



Stellar Education for Every Jewish Child

ואהבת... ואהבת

Dec. 20, 2019 22 Kislev, 5780

- Run-A-Latke 1
- A Super Super-Sunday 2
- After School Activities Schedule 3
- The 'PEP' Program! 5
- Mishloach Manot Info 6
- Davening at RTA 14
- PCL Program 15
- Art at RTA 16
- Parsha 22

10th Anniversary Run-A-Latke Breaks All Records!

This year's Run-A-Latke 5k and Miler was the perfect event. We had a record signup of **371** registrants with a diverse crowd representing both the running community and Jewish community, and everything went like clockwork. It was easy to see why all walked away with only good things to say about an event that was both professionally run and delightfully enjoyable.

The camaraderie was super and the weather was just right. And with cool bright orange t-shirts, beautiful medals for all finishers, a nice 'swag bag', donuts latkes & hot chocolate - there was something for everyone.



(continued on page 2. . .)



Candle Lighting

Friday, Dec. 20
4:36 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 21
Shabbat ends
5:40 p.m.



Friday, Dec. 27
4:40 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 28
Shabbat ends
5:44 p.m.

Dates to Remember

Saturday, Dec. 21
NO PCL Program

**Monday, Dec. 23 -
Wednesday, Jan. 1**
Winter Break
No Classes

Saturday, Dec. 28
NO PCL Program

Thursday, Jan. 2
Classes Resume

Thursday, Jan. 2
(continued)
After School Activities
Signup Deadline

Saturday, Jan. 4
PCL Program
6:45 pm

A Super Super-Sunday

Thank you to our amazing squad of RTA volunteers – parents, students, alumni, staff, and board members - who participated in the JCFR Super Sunday phon-a-thon on December 8!

Because of your dedicated efforts RTA earned \$21,000 from the award opportunities offered to institutions!

The awards earned by Team RTA:

Spirit Award - \$1,000
Most Gifts Collected - \$5,000
Most New Gifts Collected - \$5,000
Most Overall Volunteers - \$10,000



10th Anniversary Run-A-Latke Breaks All Records!

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The winner in the Habib family 5k was Alan Cole Lewis. In the Designer Deliveries one-miler it was our very own 6th grader Alexander Klestzick (a repeat winner from 2 years ago!), while Nathaniel Rakofsky, a 6th grader, came in second.

The runners were cheered on by a strong fan-base of families and friends, along with Ms. Latke & T-Rex.

It was a great community event, made possible with the support of so many generous sponsors. Special thanks go to the event sponsor, **Dr. Tino & Yuliya Habib and family**, and the one-mile sponsor, **Avery Lynn's Designer Deliveries**.

Our volunteer squad was phenomenal, and far too numerous to count! But special kudos must go to the chair - the grand maestro of this best-ever Run-A-Latke - the indomitable **Mrs. Wendy Weisberger**.

We look forward to seeing you all next year - hoping to break 400!!



(more photos on page 10...)



RTA AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES Winter Session 2020

NEW!! CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH

Instructor: Mrs. Alona Ioanidis

Grades K-3

Through pictures and stories students will get accustomed with basic Spanish vocabulary; be able to understand, ask and answer questions; and express themselves in full basic sentences. Adding another language to their learning program at this age stimulates mental activity and expands their analytical abilities!

Wednesdays 3:45-5:00; January 8 – March 18

Cost - \$85 for 11 weeks

Grades 4-8

This Spanish Class program will include a combination of Spanish as a second language as well as aspects of Spanish culture through texts, videos, stories, discussions (European Spanish and Latin American Spanish cultures: their differences and similarities). In this Spanish course, students will become familiarized with the language's vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar up to the point of acquiring a good understanding of the basic language; whereas the cultural component provides a unique opportunity to practice Spanish in the classroom.

Thursdays 3:45-5:00; January 9 - March 19

Cost - \$85 for 11 weeks

COMPUTER CODING

(Session II Grades 3-8)

Instructor: Mr. Avi Chandler

Students continue learning to create their own video games, animations, and digital art using the MIT developed language, Scratch. They'll use creativity, learn programming concepts, and develop problem solving skills in this fun class.

