

The Stream

Bringing news to the
volume 6



online community
issue 7

From Mrs. Kahan

Dear Parents and Students:

It was a pleasure to see many of you at our Open House this week. Thank you to everyone who helped in so many ways to make Open House a success. In particular, I would like to thank Sallie Levi and the Parent Council for providing the buffet and helping to decorate and prepare the school building, and Menachem Schnaidman, Howie Friedman, and Aliza Staiman for all of the time and effort that they devoted to Open House. Thank you as well to Etana Staiman and Tamar Landsman for heading Student Ambassadors with great dedication and energy. Most of all, I am appreciative of our wonderful faculty for providing a sense of academic and co-curricular life at Ma'ayanot through their mini-lessons and presentations at the academic fair. Thank you to Yaakov Samuels for coordinating the academic fair and to Nina Bieler, Rachel Feldman, and Orly Nadler for overseeing all aspects of Open House and for their professionalism and dedication to Ma'ayanot every day of the year.

Next week brings our annual school *Shabbaton*, one of the most memorable and significant events of the school year. We will depart for the *Shabbaton* directly from school on Thursday afternoon, returning Saturday night. I look forward to the meaningful learning, conversations, and enjoyable shared experiences that each *Shabbaton* brings.

Shabbat Shalom,

Mrs. Rivka Kahan
Principal





Parshat Vayera A Dvar Torah by Rabbi Daniel Besser

Let us start off with a number of questions.

- מלאכים found out that he and שרה were going to have יצחק at the end of לך לך. Yet, three days later, the מלאכים came to tell him the exact same news with שרה overhearing. Why was it necessary for Hashem to tell either of them, let alone twice, of יצחק's pending arrival? Why couldn't they find out the way that everyone else does?
- If שרה's נבואה was greater than אברהם's, why was he told directly by Hashem and she through a מלאך, who wasn't even talking to her?
- Why did Hashem reprimand שרה for her laughter, when אברהם also laughed when he was told they would have יצחק? Rashi (based on תרגום אונקלוס) explains that the laughter of אברהם expressed joy, while שרה's laughter was cynical and doubtful, but why would that be? And, even if it were true, אברהם heard the נבואה from Hashem. שרה heard the rantings of three Arabic nomads. Why would she be expected to take it seriously?
- שרה's reaction is completely irrational. רש"י (יהח) tells us that the bread that she prepared was never served because "פירסה נדה" at the age of 89. With the נס process already in motion, why would her reaction be so skeptical? Once her body was miraculously rejuvenated, is ודאי זקן that much more of an obstacle?

It is well known that each of the אבות and אמהות embodied a certain מידה, which means not merely a good quality that they had, but a theological approach as to the proper way to serve Hashem. When we say that אברהם was an אדם חסד, we mean that he was actively, externally focused in his עבודה ד'. Perhaps this also refers to a degree of spiritual optimism. We know that שרה personified גבורה, as did her son יצחק. Maybe that implies the reverse. Based on the story in the Midrash, an early if not initial exposure to G-d (or at least His supernatural miracles) for both אברהם and שרה was the story of the האש. כבשן האש stood up for Hashem and was miraculously saved, שרה watched her father הרין do the same and be burnt alive. Maybe this helped foster within each of them differing approaches to נס. To אברהם, anything was possible. When faced with a seeming contradiction – G-d's promise that he would be the father of a great nation and his childlessness into old age, or even the same promise against the commandment to sacrifice יצחק – he knew that his is not to reason why, and that Hashem can make it right in the end. שרה, on the other hand, dealt with the practical, and was emotionally reluctant to rely on נסים. Therefore, when her child-bearing years passed with no children, she assumed that the ברכה would be fulfilled through ישמעאל, but never dreamt that she would still be destined to be the mother of this nation.

This is not a value judgment. שרה's approach was not necessarily worse than אברהם's; in fact, sometimes her spiritual pessimism was appropriate. When ישמעאל was not turning out as planned, אברהם could only see his potential. It was שרה and her pragmatism that correctly recognized him שם – באשר הוא שם – as he was – and Hashem explicitly told אברהם to concede to her superior judgment.

