

Feb. 7, 2020 12 Shevat, 5780

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Elina Habib is the Winner!

We are so proud of RTA 5th grader Elina Habib, the Winner of the Private School Division of the Richmond Times Dispatch Spelling Bee!!

Confidently and flawlessly, Elina spelled her way to victory over the other 10 elite private school champions!



(more photos on page 7 . . .)



Candle Lighting

Friday, Feb. 7
5:22 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 8
Shabbat ends
6:26 p.m.



Parent-Teacher Conferences are Monday, February 17th.

Reservations for Parent-Teacher Conferences, on Monday, February 17th, 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 13th.

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.



Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Friday, March 20
@ 1:30 pm



Friday, Feb. 7 - Saturday, Feb. 8 -
RTA Shabbaton (Gr. 5-8)
(No PCL Program)

Monday, Feb. 10
Third Grade PEP
6:30 - 7:45 pm

Tuesday, Feb. 11
Computer Coding
3:40 - 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Feb. 11 (continued)

Soccer
3:40 - 5:00 pm

RTA Basketball Semifinals
7:30 pm @ Waldorf School

Please note:
If RTA wins this game, they will play in championship game Feb. 13 at 7:30 pm @ Veritas School

Wednesday, Feb. 12

Spanish (gr. K-3)
3:40 - 5:00 pm

Thursday, Feb. 13

Spanish (gr. 4-8)
3:40 - 5:00 pm

Mazel tov to Avi & Sarah Chandler on Avraham Tzvi becoming a bar mitzvah.

Best wishes for a refuah shleima to Susan Press.

Second Grade PEP

The second graders had a great time at PEP this past Monday. The classroom was packed with both parents and students. In class they have been learning about blessings we say on food before we eat. We started off with making food placemats. Each student, with the help of their parents, cut out pictures of various food and glued them in their correct boxes on each chart. The charts were then laminated to create placemats.

The second graders then performed beautifully and energetically as they recited a brachos poem and sang a fun song about brachos.

Afterwards, we went into the gym where centers were set up for each bracha. Some of the activities included putting the bracha in order for hamotzi, decorating cupcakes for mezonos, squeezing grapes for hagafen, making fruit kabobs out of dried fruit for haeitz, cutting and putting together a ha'adamah man, and a juice tasting station for Shehakol.

The brachos bash ended with a slideshow presentation of different things that the second graders have done since the beginning of the year. The students were given awards for mastering and learning their brachos.

A huge thank you to Aliza Asher, Sarah Rakofsky, and Daniella Weprin for helping with the preparation.

A special thank you to Yehoshua Aronowitz, Elana Asher, Chaviva David, Temima David, Joy Holi and Katie Holi, who helped with the set-up, running the centers, and the clean-up.

And a special thank you to Dr. Bob Weisberger for capturing the wonderful moments with his beautiful photography, and to Yehudis Gruber for taking additional photos.



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Second Grade PEP

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Second Grade PEP

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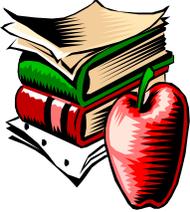


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Second Grade PEP

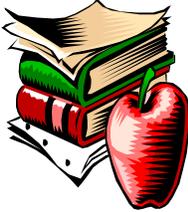
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The PEP Program

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:

Monday

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!!

Elina Habib is the Winner!

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Students Perform at Richmond Jewish Food Festival

The second 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.



(more photos on next page . . .)

Students Perform at Richmond Jewish Food Festival

(. . .continued from page 8)





Creative Paper Scenes

by the Seventh and Eighth Grade

The 7th and 8th grade art class created colored paper by first coloring on aluminum foil with Crayola markers. They pressed wet paper onto the foil, which resulted in these unusual colors. Then they cut the paper into shapes and designed a "scene".

Here is a sample of their work.....



Katie Holi



Reuben Eichelberg



Salome Eichelberg



Sheindy Paley



Chaviva David



Avraham Tzvi Chandler

(more art on next page...)



Pinch Pots

by the Second Grade



Josh Korshin



Liana Weprin



Yaakov Asher



Sophia Klestzick



Shlomo David



Aaron Galpern



Avi Fitzgerald



Nachman Schneiderman



Danielle Holi



Sabrina Galpern



Eliana Rakofsky



Lilah Knopf



Esther Shoenfeld



Nosson Gruber

(more art on next page...)



Mizrachs

by the Seventh and Eighth Grade

Mizrach means "East". When Jews pray, they face east towards Jerusalem. Traditionally, many homes have a decorative Mizrach on the Eastern wall. This is what you face when you pray. The 7th and 8th grade art class made these beautiful mizrachs out of embossed metal and permanent markers. They will be an uplifting addition to their Jewish homes.

Here is a sample of their work.....



Reuben Eichelberg



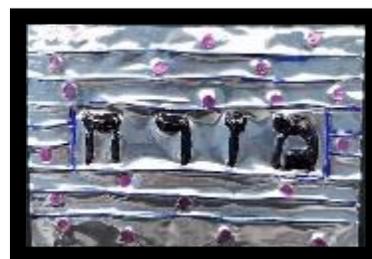
Netanel Gimpelevich



Tamar Kranz



Sheindy Paley



Chaviva David



Miri David



Dovid Aronowitz



Avraham Tzvi Chandler



Salome Eichelberg

(more art on next page...)



Snow Scenes

by the Second Grade

Here is a sample of student work.....



