversion to apology is a widespread malady. Whether somebody cuts another off in traffic, or destroys a marriage, admitting guilt is out of vogue. In fact, pop psychology has done all it can to remove whole concept of "guilt" from our lexicon. It's much easier to rationalize our mistakes away. And it's unhealthy to feel guilt, they say. "Suppress it!"

On one level, this suppression is unhealthy. When we refuse to admit, it is depressing and paralyzing. The regret stays inside and festers.

On another level, this suppression is downright dangerous. When one repeats an inappropriate act, he will eventually come to rationalize it as proper. The Nazi Himmler wrote that in his own personal experience with killing Jews, the turning point came when he was able to fall asleep at night without any guilt. He knew then that he'd crossed the point of no return.

Say It Out Loud

This week's Parsha provides an important tool for admitting our mistakes:

"When you have finished taking all the tithes of your grain ... make the following declaration before God: "I have removed all the sacred portions ... I have given the appropriate portions to the Levite, the orphan and the widow..." (Deut. 26:12-13)

The Torah is telling us that to evaluate our spiritual status properly, the key ingredient is to speak it out loud. "Make the following declaration before God" — i.e. articulate verbally where we have succeeded and where we have failed.

The ArtScroll Machzor explains:

"As an intelligent, thinking, imaginative being, man has all sorts of thoughts flashing constantly through his mind. Even sublime thoughts of remorse and self-improvement are not strange to him, but they do not last. For his thoughts to have lasting meaning, he must distill them into words, because the process of thought culminates when ideas are expressed and clarified.

"That is not as easy as it sounds. It is usually excruciatingly difficult for people to admit explicitly that they have done wrong. We excuse ourselves. We refuse to admit the truth. We shift blame. We deny the obvious. We excel at rationalizing. But the person who wrenches from himself the unpleasant truth, "I have sinned," has performed a great and meaningful act."

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Parsha Points

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Talking To Yourself

This lesson is crucial as we approach the High Holidays, the time when we stand in front of the mirror and see the stark reality of who we are. Maimonides explains:

"For every Mitzvah in the Torah that a person transgresses, he needs to confess before God ... What does this consist of? The person says: 'God, I have sinned before you; I have done this specific act; I am ashamed of my actions; and I will never do it again.'" (Laws of Teshuva 1:1)

In Judaism, confession is a totally private matter, between you and God. In fact, the Hebrew word for confession — *li-heet-vadot* — is the "reflexive" form which connotes acting upon oneself. Though we speak to God, He knows the truth already.

The problem is when we're not willing to admit the truth to ourselves. As the prophet Jeremiah says, "God will judge us when we say 'I didn't sin.'"

Incredibly, the incident of Adam and Eve occurred on the very first Rosh Hashana, the day that humanity was born. Rosh Hashana is thus the most opportune day to repair that mistake.

May these coming High Holidays be a time of spiritual growth for us all.

Adapted with permission from the award winning website, www.aish.com.