Tuesdays 3:40-5:00; January 7 - March 17

Cost - \$80 for 10 weeks

SOCCER

(Session II Grades K-4)

Instructor: Mr. Haseem Copeland

This program is perfect both for beginners and those who have some experience, and open to students who were not in the first session. Participants will have a ton of fun as they also get lots of exercise and learn the fundamentals of this great game.

Tuesdays 3:40-5:00; January 7 - March 17

Cost - \$80 for 10 weeks

Signup deadline for all programs: Thursday, January 2

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Program(s): _____

Payment Enclosed: _____

Parent's E-mail: _____

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Program(s): _____

Payment Enclosed: _____

Parent's E-mail: _____

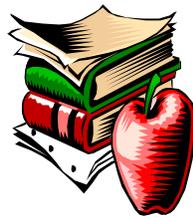
Name: _____

Grade: _____

Program(s): _____

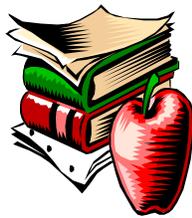
Payment Enclosed: _____

Parent's E-mail: _____



The PEP Program

For Grades
K-3!!



WHAT IS IT?

The PEP (Parallel Education for Parents) Program is a nationally acclaimed program piloted by RTA in 1993. PEP is designed for parents to come together with their children and their Jewish studies teachers for an exciting evening of learning and fun!

The evening will be followed by tasty refreshments (including our traditional PEP M&M's).

WHY IS IT?

There is little that we as parents value more than our children's education, growth, and happiness. You know how excited children are when they come and share with you something they learned at school. Now you have a unique opportunity to have your children actually share their school, their classroom, and their learning experiences with you as they happen.

WHEN IS IT?

This year we are beginning a two year rotation: The current year will feature PEP for grades K-3, and next school year we will have PEP for grades 4-8. This year's schedule is as follows:

Mondays

January 13, 6:15-7:30 p.m.: Kindergarten - Morah Perel

January 27, 6:15-7:30 p.m.: First Grade - Morah Joan

February 3, 6:30-7:45 p.m.: Second Grade - Morah Aronowitz

February 10, 6:30-7:45 p.m.: Third Grade - Rabbi Sherman

Come with your child and experience an unforgettable evening of learning and fun—together!!

RTA-PVA PRESENTS

A Circus Extravaganza Purim

**A Mishloach Manot
sure to delight
the circus lover
in all of us.**

Please fill out the included
order form with your order.



PVA Purim Project Frequently Asked Questions

The PVA Purim Project is the major PVA fundraiser of the year. The current format is in its 33rd 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 54 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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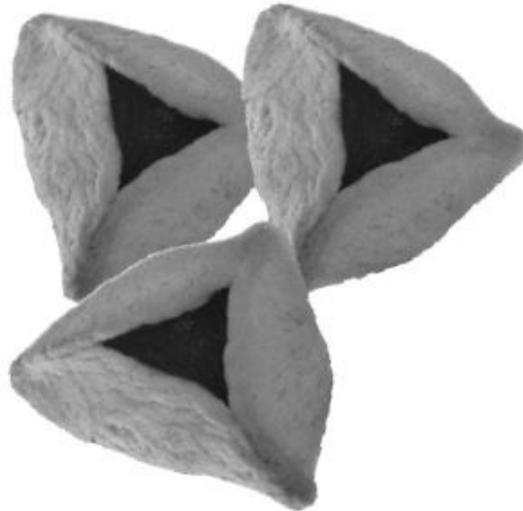
How much does it cost? Nine dollars (\$9) a name. A special package is offered, in which you may send Mishloach Manot greetings to every RTA/STORYVA parent*, faculty, and board member for the low price of **\$125**. (*STORYVA: local parents only.)

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: January 13!

פורים שמח!



Happy Purim!

10th Anniversary Run-A-Latke Breaks All Records!