Lilah Knopf



Aaron Galpern



Eliana Rakofsky



Joshua Korshin



Yaakov Asher



Shlomo David

Parsha Points

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

Beshalach **(Exodus 13:17-17:16)**

Pharaoh had finally agreed to let the Jewish people leave Egypt. God then led the Jews to Israel on the longest route out of Egypt. God knew that if He took them out on the shortest route, the Jews would encounter a war along the way. And God said...

"Perhaps the people will reconsider when they see a war, and they will return to Egypt" (Exodus, 13:17).

A Life Lesson

Even though the Jewish people had just personally witnessed an awesome series of miracles, God knew that at the first sign of trouble they would want to return to Egypt and back to their lives of slavery.

How many times have you set a goal for yourself and the moment something didn't go as smoothly as you had planned, you immediately experienced self-doubt and seriously questioned your ability, worthiness, and even the goal itself? And the dream that you were so certain you wanted ends up slowly drifting into the large sea of the other unaccomplished goals and dreams you had in the past. Isn't it amazing that on Monday you knew exactly what you wanted with crystal clear clarity and had a solid game plan to achieve it, and by Wednesday you're about to give up?

The reason for all of this is due to two internal, distinct and powerful drives that God gave as a gift to all of us. One drive wants to change the world, climb the highest mountains, and leave the planet in a radically and more improved place than it now exists. The other drive will then challenge, question, and doubt every part of this journey and try with all its might to prevent you from never accomplishing anything.

Why would God, who loves us more than words could ever express, give us a desire not to grow, succeed, or experience the pleasure of great accomplishments?

The answer is simple: Only through struggle and fighting the burning desire to quit can we ever have the unbelievable joy and ecstasy that comes from achievement. If God knew the Jews would want to run back to slavery at the first challenge they encountered after just witnessing all of the miracles that He preformed for them, then clearly the drive to quit and retreat is alive and well within all of us. It doesn't matter how big, great, or strong you are -- this force will always be there.

Knowledge is power and by knowing that this "drive to quit" was designed by God to actually make you great will now give you the ability to see it for what it is: A test. Will you recognize that this drive's only purpose is to get you NOT to change the world and then fight through the urge to run away, or do you stop in your tracks and question your very existence?

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Parsha Points

(. . .continued from page 14)

Every time you begin a project, start an exercise program, want to launch a new career, or go towards any meaningful goal, you must know that you will encounter a war. This war might be disguised as the people who tell you that cannot succeed, or the rejection you face, or the obstacles you'll inevitably encounter. Remember, you were "pre-designed" by God to have a burning urge to retreat to Egypt. Make no mistake about it, you will be tested.

Great men and women have all faced the exact same tests and they have doubted themselves and all had the urge to quit. But for them, going back to Egypt was not an option. So they instead kept their eye on the ball and kicked away their self-doubt and went on to greatness. And people look at their great success stories and bemoan to all who'll listen that they too would have achieved greatest if they had the same circumstances. And that's the great irony -- their circumstances aren't just the same, but identical. The circumstance was the desire to quit. Great men and women blast through it, while others reconsider when they see a war and return to Egypt.

So, while having a good plan is important, not giving up on it is everything. And sometimes even after you choose to fight the war, you might not win. But take much comfort in knowing that it's completely up to God whether or not you'll have the strength and ability to win the war. But that was never the point. Because the purpose of the test was to just fight the war and refuse to retreat to Egypt. And since we're all designed for greatness, it's only through choosing to fight and march on that we'll inevitably experience the ecstasy of success. So the next time you want to become better in some way tomorrow than you are today, know that the great men and women of history who've achieved so much are no different than you and I. They just hung around for the war.

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

ReelAbilities
 FILM FESTIVAL
Diversity & Inclusion Festival
 February 11-13 at the Weinstein JCC
 Presented by Karen and Ken Olshansky



Jewish Film Series Presents Shoelaces

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 7:30pm

Sponsored by The Arenstein Family

Directed by Jacob Goldwasser | 90 min | Narrative | Israel | 2018

Tickets:
 \$12 | \$10 JCC Members
 Included in A+I Subscription



Nominated for eight Ophir Awards (Israeli Academy Awards) including Best Film, *Shoelaces* is a wholly engaging, tender family dramedy about the knotty relationship between an aging, irascible mechanic and the exuberant special-needs son he abandoned long before.

Through the film's portrayal of a relationship full of love, rejection and co-dependency, it manages to shed some light and question the importance of human life, human connection and if life is even possible without it either one of them.

IdentityRVA

Wednesday, February 12 at 7:30pm

Photo Exhibit Opening and Program: Exploring Our Humanity

Sponsored by Hirschler

IdentityRVA: Exploring Our Humanity exhibit consists of 22 individual portraits of diverse people in the Richmond community, captured without stereotype or expectation. Through both live and recorded interviews, participants will share their personal stories of how they have been empowered by their differences in hopes that their stories will create awareness of how we are more alike than we might think, despite our differences. The exhibit will be on display in the Sara D. November Gallery through March 6.



Kesem Inclusive Theatre Project

Thursday, February 13 at 7:30pm

In Hebrew, the word "Kesem" means magic, and at the Weinstein JCC, we like to make magic! The Kesem Inclusive Theatre Project provides a comprehensive adult theatre education experience from process to performance.

This year, Kesem will be performing *Foxes and Storks*, a mosaic of scenes and monologues inspired by classic fables, fairy tales, and modern works. Having been shaped around the participants' unique abilities and interests, the performance features original writing composed by the ensemble interspersed with traditional tales. The Kesem Players look forward to seeing you!



More info at weinsteinjcc.org/events!