

The Stream

Bringing news to the
Volume 5



online community
Issue 24

From Mrs. Kahan...

Dear Parents and Students:

This week, our school commemorated *Yom HaZikaron* and celebrated *Yom Ha-Atzmaut*. On *Yom HaZikaron*, we heard a presentation by an Israeli soldier and watched an inspiring documentary about Michael Levin, an American *oleh* who joined an elite paratrooper unit of the IDF and ultimately fell in battle in Lebanon in 2006. On *Yom Ha-Atzmaut*, the whole student body attended a presentation by Mrs. Shayna Goldberg of our *Halakha* faculty, who spoke movingly and honestly about her decision to make aliyah this summer and the journey that brought her to this point. Mrs. Goldberg's speech was followed by a festive barbecue, and then by a *Hidon Yisrael*, a contest in which our students and faculty answered questions about Israeli history and culture. Thank you to Ms. Sarah Gordon and Ms. Ariella Steinreich for all of their work on our *Yom HaZikaron* and *Yom Ha-Atzmaut* programming, and to Mrs. Merav Tal-Timen for creating and organizing the *Hidon Yisrael*. Because of their efforts, the meaning of *Yom HaZikaron* and the spirit and joy of *Yom Ha-Atzmaut* were palpable at Ma'ayanot.

In addition to our in-school programming, Ma'ayanot partnered this year with Bnei Akiva, NCSY, Frisch, SAR, and TABC to sponsor a *Yom Ha-Atzmaut* program on Monday evening, held at The Frisch School. Over 200 high school students and many faculty members attended the program, which included a *Yom HaZikaron* ceremony, *tefillah hagigit* for *Yom Ha-Atzmaut*, and a *hagigah* with a concert. Thank you to Ms. Flaumenhaft and Ms. Gordon for their involvement in planning the event, and to the Ma'ayanot student representatives who helped organize the program and sell tickets: Hanna Erdfarb, Avital Peyser, Yael Herzog, Michal Fromowitz, Elana Blanchard, Lizzy Klein, Hedva Weissler, and Molly Brodsky.

We look forward to two important Ma'ayanot events that will take place next week. On Tuesday evening, our annual college panel will be held at 7:15 pm. At the college panel, representatives from a number of schools will speak about the college process and about their respective schools. This informational evening is mandatory for juniors. Sophomores and their parents are welcome to attend as well.

Next Shabbat, May 20th-21st, is the date of our second annual *Torahton*, which will be held at Congregation Rinat Yisrael in Teaneck. At the *Torahton*, students and faculty will enjoy *Shabbat* dinner together, followed by a *shiur* and *oneg*. On *Shabbat* afternoon, we will gather again for *shiurim* and *seudah shlishit*. We are happy to arrange home hospitality for any students who do not live locally; please contact Rabbi Besser, Ms. F., or me for help in arranging housing.

Shabbat shalom,

Rivka Kahan

Parshat Behar

A dvar Torah by Mrs. Nina Bieler



The Torah includes a significant number of examples of individuals who experience a moment of doubt concerning their religious beliefs. However, such thoughts are rarely found within the *halakhic* portions of the Torah. One significant exception is with regard to the concept of *shmita*, found in this week's *parsha* (*Vayikra* 25:20:) "And if you shall say: What will we eat during the seventh year? Behold we cannot sow (new plants) nor harvest (that which will grow by itself without cultivation)!"

The individual quoted in this verse wonders how we can realistically fulfill the mitzvah of *shmita*. How is it possible that the food produced during the sixth year will be enough to sustain us during the seventh and eighth years as well? The Torah responds with a reassurance (*Ibid.*, 21-22): "And I will command My blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years. And you shall sow in the eighth year, and eat of old food until the ninth year, until its (the eighth year's) produce is ready you shall eat from the food from the previous harvest."

Malbim contends that *Hashem's* confident answer results from His being all too well acquainted with human nature and the Jewish people's pattern of behavior. Not only will individuals express this doubt, or lack of faith, but the entire *Klal* will ask the question at one point or another. Are *Hashem's mitzvot* meant to be understood, at least in part, as tests of human faith, as we struggle to believe that *Hashem* will provide for His people?

