

The Stream

Bringing news to the
Volume 6



online community
issue 17

Ma'ayanoters Participate in NCSY Mission to New Orleans

as reported by **Hannah Ash '14** and **Rachel Furhang '13**

The concept of *tikun olam* is often understood as an ethical and a spiritual precept, but it can have very "down to earth" and concrete meaning as well, as evidenced by the recent NCSY Mission to New Orleans. Although Hurricane Katrina took place in the summer of 2005, significant damage remains, and resources, both financial and available manpower, remain in short supply. To help with the restoration efforts, the New Jersey chapter of NCSY, under the leadership of Rabbi Ethan Katz, organized a volunteer mission to New Orleans from February 8-12. The girls-only group, 17 strong, represented Fair Lawn High School, James Caldwell High School, Livingston High School, Teaneck High School and Ma'ayanot. The Ma'ayanot contingent was comprised of **Liad Arussy '14**, **Hannah Ash '14**, **Malka Schnaidman '14**, **Ayden Sopher Harellick '14**, **Hannah Tessel '14**, **Goldi Weiser '14**, **Tovah Berman '14**, **Rachel Furhang '13**, **Tamar Landsman '13**, **Hennie Silverman '13**, **Adina Schwartz '13** and **Ally Kreitman '13**. Faculty chaperones were Ms. Elana Flaumenhaft and Rabbi Zev Prince.



The NCSY Mission to new Orleans

Upon arriving in New Orleans, the volunteers, working under the aegis of "Habitat for Humanity," were put to work rebuilding the foundation and repairing some shelves in a house in the ravaged Lower Ninth Ward. They had the opportunity to visit Congregation Beth Israel in the Lakeview section of New Orleans, which stands vacant and desolate, its congregants scattered to other venues. That congregation's Torahs, it was explained, had been buried in a non-Jewish cemetery initially, but now, through the efforts of Jewish volunteers, have been re-interred in a more appropriate burial ground.. Thursday evening brought some time to visit the old French Quarter, hear some jazz at the famous Preservation Hall, and sample the signature beignets at Café du Monde (which are now kosher!).

On Friday, the NCSY group visited a pluralistic Jewish day school, the student body of which ranges from kindergarten through grade 5, and engaged the students in activities ranging from *Tu b'Shevat* to the *Parsha haShavua* to Israel and the significance of the Kotel. In the afternoon, the group visited an old age home and involved the residents in similar activities.

Shabbat was spent with Congregation Beth Israel, also in New Orleans proper. The Rabbi of the *shul*, Rabbi Uri Topolosky, and his wife, Mrs. Talia Topolosky, together with members of the congregation,

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Jewish Philosophy Classes Visit Williamsburg, Brooklyn

On Monday, February 13, our Juniors "took to the road" for a field trip which was part of their Jewish Philosophy unit on Modern Orthodoxy. Previously, "The Stream" reported on the presentation made by Rabbi Jonathan Rosenblatt of the Riverdale Jewish Center, in which he spoke of the challenges facing Modern Orthodoxy today. This component of the unit focused on the *haredi* community.

For this trip, our students boarded buses and headed for a tour of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, accompanied by the "JPhil" teachers Ms. Sarah Gordon and Mrs. Shoshana Samuels, and additional chaperone Mrs. Eileen Schwartz. The tour included an opportunity to see many of the principal *chesed* organizations that are important to the Williamsburg community. Among these organizations are *Bikur Cholim*, which provides food for Jewish patients in all the major New York City hospitals and a *Kallah Gemach*,

which provides dresses for poor brides. At the *gemach*, our students had an opportunity to learn about the mission and work of this program. Afterwards, Ma'ayanoters had got to speak with women and girls in



our students listen carefully

the community, including "Coach" Schwartz's nieces and sister-in-law, and with Mrs. Miriam Deutsch, the Principal of a Satmar Girls High school, to get different insights into the *Haredi* ideology and lifestyle. Upon returning to Ma'ayanot, the juniors met



"Coach" Eileen Schwartz with her Mother-in-Law and Sister-in-Law

as a group with their teachers and the administration to talk about the trip and its impact.

