

The Stream

Bringing news to the
Volume 6



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A Letter from Yirmiyahu to Us*

Ten years before the first *Beit HaMikdash* was destroyed, Nevuchadnetzar, Emperor of Babylonia, exiled Yehoyachin, his court and 10,000 of the Judean elite to Bavel. Due to our distance from this event—it occurred almost 3,500 years ago—it is difficult for us to fathom the psychological shattering borne out of this tragedy. The Jewish people had settled, lived in, built up and owned their land for close to a millennium, and their holy Temple had stood for over 400 years. They were now forcibly wrested from their homes and the shadow of their Temple's destruction loomed large and unavoidable.

Chapter 29 in the Book of Yirmiyahu begins with a letter that Yirmiyahu was directed by Hashem to send to the exiles living in Bavel. His words are as revolutionary as they are comforting: "This is what [Hashem] says to all the exiles: Build houses and plant gardens...take wives and bear children...multiply there and do not grow few. And seek the peace of the city to which I have exiled you, and pray for its sake to Hashem. For with its peace, you shall have peace." (Jer. 29: 4-7; paraphrasing and translation are mine.) From these verses come the laws of "*darchei shalom*" (the ways of peace)—guidelines for how we are to treat our non-Jewish neighbors and colleagues. We must always act with integrity and respect towards them, ever mindful of this positive mitzvah and its negative *d'oraita* parallel—*chilul hashem*. Furthermore, we are commanded to "pray for the peace" of the country we are living in, because our peace, freedom and security as Jews depends on the peace, freedom and security of the country in which we reside. We are immeasurably blessed to be living in a country like the United States, perhaps the only country in the world (other than *Eretz Yisrael*) where we can practice our religion and educate future generations completely, openly and freely. Perhaps at no other time in our long history have we enjoyed so much freedom in a foreign country and we can never lose sight of that blessing and privilege.

In keeping with Yirmiyahu's letter and its message, it would behoove us to take a little time out during this Thanksgiving weekend and truly give thanks to Hashem for enabling us to live in such a place: where all people are guaranteed the freedom of worship by the law of the land and where we can learn Torah, keep *Shabbat* and *kashrut* and all of the other mitzvot without fear and with pride.

Happy Thanksgiving and *Shabbat Shalom*.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leah V. Herzog".

Mrs. Leah Herzog, *Tanakh* Department, Israel Guidance

*This *dvar Torah*, reprinted from previous years, has become an annual "Stream" Thanksgiving tradition.

"A Minute in Medieval Jewish History"

Ninth graders study, among other subjects, Medieval Jewish History, taught by Mrs. Julie Goldstein. This year, as she has done in the past, Mrs. Goldstein has divided her classes into two teams, "Ashkenaz" and "Sfarad," for a gradewide competition called "A Minute in Medieval Jewish History."

Team members are presently researching the appropriate style of dress, consistent with their team, that they will wear during a week long "mini-color war" in Mrs. Goldstein's classes. Each student will also present her theme-related topic during that time. The presentation must be memorable and creative, and must take no more than sixty seconds. In past years, students have brought to life such topics as "An Interview With the Rambam," and "The Crusades: A Storybook." The competition will take place during Chanukah week, and the entire winning team will get, as its prize, a sleepover at Mrs. Goldstein's house.



Ma'ayanot Takes "The Challenge"



Ms. Sarah Gordon, at far left, with Ilana Teicher, Tamar Novetsky, Chana Garbow, Talia Moss and alternate Yaffa Cohen

On Wednesday, November 16, **Chana Garbow '12, Ilana Teicher '12, Yaffa Cohen '12, Tamar Novetsky '12** (team captain) and **Talia Moss '12**, accompanied by Ms. Sarah Gordon and a retinue of supporters, traveled to Madison Square Garden in New York City to take "The Challenge." The "Challenge," now in its fourteenth year, is a competition sponsored by MSG Varsity/Cablevision/Channel 12 which pits high school teams against one another to test their mastery of general knowledge in a contest styled as a television game show.

We went up against Cresskill High, also in Bergen County.

How did we do? Tune in on February 16, 2012 to find out! There are three rounds to the challenge - multiple choice, the lightning round and free response, with random bonus questions thrown in. The contest is moderated by Jared Cotter, who gained national prominence as a semi-finalist on "American Idol." To read more about our contestants and to visit the MSG Varsity website, click [here](#).



above, some of the large contingent of fans which came to cheer us on!