Another example of a *mitzvah* that hints at the challenges of faith connected to *shmita* is the *mitzvah* of *Aliya LeRegel*: "Three times per year all of your men should appear before the Face of the Master, HaShem, God of Israel." (*Shemot* 23:17) Although in the instance of "*Aliya LeRegel*" the individual who is commanded does not articulate his objection, it can be readily inferred from the subsequent reassuring verse: "When I will cause you to inherit nations from before you, and I will expand your borders, no man will covet your land, when you go up to see the face of *HaShem* your God three times each year." (*Shemot* 34:24)

On further reflection, one comes to realize that on an existential level the entire agricultural enterprise in the land of Israel, from *shmita* to *Aliyah LeRegel* are a long series of tests of faith. To emphasize this point, the Torah draws a clear distinction between the lands of Egypt and Israel, with respect to the manner in which crops are normally grown in the two locales. "Because the land that you are coming there to inherit, is not like the land of Egypt, from which you went out, where you sow your seeds and water by foot (you carry the water from the Nile to the fields which you desire to irrigate), like a green garden. The land that you are crossing (the Jordan river) there to inherit is a land of mountains and valleys, by means of the rain from the heavens it drinks water." (*Devarim* 11:10-11)

Rashi and *Rashbam* emphasize both the positive and negative aspects of depending upon rain rather than upon the Nile as a source for irrigation. *Rashi* explains that in Egypt, one had to be disturbed from his sleep in order to work; only the lower areas would be naturally watered as opposed to the higher elevations, and one would therefore have to physically carry the water from the lower to the higher places. In the land of Israel, by contrast, one could stay asleep in his bed, while *Hashem* provides rain for both the higher and lower places.

Rashbam points to the theological implications of relying on rain: "...You have to observe the Commandments of *HaShem*, because this land is better (than Egypt) for those who are observant, but worse than all of the lands for those who do not observe,...the land of Egypt, all people, good and evil, as long as they are willing to take the trouble, will be able to water their fields and they will have food to eat, but as for the land of Israel, only if you observe the Commandments will (v. 12) "the Lord your God seek its welfare constantly; the Eyes of the Lord your God will

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Parshat Behar - A dvar Torah by Mrs. Nina Bieler (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

be upon it from the beginning of the year until the end of the year" to provide you with rain in times of need."

Consequently, just as the Jewish people had to depend upon exceptional productivity of their fields during the sixth year to see them through the three years that would follow, each individual year of the Sabbatical year cycle in terms of itself also carried with it a considerable challenge and therefore cause for insecurity and angst. Each year, the people would ask themselves if they were deserving of the blessing of rain.

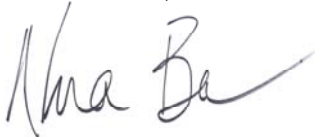
The lesson of the profound uncertainty of one's food supply, and how it is directly linked to *Hashem's* assessment of our behavior, is initially impressed upon the Jewish people with regard to the Manna that they consumed in the desert soon after the Exodus from Egypt. *Kli Yakar*, in order to try to explain why the Jews appeared to be extremely concerned already in the sixth year of the Sabbatical year cycle, references the description of the people's experience with the manna, as summarized by Moshe in *Sefer Devarim* 8:3: "And He humbled you, and caused you to be hungry, and fed you manna, with which you were unfamiliar, neither had your fathers experienced it before, in order that He could make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but rather by every word that issues from the mouth of the Lord does man live."

With regard to *mitzvot* like "*shmita*" and "*Aliyah LeRegel*," it is scary to relinquish control over our physical and economic circumstances. And yet, we must still find time to devote to the development of our souls. *Mitzvot* such as *shmita* and *Aliyah LeRegel*, as well as other *mitzvot* that involve sacrifice, such as *Shabbat*, *Tzedaka*, and even providing a Jewish education for our children, remind us that our spiritual needs are just as significant as our physical needs. To live a total Jewish life, success with regard to "*parnasa*" (financial concerns), which we are taught to believe is so much in God's hands, becomes a function of not only how skilled and innovative we are and how hard and long we work, but also how spiritually engaged and deeply believing we manage to be.

A contemporary, and all too relevant, example of this type of sacrifice can be felt in the Jewish people's taking off from work or school for a holiday. Growing up, and attending non-Jewish schools, I often felt conflicted about missing notes and class time by staying home on the Jewish holidays. As an adult, I watch as my husband forgoes vacation days in order to take off for Jewish holidays. How can we be certain that we will be able to provide for our families if we aren't at work, particularly in 2011, with the economic climate being so tenuous?