The goal of this trip was to give our Juniors the opportunity to experience and interact with people and communities which espouse *Haredi* points of view, and to then think critically about



above, Mrs. Miriam Deutsch meets with our junior grade and, at left, visiting the Williamsburg Bikur Cholim

their own attitudes, a learning style which is fostered in our classes on a consistent basis.



Information, Please



Now that "to Google" something has become eponymous for "to look something up," it's easy to appreciate how we can become subjected to "information overload." There's so much to read and sort through on a given topic, all of it accessible, not all of it accurate, not all of it relevant, but much of it useful. How is a student to know where to turn?

Mr. Yaacov Samuels elicited the help of our Librarian, Mrs. Roz Friedman, when he assigned a research paper to students in his ninth and tenth grade World History classes. Each student was asked to research and report on a topic of her choice, from a list of suggested topics that Mr. Samuels provided, and to present the report in the form of a short written paper according to MLA style. Mrs. Friedman was asked to meet with Mr. Samuels' classes to help students learn the most efficient ways to gather information, and how not to become overwhelmed by all that's "out there."

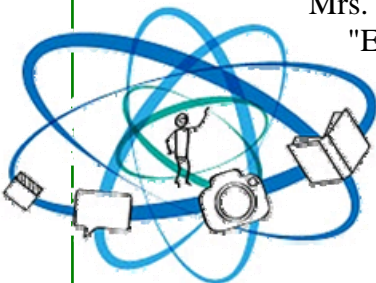
On Monday, February 13, Mrs. Friedman began her lesson by reminding the students that it's still important, even in this digital age, to have a "real" library card. in order to use books, encyclopedias and an individual library's online holdings. She cautioned students that, while "Wikipedia" is easy to access and often presents a lot of information in a manageable form, it is not always accurate because it is written entirely by individuals who contribute to the site. Similarly, Mrs. Friedman reminded the students to be cautious when relying on Google, because content is referenced in an "unfiltered" manner. For example, there may be two research papers about World War II, but no mention of which was of "A" quality and which received a lower grade. She then turned her attention to the use of online databases that are available to students and faculty at Ma'ayanot.



Librarian Mrs. Roz Friedman distributes a list of Ma'ayanot's database subscriptions and how to access them to one of Mr. Yaacov Samuels' World History classes

Mrs. Friedman recommended beginning a research project by consulting an online encyclopedia, such as "Britannica Online." Using the projector in our media room, She then explained how to navigate to the main page and then how to look up a particular topic. She used as her example "Alexander the Great," and showed how the encyclopedia returns articles with built in hyperlinks to additional information. It's also possible to click on text to look up words or topics in context.

Mrs. Friedman also demonstrated the use of other online databases, such as the "Encyclopedia Judaica," and distributed a handout describing Ma'ayanot's online subscriptions and how to access them from a school or home computer. To see this information for yourself, click [here](#). Mrs. Friedman reminded the students that she is available to help during library hours, and looks forward to help students with school research projects.



Ma'ayanoters Participate in NCSY Mission to New Orleans

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were the hosts. On *Shabbat* afternoon, Mrs. Jackie Guther, who was President of the *shul* during Hurricane Katrina, told of the *shul's* evacuation and how, initially, congregants felt safe, telling themselves that "the *bima* was up three steps, the Torahs up three more..." so that the rising waters couldn't possibly do any real damage-but they were wrong, of course, and had to rebuild. Rabbi Topolosky led a musical *havdalah* service, in which participants could play musical accompaniments to the melody. To read more about Rabbi Topolosky, formerly Associate Rabbi at HIR, and his congregation, click [here](#). The final activity, *motzei Shabbat*, was a visit to a Family Mardi Gras Parade, complete with beads, music and floats.

by Goldi Weiser '14

Last week, 12 Ma'ayanot students in tenth and eleventh grades had the privilege of participating in a mission to help rebuild a flood-ravaged area in New Orleans. We were accompanied by four students from other schools. Under the leadership of NCSY Rabbi Ethan Katz, Rabbi Prince, and Ms. F we had the opportunity to do a great service for the New Orleans community. After arriving on Wednesday night, we helped build a home with "Habitat for Humanity" on Thursday. We went to visit the old Orthodox synagogue that was destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. We saw their *mikva* and the sanctuary that was once the home of several *Sifrei Torah* that were destroyed by Katrina. We proceeded to visit the burial sites of those *Sifrei Torah*. Seeing the destruction wrought by the hurricane and helping to rebuild a home was a renewing experience that demonstrated firsthand the importance of helping others.