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10th Anniversary Run-A-Latke Breaks All Records!

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(more photos on next page...)

10th Anniversary Run-A-Latke Breaks All Records!

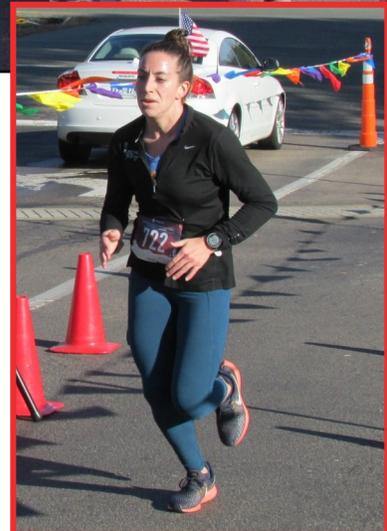
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10th Anniversary Run-A-Latke Breaks All Records!

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Davening at RTA

It's a combination of heart and mind, knowledge and inspiration. As RTA's students have learned, one can pray to Hashem in any language – yet there is still special power in utilizing the language of our Torah and the Rabbis, with the deep meanings and allusions that can only be found in the original.

And, of course, the familiarity with the prayers and the fluency with which our students can read the original Hebrew is impressive.

One of the joys of the day at RTA is seeing how beautifully our children daven (pray) as part of their day, every day. In the lower grades you can hear the sounds of the joyful singing of the prayers coming from each classroom, and in grades 4-8, one can experience the advanced davening of our older students.

In the 4th-8th morning davening, we occasionally recognize standout students who are awarded special certificates for their outstanding attendance *and* participation.

Congratulations to this year's outstanding 4th-8th grade daveners (so far!)

Elana Asher, Chana Rochel Follick, Nathaniel Gimpelevich, Dani Plotnick, Yehoshua Aronowitz, Miri David, Avi Gruber, Joy Holi, Tovah Miller, Temima David & Miriam Follick!!



PCL Program

Saturday nights are rocking at RTA thanks to Rabbi Elliot Plotnick and his PCL program. Parent Child Learning combines Torah study, camaraderie, raffle prizes, nosh, and wild fun that makes for memorable evenings.

If you haven't attended, you're really missing out. Look for more great Motzei Shabbos PCL events coming up.....

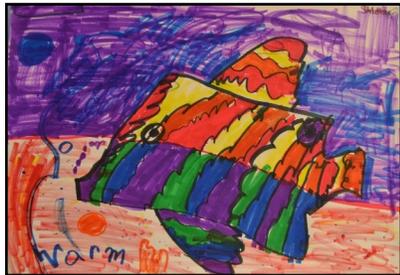
Thank you to Mr. Keith Rakofsky for capturing our event with his photography.





WARM and COOL COLORS

Using only 6 markers (3 primary and 3 secondary), the 2nd Grade showed their understanding of cool and warm colors. They separated the colors on the fish and switched them on the background.



Shlomo David



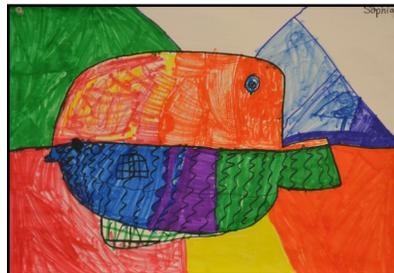
Avi Fitzgerald



Eliana Rakofsky



Sabrina Galpern



Sophia Klestzick



Yaakov Asher



Josh Korshin



Esther Shoenfeld



Liana Weprin



Aaron Galpern



Lilah Knopf



Danielle Holi

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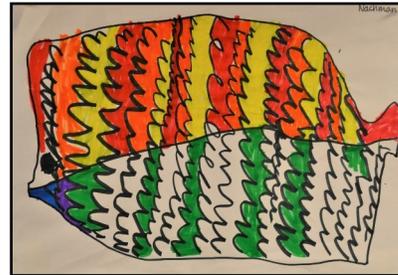
Warm and Cool Colors

by the Second Grade

(continued from page 16)



Nosson Gruber



Nachman Schneiderman

Dreidels

by the Art Club

Below are some samples of student art:



Dena Cantor



Abe Sherman



Yehoshua Aronowitz



(more art on next page...)