As an aside, when thinking of the idea of sacrifice for a higher cause, my thoughts naturally turn to the sacrifices that Israel's army and its citizens have made over the last 60 plus years on behalf of our homeland, sacrifices that we commemorated this week on *Yom HaZikaron*. Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of accompanying our seniors on a trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in lower Manhattan. While the museum is always brimming with tales of sacrifice and determination, one exhibit lingers in my memory – the special exhibition on the life of Hannah Senesh, who went on a volunteer mission to rescue downed Allied fliers and Jews in Nazi occupied Hungary. She was captured on this mission, and was executed at the age of 23. I admire her courage and her commitments to her convictions, which she literally sacrificed her life for, and pray that I too, have the strength of character and of faith to stay true to all of my beliefs, even when they are challenged.

Shabbat shalom,



Mrs. Nina Bieler, Director of Admissions



Yom HaZikaron

5 Iyar 5771, Yom HaZikaron, fell on Monday, May 9. The mood became somber even as students and faculty entered the building; posters of fallen Israeli soldiers, with a brief biography, were on all the entry doors. On our wide-screen computer monitor, a series of short videos played to memorialize Israeli soldiers who lost their lives in defense of the land. After morning *tefilla*, there was a brief *Yizkor* ceremony in memory of Israeli soldiers lost in all wars. This was followed by a presentation by Mr. Eitan Ivgi, who is currently a soldier in the Israeli army. During *mehanechet* period, everyone came together once again to watch a short movie about Michael Levin ז"ל, an American serving in the Israeli Army who was killed in the war with Lebanon. Mr. Levin, who grew up in Pennsylvania, made *aliyah* and joined the IDF in his late teens and fought for Israel before losing his life at age 22. To read more, click here <http://www.michaellevinmemorialfund.org/>.



above, Mr. Ivgi speaks to faculty and students

Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzmaut Commemoration

as reported by **Hanna Erdfarb '11**

This past Monday night, Ma'ayanot, in conjunction with Bnei Akiva, NCSY, Frisch, SAR and TABC, sponsored a special Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzmaut celebration at The Frisch School. The program served as a transition between the somber mood of Yom HaZikaron and the feelings of joy and festivity that are part of Yom HaAtzmaut. The program began with the reading of *Yizkor* and *Kel Maleh*, followed by a short *tekes* in which students acted out vignettes from the lives of fallen Israeli soldiers. This was followed by the reading of a letter written by a community *shaliach* to a neighbor who was killed.



above, Ma'ayanoters show their solidarity

A short film about the history of Israel and how it came to be the country it is today changed the mood from somber to one of excitement. Everyone joined together to sing *Hatikva*...and it was party time. The Moshav

Band gave a lively concert, and there was tasty Israeli-style food to fuel everyone's energy.

Hanna Erdfarb '11, Avital Peyser '11, Yael Herzog '11, Michal Fromowitz '12, Elana Blanchard '12 and Lizzy Klein '12 were Ma'ayanot's student organizers. Sophs **Hedva Weissler** and **Molly Brodsky** were in charge of ticket sales.

at left, Michal Fromowitz lights memorial candles



Mission to Minnesota

by **Julie Schwartz '13**

This past week, twelve sophomores and juniors attended a mission to Minnesota, the first mission in Ma'ayanot history and the first only-girls NCSY mission. In collaboration with Nechama, the Jewish Disaster Relief Organization and NCSY, Ma'ayanot participated in a successful four-day mission to help rebuild homes following serious floods along the Red River in early October. The group was warned that it would be hard work and that we would get minimal sleep, but the "Ma'ayanot dozen" was ready to give back and help where it was needed.

The group left school at 3:00 pm sharp on Wednesday, May 4th and headed to the airport fly to Minneapolis. Once the group landed, there was an hour and a half drive to Rochester, Minnesota, a location not far from where we would be volunteering.



*members of the Ma'ayanot mission to Minnesota,
above*

On Thursday morning, there was a 6:30 am wakeup call; the first workday was about to begin. We headed to Hammond, which once had a population of 197 people, but, as a result of damaging floods, only sixteen remained. We drove along Main Street, which only had four or five mostly desolate stores remaining. The Lutheran Disaster Relief Organization, which is very active in rebuilding after the flooding and in getting displaced families new homes, assigned most of our work.

Most of the group painted the first floor of a home that was severely damaged and had already been gutted and fixed. Some of the group assisted homeowners in picking up garbage and debris from their properties. We worked from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and, after that, everyone looked like she was going to collapse.

The next day, we returned to Hammond, but the projects were different. One group painted the basement of a church and scraped its outside walls while another group helped a woman named Doris clean her property.