Sports Corner



The Junior Varsity Basketball game against Central on *motzei Shabbat*, November 12, was a defensive thriller. **Shoshana Marder '15** had 20 defensive rebounds and 7 offensive rebounds. **Avital Goldstein '14** also played a strong defense, with 8 defensive rebounds. During a fourth quarter explosion, with help from **Yonina Silverman '14** and **Eden Tsour '15** the Ma'ayanot Rapids were able to pull out a 15-10 victory. A shout out to our bench players who kept cheering their active teammates on throughout the game. Without this support, the Rapids might have not had the passion to pull out a victory!



above, the Rapids on home court



*Presenting our JV Basketball Team:
at rear from left to right are Jessica Levart '15 and Daniella Jacobs '15 (Managers), Tova Sklar '15, Leah Israel '15, Eden Tsour '15, Eden Sopher-Harellick '14, Ronit Bluman '14, Micayla Rosenbaum '14, Liad Arussy '14 and Avital Goldstein '14, with coach Rich Castelluccio and Samantha Rosado.
In front from left to right are Hannah Last '14, Yonina Silverman '14, Chavi Cohen '14, Shoshana Marder '15 and*

Our Varsity Volleyball team played SAR at home on Monday night, November 14. The team was very anxious to play because we lost to SAR in the semi-finals last year and wanted this win. Unfortunately, we lost, but it was a close match. Freshman **Esther Alexander**, playing her first home volleyball game, was pretty calm and had some great digs (that's volleyball lingo).

Lunch and Learn

The most recent session in our ongoing professional development program, under the leadership of Mrs. Tova Warburg Sinensky and Mrs. Shira Schiowitz, was held on November 23. This session, taught by Mrs. Ariella Rosenbaum of our Science Department, explored strategies for creating Smart Board lessons using Notebook software. The presentation covered writing, editing, copying/pasting text, inserting lines, shapes and pictures, using the Lesson Activity Toolkit, and saving, printing and sharing the lesson. This session was two periods long, to allow teachers time to start creating their own lesson. Teachers had a chance to follow along over lunch as Mrs. Rosenbaum shared her skills, and then to stay and put what they learned to use.

One of the highlights of each year is our schoolwide *Shabbaton*, which was held this year at the Radisson Hotel in Piscataway, New Jersey from the afternoon of November 17 through *motzei Shabbat*, November 19.

After *mincha* on Thursday, everyone boarded buses and headed for roller skating at Branch Brook Park, which was on the way to the hotel. Once at the hotel, students and faculty checked into their assigned rooms and then reconvened for dinner and *Ma'ariv*. The G. O. then took center stage to introduce this year's theme, "Heroism." Their presentation was followed by a *dvar Torah* given by **Miriam Blum '15**, after which came the G. O. *tochnit*. If that were not enough, we were all going strong and able to enjoy snacks and socializing at the pool, exercise room or the *kumzitz* in the "Grand Ballroom," followed by a Big/Little Sister activity and a special senior program.



Those frisky freshmen find strength in numbers



Zisse Hanfling '12 enjoying her time at the rink

Shabbaton, 2011!

Friday morning dawned chilly but sunny. After *Shacharit* and breakfast, the morning's activity was inter-grade bowling, with groups encouraged to dress up and show off their solidarity. Lunch was back at the hotel, followed by free time to swim, work out, participate in *Chessed* activities and then get ready for *Shabbat*. After candle lighting, Mrs. Rivka Kahan offered words of welcome. Rabbi Zev Prince led *Kabbalat Shabbat* and *Ma'ariv*, which was followed by dinner, *zmirot* and a *dvar Torah* by **Sarah Gold '12**, followed by the freshman skit. After *Birkat HaMazon*, our seniors led "Will the Real Hero Please Stand Up?" For this activity, students were divided by *Mehanechet* groups to discuss the meaning of "heroism." The speaker at the evening's *oneg* was Judge Danny Butler, a family court mediator, regional director of NCSY and popular speaker to Jewish themes.



"We are the Seniors, we rule the school..." -or so they say!