Rabbi Prince, Adina Schwartz, Tamar Landsman, Goldie Weiser, Ayden Sopher-Harelick and Ms F

The following morning we visited the local Jewish day school and organized workshops for the students. New Orleans Jewish Day School is a small school for students from nursery through grade 5, most of whom are not religious. We ran educational programs for the students to help them connect to Judaism. In honor of *Tu'BShevat* the fourth and fifth grade students wrote about people that inspired them from *Tanakh* or from their personal lives and pasted these stories as leaves on a tree to create a "tree of inspiration." With the students in nursery and kindergarten students, we made dirt out of chocolate and planted "seeds" of M&M's. The students also made their own *luchot* in honor of the *parasha* and wrote wishes and prayers for the Kotel. These children ordinarily would never have the opportunity to connect to Judaism and Jewish culture in this way. Their only opportunity for Jewish education at all is the New Orleans Jewish Day School, which ends after fifth grade. Being role models for these children and giving them an opportunity that we all take for granted - the opportunity to participate in a vibrant Jewish community and learn from the adults in our lives about Judaism - was an especially meaningful experience.

Later that day we visited a nursing home that has some Jewish residents. The residents receive few visitors

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Ma'ayanoters Participate in NCSY Mission to New Orleans

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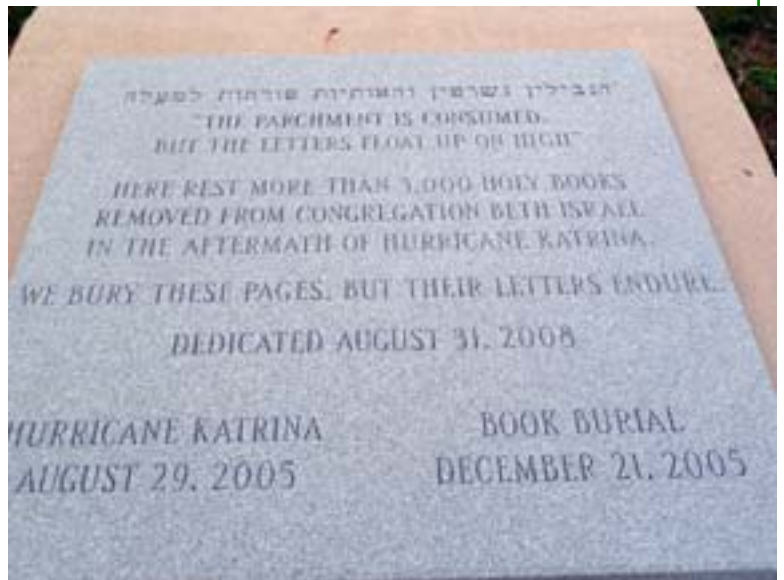
and our visiting, talking and singing with them brightened their day and made a difference for them.

We spent a beautiful *Shabbat* with Congregation Beth Israel in New Orleans and at the home of their leader Rabbi Uri Topolosky. The close relationship between the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox synagogues in their time of need was inspiring. Filling the room in the *shul* and adding *ruach* to their *Shabbat* was a rewarding experience for us and, hopefully, added love to the *Shabbat* services.

Traveling to New Orleans and being able to help a community in all different ways, from the young, the future of the community to the elderly members, was a priceless experience.



Hanna Ash (in front) and Liad Arussy (behind, with Malka Schnaidman peeking out), "carry their weight"



the photo above "speaks for itself"



at left, Ma'ayanot students become the "teachers"

at right, mission participants get an orientation to "Building 101"



Fifth Annual Family Learning Night



Upwards of seventy people participated in Ma'ayanot's fifth annual Family Learning Night, which was held this year on Wednesday evening, February 15. Students are encouraged to invite family members to join them for *chavruta*, dinner and a *shiur*, although students who wish to attend on their own are always welcome and are made "honorary members" of other groups.

Participants gathered first in the MPR for *chavruta*, using source sheets put together by Mrs. Rivka Kahan in preparation for her after-dinner *shiur*, "Understanding Yitro: An Analysis of Judaism's First Convert." They also enjoyed a dairy dinner from EJ's provided by Ma'ayanot.