Menorahs by the Third Grade



Isaac Nichols



Jake Ciment



Noa Gunzburg



Leora Soloveichik



Zelig Weiss



Gavi Weinstein



Leah Habib



Henry Salomonsky



Yedida Weinberger



Shayna Chandler



Sarah Korshin

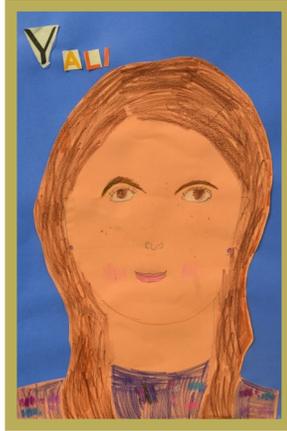
(more art on next page...)



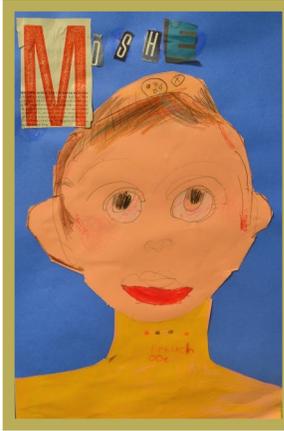
Self Portraits by the First Grade



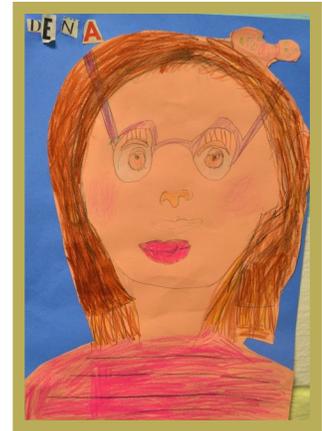
Yoshi Mizrahi



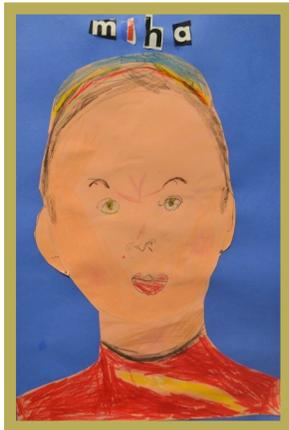
Yali Plotnick



Moshe Goldberg



Dena Cantor



Miha Gimpelevich



Simmy Winston



Judah Oberstein-Gordon



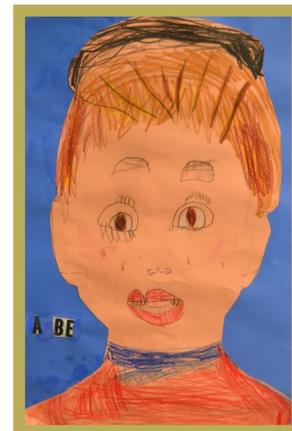
Maya Farzad



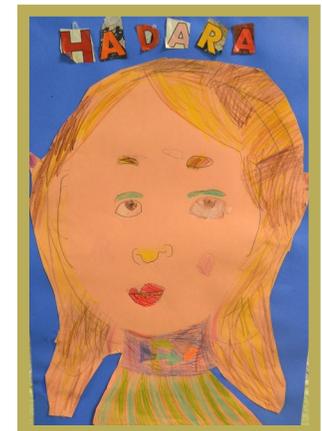
Rachelli Aronowitz



Moussia Friedman



Abe Sherman



Hadara Weinberger

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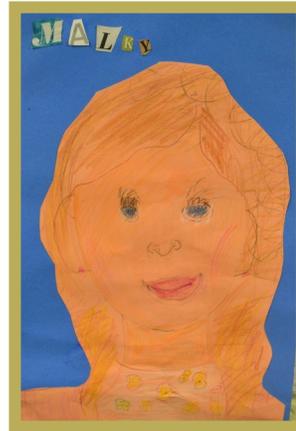
Self Portraits

by the First Grade

(continued from page 19)



Hillel Shlomo Follick



Malky Goldberg

Salt Menorahs

by the Second Grade

The second grade colored menorahs with metallic markers. They squeezed glue on all the lines and shook salt on them. The next week they painted the salt with water colors.