A נסיון (test) is designed to test the subject in his potential area of weakness. Of course, had שרה received the news of יצחק's impending birth in the same way as אברהם, she would have reacted as he did. Perhaps שרה's נסיון was to recognize the possibility of נס. True, she heard the news from less than reliable sources, and had no obligation to believe it. But what Hashem did expect was that she not dismiss it out of hand. "היפלא מד' דבר?" Hashem's words of rebuke explain שרה's misstep. By cynically ruling out a miraculous conclusion to her story, שרה falls short of G-d's expectation. This is not to say that שרה was a spiritual failure or any less than the אדם ישראל we know her to be. Yet, the תורה is clear that Hashem is upset with her, so our job is to figure out why. The above may be a step in that pursuit.

Shabbat shalom,

Rabbi Donny Besser, *Mashgiach Ruchani*, Talmud and *Halakha* Faculties

Our Annual Open House Welcomes Many Prospective Ma'ayanot Students and Their Families



Student Ambassadors ready to greet prospective families

If you were in or around Ma'ayanot on the evening of November 9, you might have asked, "Why is this night different from other weekday nights?" No, you would not have been jumping ahead to Pesach but, rather, remarking that while our school is often open in the evening for sports events, meetings, presentations and performances, this week saw our first weekday evening Open House for prospective students. This year's Open House was originally scheduled for the morning of Sunday, October 30, but the change was necessitated by the brief but dramatic and dangerous snowstorm which took place on the previous *Shabbat* afternoon.

Our *Beit Knesset* was filled to capacity as **Mrs. Rivka Kahn**, Principal, came to the podium to offer words of welcome. **Elana Blanchard '12** presented a "student's view" of Ma'ayanot and **Mrs.**

Suzy Marder, Mom of **Shira '10** and **Shoshana '15** offered a "parent's perspective." **Mrs. Nina Bieler**, Director of Admissions, concluded the introductory part of the program.

The next part of the program offered insight into the classroom experience, with sample mini-lessons for parents and students in Humanities, Judaic Studies, Math and Science, as well as student panels which allowed parents and students to ask questions about our curricular and co-curricular offerings, "commuter life," the "balance between work and play," among others. The panels were moderated by **Mrs. Elise Vitow**, Director of Student Special Services, **Dr. Oshra Cohen**, Guidance, **Dr. Rayzel Yaish**, Director of Guidance, and **Mrs. Nava Orlian**, Learning Specialist. Many "Student Ambassadors" participated, among them **Daniella Greenbaum '12**, **Talia Moss '12**, **Gali Sadek '13**, **Atara Yaros '12**, **Zisse Hanfling '12**, **Rina Landsman '13**, **Esti Baum '14**, **Amira Tepler '14**, **Lizzy Klein '12**, **Yaffa Cohen '12**, **Shira Wolf '13**, **Eliana Tambor '12**, **Chavi Cohen '13**, **Eliana Sugarman '12**, **Tani Staiman '12**, **Tamar Landsman '13**, **Tova Goldstein '13**, **Mairav Linzer '14**, **Temima Kanarfogel '14**, **Rena Bierig '12**, **Danielle Wietschner '12**, **Gavi Colton '13**, **Malka Schnaidman '14**, **Tali Spier '13**, **Kayla Gottlieb '12**, **Rachel Klar '14**, **Shulamit Stochel '14** and **Tamar Novetsky '12**. Tani Staiman and Tamar Landsman are the heads of the Student Ambassadors, and were responsible for coordinating their efforts throughout the planning and implementation of the evening.

The evening concluded with an opportunity for prospective families to visit our Academic and Student Life Fair, which was set up in the gym. Each academic department and specialty, prepared a display of its offerings so that visitors could get a hands-on chance to interact with faculty, learn more about our offerings, and ask any additional questions.

Our Open House program was planned and directed by Mrs. **Nina Bieler**. The Academic Fair was coordinated by **Mr. Yaacov Samuels**, with **Mrs. Ivy Weiner** providing help with artwork and displays. **Mrs. Orly Nadler** provided technical support and coordination.



The Academic and Student Life Fair, before the start of the program

"In the Heights" -Once Again!