Family Learning Night-can you find your friends, family and neighbors in these photos?



-photos by Chavi Cohen '14 and Tziporah Rossman '13

NORPAC - An Inside Look

by **Yonina Silverman '14**

As Jews, we were brought up to love the land of Israel and all that it has to offer. It is not often that Americans get a chance to express this love to important members of Congress who can potentially help fix many problems that Israel is facing. NORPAC, the National Organization for Political Action, is a bipartisan political action committee with the interrelated goals of strengthening the relationship between the U. S. and Israel and supporting Israel's security. NORPAC invites any person who is interested to take a trip to Washington, D.C, as part of an organized mission each spring, and talk to members of Congress about issues Israel is facing that year. The goal of this trip is to try to get members of Congress to support our ideas and ensure that the relationship Israel and the US have with one another is everlasting. For example, in 2011 one major goal of the NORPAC mission was to encourage the United States to provide financial aid to Israel, which is vital for its security. "Of the \$3.075 billion proposed," NORPAC's president, Ben Chouake said, "75 percent will find its way back to the United States for contracts with U.S. vendors. A separate \$205 million is sought for the Iron Dome anti-rocket defense system." The outcome of this effort was a success. This amount was approved last fall within the general Foreign Aid Bill. This general Foreign Aid Bill (which includes Israel aid) has to be passed each year. In general there is a desire in Congress to decrease the total foreign aid budget because of the economic situation; our lobbying efforts can help encourage continued aid to Israel. Our hope is to advocate for these issues and similar issues so that they can be a success as well.

Members of Congress do not always know the "Jewish side of things," or have a pro-Israel agenda uppermost in their mind. Therefore, by bringing up these issues and reminding Congress how important these issues are, we hope that Congress reconsiders our ideas and brings them to the top of their "to do" list.

Knowing that something I said could make a difference is a feeling that I never felt before I started going on Norpac's annual trip to Washington, D.C. The feeling of walking into a Capitol Hill office, and making it clear to members of Congress how much Israel means to me, a student, is unbelievable. Walking around Capitol Hill and seeing the number of *kippot* embroidered with American and Israeli flag warms my heart and reminds me how important Israel is to thousands of Americans as well as to me.

The Congressmen are always impressed when they hear that thousands of people wake up at 5 o'clock in the morning to go on this mission. Numbers are always important when people want to get a point across.

Being a part of such an important event means a lot to me.

I hope by sharing my reasons for the importance of this event, I can get many of my classmates to join me this year on the annual mission to Washington, D.C, on May 9, 2012.



To learn about this year's NORPAC Mission to Washington, DC, and to sign up, see page 8..



above, on last year's Norpac Mission, Esti Baum '14 (at left) and Yonina Silverman '14 meet with Congressman Steve Rothman



NORPAC
PROMOTING US-ISRAEL RELATIONS



MISSION TO WASHINGTON

**Wednesday
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Students-\$75

**Concerned about Israel's security?
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Paid for by NORPAC

Can you spell "hypotenuse?"

as reported by Mrs. Marianne Gottlieb, Math Faculty

Mrs. Gottlieb's 10th grade Geometry class is learning, in addition to the postulates and proofs that are integral to Geometry, how to spell those long, obscure, incongruous (incongruent?) "Geometry words." Mrs. Gottlieb says, "as a teacher, I feel that an educated student should also be knowledgeable about the correct spelling of the words they use to learn and communicate about the subjects they study."

For example, did you know that a triangle with two congruent sides is spelled "ISOSCELES," and that the longest side of a right triangle is spelled

"HYPOTENUSE"? "Were you also aware that one of the most misspelled words I see in my classes is "vertical?" adds Mrs. Gottlieb. "In a proof, you might need to use the term "vertical angles" when referring to the angles that are opposite each other when two lines cross. If you are referring to the Vertical Angle theorem, and you misspell "angle," then you are describing the Hebrew word for *Malach* (angel)!"

Those students who have difficulty with spelling are happy to know that they are allowed to abbreviate and even write symbols for many of the Geometry words, when writing a proof. Did you know that the abbreviation for Alternate Interior Angles is alt. int. \angle ? The symbol for Perpendicular is \perp , and the one for Congruent is \cong . Use of these standard symbols can avoid those difficult spelling issues.