On *Shabbat* morning, as is the *Ma'ayanot* tradition, introductions to the *aliyot* during *Kriyat Ha Torah* were given by our students, **Gaba Shankman '13**, **Atara Yaros '12**, **Gali Sadek '13**, **Nediva Susman '14**, **Naima Hirsch '15**, **Shayna Joseph '15**, **Tova**

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Sklar '15 and **Julie Schwartz '13**. Kiddush was followed by another Ma'ayanot *Shabbaton* tradition, "choose your own *shiur*" on a variety of subjects relating to the theme of "heroes." Lunch included the sophomore skit, the junior skit, and a *dvar Torah* by **Chavi Cohen '14**. *Mincha* was followed by a choice of activities, including "The Alumni Game," a Q and A with Judge Butler, or snacks and games with students and teachers going head to head for some serious "Bananagrams" competition. Who were the top scorer, teachers or students? We'll leave that to your imagination.



Seniors *Racheli Ambinder* and *Corinne Blumin* on the dance floor

As the shadows grew longer, everyone reconvened for *Seudah Shlishit* and a *kumzitz* led by the seniors, including a *dvar Torah* by **Zisse Hanfling '12** and a story recounted by Judge Butler. *Ma'ariv* and *Havdalah* were followed by the traditional end of a Ma'ayanot *Shabbaton* - distribution of grade shirts, packing up, and then a lively *Melave Malka*, including a *dvar Torah* by **Chani Dubin '13** and the senior skit. Everyone could have kept dancing all night, but it was soon time to board the buses and head for home.

As the shadows grew longer, everyone reconvened for *Seudah Shlishit* and a *kumzitz* led by the seniors, including a *dvar Torah* by

Zisse Hanfling '12 and a story



above, Mrs. Orly Nadler and "Coach" Eileen Schwartz "schmooze" with some members of the junior class

below, members of the Class of 2010: from left to right are Penina Cohen, Aviva Novick, Shira marder and Adena Kleiner; at far right, some members of the Class of 2013



Ma'ayanot Sweeps First Torah Bowl Meet of the Year!

as reported by Arielle Isaac '14

Ma'ayanot's Torah Bowl team returned victorious and justifiably proud from the first meet of the academic year, which was held on Tuesday, November 15 at SAR. It was a clean sweep, with Ma'ayanot decisively defeating our opponents in each round. The final scores were Ma'ayanot 10-Ramaz 7; Ma'ayanot 14-Westchester Hebrew High 5; Ma'ayanot 19-SAR 18 and Ma'ayanot 14-SAR 9. This year's Torah Bowl requires participants to prepare three *parshiyot*; *Vayikra*, *Shemini* and *Tzav*, each with the corresponding "Rashis." Our Torah Bowl team is comprised of **Shira Sohn '14**, **Temima Kanarfogel '14**, **Tova Sklar '15**, **Tziporah Rossman '13** and **Ilana Karp '14**. Rabbi Zev



Prince, Faculty Advisor.



above, from left to right are Ilana Karp, Temima Kanarfogel, Tova Sklar and Shira Sohn, with Rabbi Zev Prince, Faculty Advisor.

At right, Tziporah Rossman looks on, at left, as Tova Sklar and Ilana Karp practice their buzzer skills



College Bowl



If Thursday wasn't busy enough with last minute *Shabbaton* plans, the first College Bowl meet of the year took place that same morning at Congregation Rinat Israel in Teaneck. The "TABC guys" were the host team, and other schools which competed included Kushner, Frisch, JEC and Hillel. Ma'ayanot went up against TABC, Kushner and Hillel. The matches were close but we did not bring home a victory-this time.



Representing Ma'ayanot were our JV team, comprised of **Anna Siegel '13**, **Naomi Kadish '13**, **Malka Schnaidman '14**, **Ilana Karp '14 (Captain)**, **Tova Sklar '15** and **Shira Sohn '14**. Our Varsity team members are **Tamar Novetsky '12 (Captain)**, **Chana Garbow '12 (Captain)**, **Ilana Teicher '12 (Captain)**, **Talia Moss '12**, **Tsiporah Cohen '12**, **Michal Cohen '12**, **Yaffa Cohen '12**, **Ilana Kruger '12** and **Daniella Greenbaum '12**. Ms. Sarah Gordon is the Faculty Advisor.



Keep your eye out for the "**Blue Elf**" balloon if you watch the Thanksgiving Parade- Can you identify which member of the Ma'ayanot Faculty/Administration is one of the balloon handlers?

"Conrad Birdie is coming!!!"

Don't miss the Ma'ayanot Musical Theater Club's production of "**Bye Bye Birdie**"



Monday, December 19, 2011
at 3 PM and 7:30 PM



[Empty rectangular box with a blue border and a small 'S' in the bottom right corner]

- 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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