-as reported by, and with photos by, Shlomit Chelst '13

This year, Ma'ayanot once again sent a contingent of student journalists to participate in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's Fall Conference. Students from all over the country, accompanied by their faculty chaperones, meet at the Columbia University campus in Manhattan for a day of skill-building and networking. This year, the conference was held on Monday, November 6. Fifteen Ma'ayanot students participated. : **Ilana Kruger '12**, **Miriam Jacobson '12**, **Ayelet Golubtchik '14**, **Ilana Weinberger '13**, **Lauren Haberman '13**, **Shifra Arnheim '12**, **Talia Moss '12**, **Eliana Sugarman '12**, **Tamar Forman '12**, **Talia Kaszovitz '12**, **Anna Siegel '13**, **Shlomit Chelst '13**, **Tzipporah Rossman '13**, **Amira Tepler '13** and **Rebecca Meiner '13**. The attendees represented our literary magazine, *Sambatyon*, our newspaper, *The Source*, as well as our senior yearbook. The faculty chaperone was Mrs. Orly Nadler.



Our student journalists at Columbia with Mrs. Nadler

Speakers included professional journalists, journalism professors and advisors to school publications. Sessions on technique were popular, including layout, photography, law and ethics in journalism, as well as a variety of writing workshops. Not all workshops were technical in nature; Shlomit and Anna attended a session on layout for legibility and artistic design which they found interesting and worthwhile.

Musical and geographical challenge round all in one (a repeat of last year's - were you paying attention? Why is "In the Heights" an apt title for this page?



Sports Corner

Our Varsity Basketball team went up against Hillel on our home court on Sunday afternoon, November 6. Ma'ayanot played a great offensive, coupled with smart defensive moves, to defeat Hillel 31-20. Ma'ayanot's top scoring players were **Tzipora Leiser '13**, with 11 points, and **Rena Bierig '12**, with 10 points.



at left, will Elianna Isaacs make that shot?; at right, members of the team with Coach Laura Schuette



Be Prepared!

Fortunately, most of us will never be in a situation where we feel physically threatened, but it makes good sense to "be prepared." Self-defense experts report that, right from the start, someone who carries herself with confidence is less likely to be approached by someone who is up to no good.



Mrs. Chana Spivak, a certified "Refuse To Be a Victim" instructor, demonstrates the use of pepper spray

On Monday evening, November 7, Ma'ayanot hosted a voluntary self-defense program for women. Students were encouraged to sign up with their moms, and 14 attendees availed themselves of this opportunity. The program dealt with situational awareness, avoidance of danger, decision-making and the use of pepper spray. Mr. Phil Hanfling, Dad of **Zisse Hanfling '12**, was the organizer of this program, and "Coach" **Eileen Schwartz** was our school liaison. To learn more about this program, or to contact Mrs. Spivack, click [here](#).



above, Mr. Hanfling introduces the program and, at left, Meira Levi '15 and her sister Molly Levi '14, try their new skills

Kristallnacht Remembered

After *tefilla* on Wednesday morning, November 9, our Holocaust Committee presented a brief program in recognition of the anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, the "Night of Broken Glass," which took place on the night of November 9-10, 1938 in Nazi Germany and parts of Austria. Jewish homes and shops were ransacked or destroyed, Jews were attacked, and over 1600 *shuls* were damaged or ruined. The committee prepared a polished PowerPoint program which opened with iconic local scenes such as Sammy's, Ma'ayanot, and various *shuls*. The point was quickly made that we could not imagine these places being destroyed by anti-Semitic hatred, but that is exactly what happened during *Kristallnacht*. Survivors of *Kristallnacht* told of its impact in a series of video vignettes which were interspersed with photos of the actual events.

Our Holocaust Committee is comprised of **Hannah Ash '14**, **Gavi Colton '13**, **Shira Hanau '13**, **Julie Schwartz '13**, **Ilana Weinberger '13**, **Michal Fromowitz '12**, **Rivka Golding '12**, **Nediva Susman '14** and **Atara Yaros '12**. The committee chairs, who spearheaded this program, are Atara and Michal.