"While my students grunted and groaned because (and not b/c) they were required to learn how to spell in Math class, they all studied their words and scored well on their Spelling quiz. Now, if you prefer solving algebraic problems instead of geometric proofs, see if you can figure out the percent of my students who aced the quiz (got a 100). I have 15 students and 10 of them scored a 100. Solve this problem and round your answer to the nearest whole number (that's #). My 9th grade Algebra class can assist you with this answer. As a Math teacher, I am proud of my students because (again, not b/c) not only can they prove that two triangles are congruent, but they can spell these words correctly as well," says Mrs. Gottlieb.



Mrs. Gottlieb, at rear, and her students show that it's not "square" to know how to spell

We're All Connected

It never comes as a surprise that the Jewish community "sticks together," to provide comfort in bad times and to share happiness when times are good. When Seth and Hindy Poupko Galena, who live on Manhattan's Upper West Side, learned that their young daughter, Ayelet, was suffering from a rare bone marrow disease, they started a blog which chronicled the toddler's courageous struggle which ended with her death this past January 31.

Ayelet's fight for life touched many students at Ma'ayanot, who dedicated their Torah learning on February 9 to Ayelet's memory. After *tefilla* on that day, **Zisse Hanfling '12** showed a video about Ayelet and read a *dvar Torah* written by Rabbi Ben Greenberg, the Orthodox Rabbi of Harvard Hillel. To read that message, click [here](#).

Ma'ayanot's Drama Club Presents

Wednesday,
March 28, 2012



at 3:30 and
7:30 PM

directed by Ms. Dorit Katzenelenbogen

Assistant Director Tsippora Cohen '12

Heartbeats is Coming!



Save the date for "**Heartbeats**," Ma'ayanot's annual student-run and student directed revue, featuring Ma'ayanot students performing song and dance to benefit *tzedakah*.

Save the date: **Wednesday, May 30, 2012**

Student Chairs are seniors **Zisse Hanfling, Etana Staiman, Ayelet Grajower, Daniella Meyer, Naama Segal** and **Yaffa Cohen**

The Ma'ayanot Adult Education Committee invites you to our next series

Topics in *Shemot*

with

Rabbi Daniel Besser
of our *Talmud* Faculty



Thursday mornings at 11:45 AM
in the Ma'ayanot *Beit Knesset*

Three remaining sessions: Feb 23, March 1, March 15

All are welcome!

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. To sponsor a class or the entire series, please contact Rachel Feldman at feldmanr@maayanot.org or Sara Olshin at isolshin@msn.com

ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

-sponsored by Ma'ayanot and AllChesed.com

Save the date for Ma'ayanot's annual blood drive, which will take place on
Sunday, March 4, 2012
from 12:45 - 6:45 PM at Ma'ayanot.



You will have the opportunity to sign up for a specific time slot so that you don't have to wait on a long line. Scheduling will be in 15 minute increments. Please email the project coordinator, Ms. Ariella Steinreich at steinreicha@maayanot.org with your preferred time.

This year, the blood drive will be paired with a **bone marrow drive** to benefit the **Gift of Life Foundation**.

The Gift of Life is one of the nation's public bone marrow registries which seeks to match potential donors with those in need of bone marrow transplants. There are two ways to support this organization -the first is to have a cheek swab so that your marrow type can be determined and registered, and the second is to donate \$54 to cover the cost of the marrow typing.

To sign up in advance visit: <http://tinyurl.com/7xsztqx>

Walk-ins welcome

To read more about Ma'ayanot's involvement in the project, and to see interviews with some of our students, visit "Teaneck Patch," by clicking [here](#).

Ma'ayanot

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CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL
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to download an
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Save the Date

February 20 (Monday): Presidents Day, no sessions
February 21 (Tuesday): Clerical Day-no sessions for students
February 24-25 (Friday-Saturday): Freshman *Shabbaton*
March 3 (Saturday): Ma'ayanot's Annual Scholarship Dinner
March 7 (Wednesday) *Taanit Esther*, 1:50 PM dismissal
March 8 (Thursday): Purim, no sessions



The Stream

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Mr. Menachem Schnaidman, President

Mrs. Madeline Schmuckler, Editor

visit us on the web at www.maayanot.org

to learn more about our school and for back issues of this publication