Below are some samples of student art:



Danielle Holi



Aaron Galpern



Liana Weprin



Esther Shoenfeld



Sophia Klestzick



Joshua Korshin

(more art on next page...)



Oil Pastel Menorahs

by the Third Grade

(continued from page 20)

Below are some samples of student art:



Zelig Weiss



Leora Soloveichik

Menorahs on Aluminum Foil

by the First Grade

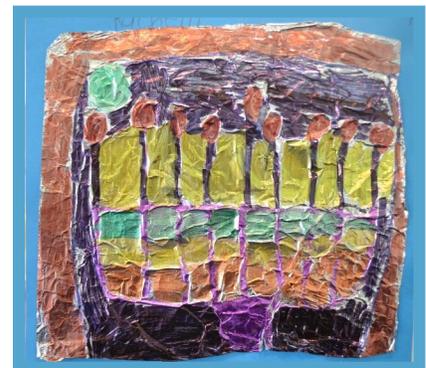
Below are some samples of student art:



Judah Oberstein-Gordon



Mihael Gimpelevich



Rachelli Aronowitz

Parsha Points

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

Vayeshev (Genesis 37-40)

It is one of the most dramatic and saddening episodes in our Torah:

Ten sons of our patriarch Yaakov are jealous of the favored son Yosef. They sell him into slavery, and he is taken far away from his beloved further into a foreign land. In this land, known for having values and morality far below the standard, Yosef has learned at home, he is a slave - and all alone. And then when he does achieve some success in his new life, he becomes the target of seduction by the scheming wife of his Egyptian master.

And his reward for maintaining his values and integrity in the face of almost impossible temptation? Thrown into the deepest, darkest hole in Egypt...and they threw away the key.

If ever a person had a right to feel sorry for himself, it was Yosef.

Yet Yosef did not wallow in self-pity. Far from it. Sitting in a dungeon in Egypt, his primary concern was for others! In this week's Torah portion, he notices the pain of Pharaoh's baker and butler and reaches out to them.

The Talmud tells us: "Even with a sharp sword at your neck, don't give up on mercy." The standard explanation is that even when a situation looks as bleak as can be, don't give up hoping for God's mercy. Redemption can arrive in the blink of an eye.

There is another explanation of this phrase, though: The Hebrew can be read to mean, "Even if a drawn sword is at your neck, don't give up on being merciful." Don't become so self-involved that you forget there are others around you in pain, too. When entrenched within one's problems, it's so easy to feel that you are the only person in the world with difficulties. It's easy to become so self-absorbed that you unwittingly become selfish and uncaring.

We all have problems, some of us more than others. It takes strength and courage to overcome them. But personal problems should not be an excuse to stop caring about others. Circumstances may rob you of many things, but when you stop caring about others, you voluntarily relinquish your humanity.

Yosef, even in the deepest pit in Egypt, cared about those who were with him. There was the sword dangling over him - he was certainly in pain - but that did not blind him to the pain of others. We, who perhaps have much blunter swords at our necks than Yosef, should learn from his example. Don't despair from G-d's mercy. And don't give up on caring for others around us - their pain is just as real as ours.

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

ג"ה

19th Annual
Chanukah on Ice
 community event

❄️ **FREE ADMISSION** ❄️
 December 22nd 4-6pm
 ❄️ SkaleNation Plus - 4350 Pouncy Tract Road ❄️

Skating **\$10** Lazer Tag **\$5**

Giant  Menorah Lighting

special ice skating show surprise!

Dinner **\$6**
 Hot Dog, Chips & Drink

arts & crafts • arcade • quiet room • latkes

*includes skate rentals



For more information contact Chabad of Virginia: www.chabadofva.org | 740-2000