Atara Yaros (at left) and Nediva Susman light a candle in memory of the victims of *Kristallnacht*

Word of the Day: Synchronicity

Ready for the SAT? Then you know that "synchronicity" is defined as the occurrence of two or more events that are apparently unrelated or unlikely to occur together by chance, yet are observed to occur together in a meaningful manner. For example, today is 11/11/11. Your math SAT question is to determine how frequently a date appears in this pattern, where the same number is the month, day, and year.

The concept of synchronicity is demonstrated with today's date, for example, because it is Veteran's Day, formerly known as Armistice Day. Although the Treaty of Versailles, ending World War I, was not signed until June 28, 1919, the cease-fire actually took place seven months earlier, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. A related concept is numerology, which seeks to attribute special meaning to numbers, patterns of numbers, or the occurrence of numerical patterns in nature. For example, a numerologist would hold that it is not by chance that the Twin Towers attacks occurred on 9/11 and that the buildings created the number 11 in silhouette.

Mrs. Joyce Heller, Math Chair, asked the members of her Freshman Honors Geometry Class to see what they could learn about November 11, the sequence 11/11/11, and the concept of numerology. Students were encouraged to use their culinary creativity as well as their artistic and intellectual skills to report their discoveries to their classmates.

The Orthodox Union, in Conjunction with Ben Porat Yosef and the RCBC Cordially Invites All Parents to a Communal Program on:

Parenting Your Teen & Pre-teen

NOVEMBER 19, 2011 >> 7:30PM

PROGRAM SCHEDULE *Select one workshop each hour*

8:00 – 8:55 p.m.

- 1 When the Hormones Kick In...
Understanding Your Teen's Emerging Sexuality
Scott Chudnoff, M.D., MS, FACOG
- 2 What Your Daughter Wants to Know:
Things I Wish Someone Had Told Me
When I Was a Teenage Girl
Lauren Roth, LCSW
- 3 How to Instill Respect for Others
in Our Teenagers
Dov Snow, M.A.
- 4 How to Communicate With Your Teen
in an Age of Social Media: Facebook,
Texting and Twitter
Alex Bailey, Psy.D.
- 5 Choosing Your Battles Wisely:
Raising an Orthodox Teenager
in the 21st Century
Nosson Westreich, M.D.

9:00 – 9:55 p.m.

- 1 Communicating With Your Adolescent
David Pelcovitz, Ph.D.
- 2 Limit-Setting with Your Teens
that Actually Work
Alex Bailey, Psy.D.
- 3 Body Image: Who's that Girl in the
Mirror? A Look Into Your Teen's
Sense of Self
Sarah Roer, Ph.D.
- 4 Teaching Our Teens Values and
Enhancing Their Spirituality
Lauren Roth, LCSW
- 5 Judaism is More Than Just The Rules
Dov Snow, M.A.

10:00 – 10:55 p.m.

PANEL DISCUSSION:
How to Respond to Your Teenager
about Religious Hypocrisy
(see below)

BEN PORAT YOSEF
East 243 Frisch Court, Paramus, NJ 07652

PRE-REGISTRATION:
\$15 per person. \$20 per couple
AT THE DOOR:
\$25 per person. \$30 per couple

REGISTER ONLINE:
www.oucommunity.org
REGISTER BY PHONE: 212.613.8300

Distinguished Panelists

David Pelcovitz, Ph.D. | Rabbi Steven Pruzansky
Nosson Westreich, M.D. | Rabbi Yaakov Glasser
Mrs. Shanny Gejerman | Lauren Roth, LCSW
Alex Bailey, Psy.D. | Rabbi Danny Rapp, J.D.

For a program on Positive Jewish
Parenting in your Community,
please contact Frank Buchweitz,
National Director of Community
Services, Orthodox Union 212.613.8188,
frank@ou.org, www.oucommunity.org

Reach Out and Help Someone -It's the Ma'ayanot Way!



November 8, 2011

Dear Friends,

We, Team Ma'ayanot, have decided to run with Team Yachad in the ING Miami Half-Marathon taking place on January 29, 2012, raising money for Yachad. Yachad, The National Jewish Council for Disabilities under the umbrella organization of the Orthodox Union, is dedicated to addressing the needs of all individuals with disabilities and ensuring their inclusion in the Jewish community. Yachad events take place in many Jewish communities throughout the United States and Canada and include Shabbatons, monthly trips, Melaveh Malkas, educational services, and summer programs.

We have all decided to run for different reasons; for some of us this will be our second time running or even our first interactions with Yachad, while others are participating to give back to Yachad following our experiences on Yad B'Yad Israel. Yad B'Yad is a summer program which allows typically developing high school students from around the country and individuals with special needs to tour and travel Israel together and form lasting friendships. The seven of us have decided to run "B'Yachad" as a sub -team of Team Yachad called TEAM MA'AYANOT.

Team Yachad was founded two years ago as runners participated in the January 2010 ING Miami Half -Marathon. This year, we are proud to call ourselves members of the January 2012 team. Each of us needs to raise three thousand dollars, and we need your help. Your sponsorship can make a huge difference in the lives of many people! Yachad impacts all of us in unique ways and pushes us to accomplish things we never dreamed of- like running 13.1 miles and raising money!

You can mail donations to the Yachad office addressed to:

Yachad Attn: Sara Pollak
11 Broadway 13 Floor
NY, NY 10004

The checks should be made payable to Yachad with "TEAM MA'AYANOT" in the memo.

You can also make a donation by logging on to

<http://teamyachad.com/runner/TeamMaayanot>

If you have any questions you can email us at teammaayanot@gmail.com

Thank you so much for allowing us to participate in this worthy cause. Let's do this "b'yachad"!!!!

Sincerely,

Team Maayanot

Racheli Ambinder, Elana Blanchard, Chava Danishefsky, Naomi Kadish, Lizzy Klein, Tobey Linhart, Racheli Weil, Nina Weiss

בס"ד

SHA'ALVIM FOR WOMEN

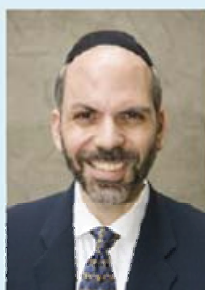
YOM IYUN



Shiurim by:

Rav Yamin Goldsmith (YS '86/'87)

Menahel, SFW



Rav Yona Reiss (YS '85)

Max and Marion Grill Dean, RIETS

**Parshat Toldot:
Family Relationships**

Congregation
Rinat Yisrael
Teaneck, NJ

Open to all
Women

Free Admission

Sunday

כג חשוון תשע"ב

Nov. 20th, 2011

10am- Noon

CONTACT: Rav Reuven Ungar- ReuvenU@gmail.com



Please join us for the first series
in this year's
Adult Education program

Mrs. Lynn Kraft
of our *Tanakh* Faculty
will present

"Therein Lies the Wisdom of the Wise: A Closer Look at Sefer Mishlei"

All women in the community are welcome
Six Wednesdays, October 26 through
November 30, 2011
11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

at our school



Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls
1650 Palisade Avenue
Teaneck, NJ 07666
201-444-4307
www.maayanot.org



SHABBATON IS COMING!

When? Shabbat Parshat Chayeh Sarah, November 17-19

Where? The Radisson Hotel, Somerset, New Jersey

Who? All Ma'ayanot students, all faculty members are welcome

Have you handed in all your forms?

BE THERE!

Save the Date

November 16 (Wednesday) - Israel Night at Frisch, beginning at 7:00 PM

November 17 - 19 (Thursday - Saturday) - schoolwide *Shabbaton*

December 4 (Sunday) - SAT I and SAT II

December 9 (Friday) - Fall Community Service sheets due

December 11 (Sunday) - ACT exam administered

December 13 (Tuesday) - **Family Conferences**, Grades 9 and 12

December 14 (Wednesday) - **Family Conferences**, Grades 10 and 11

December 19 (Monday) - "Bye Bye Birdie" at 3 PM and 7:30 PM. 3 PM show is mandatory for all students

December 20 -27 (Tuesday-Tuesday) -4:40 dismissal, Chanukah

December 23 - 26 (Friday-Monday) - Chanukah recess, no sessions



The Stream

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Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls
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Mrs. Rivka Kahan, Principal
Mrs. Tamar Appel and Ms. Elana Flaumenhaft, Assistant Principals
Rachel Feldman, Administrator
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