Doris is an eighty-year-old who has resided in Hammond for over seventy years. The floods that ripped through the community were the first ones she had experienced and were, in her words, "a once in a century happening." Her home was completely destroyed and, with the help of a relative, rebuilt. What remained on her property was a huge pile of insulation and siding from her old home. It had been standing in her yard all winter and our group was successful filling a dumpster with these remnants of her past home.

Doris showed us marks that the floods made on her shed that were six feet high. Recalling how she survived the flood, Doris said the water must have risen about two feet an hour, and she was lifted from her house by an airboat. There are many people like Doris in and around Hammond who need help because they have not received government assistance or other aid such as the effort of volunteers.

For *Shabbat*, we went to Minneapolis and were hosted by families in the community. We met many kinds

(Continued on page 6)

Invites the female community to
HEARTBEATS

"A night of song, dance and connection."

To Benefit **NECHAMAH***

When: **Tuesday, May 24, 2011**

Where: **1650 Palisade Ave. Teaneck, NJ 07666**

Time: **Doors open at 7 pm, show starts at 7:30**

\$15 in advance and \$18 at the door

To download a sponsorship form, click [here](#).

Sponsorship of \$100 or more entitles you to two free tickets.

To reserve tickets or to become a sponsor, see one of the Heartbeats Chairs: Rachel Mendelson, Ayala Schnaidman, Tzippy Shteingart, Esti Mellul, Lauren Fuchs and Leora Engel or contact Heartbeats@maayanot.org

***Nechamah is a support group for families which have experienced infant or pregnancy loss. Learn more by visiting its website, www.nechamah.org.**

Mission to Minnesota (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

people and were given the opportunity to hang out with local NCSYers.

On Sunday morning, we took part in the "Race for the Cure," a breast cancer walk that attracted 50,000 participants at the Mall of America. It was amazing to see all the people who came out to support this cause and, at the same time, it was sad to see all the people who were affected by this disease.

Following the march, we visited a homeless shelter, "Mary's Place," which is run by private donations and focuses on getting families back on their feet. We played with children at this amazing place, which has helped thousands of families.

Personally, the trip was a great opportunity to get in touch with the community at large and make a real *Kiddush Hashem*. It was tough to see people who seemingly lost everything, but were thankful to be alive. Remarkably, there were no human casualties in Hammond from the foods; this helps underscore the point that material things can be replaced, but people and family cannot. I would encourage everyone to attend a mission. It is an eye opening and life changing experience.

Adult Education at Ma'ayanot

Mrs. Shira Schiowitz, *Tanakh* Chair,
will present a series of *shiurim* for six Wednesdays, beginning May 4.

The program will take place in our *Beit Knesset* and will explore

"Moshe's Leadership in Sefer Bamidbar."

All interested women are welcome.

LAG BAOMER CARNIVAL!

DATE: Sunday May 22, 2011

TIME: 12:00 PM- 4:00 PM

WHERE: MA'AYANOT YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL
1650 Palisade Ave
Teaneck, NJ 07666

WHO: ALL CHILDREN AGES 4-10

Prices:

\$1 PER TICKET

\$5 PER 10 TICKETS

\$15 PER 20 TICKETS

\$30 UNLIMITED PER CHILD

\$45 UNLIMITED PER FAMILY

COME ENJOY MOONBOUNCE, FACE
PAINTING, VARIOUS BOOTHS, FOOD AND
DRINKS, MUSIC, AWESOME PRIZES, AND
TONS OF FUN!

SUPPORT THE MA'AYANOT SENIORS IN
RAISING MONEY FOR THE YEARBOOK!

Yom HaAtzmaut

On Tuesday, the mood at Ma'ayanot was festive, in keeping with the spirit of *Yom HaAtzmaut*. Ms. Sarah Gordon and Ms. Ariella Steinreich planned a balanced and meaningful day. The corridors were decorated with blue and white streamers and Israeli flags, and our widescreen monitor was playing *Hatikva* in a series of languages!



Mrs. Shayna Goldberg of our *Halakha* Faculty addressed an assembly of students and faculty, during which she spoke movingly about her family's decision to make *aliyah* this coming summer. "It will be sad," she stated, "to be so far away from family and current friends," but she and her husband feel that it is more important to be with the future of the Jewish people.



above, Mrs. Shayna Goldberg

Lunch was our annual *Yom HaAtzmaut* barbecue, with Ms. Steinreich showing her skills at flipping those burgers.

This was followed by dancing and singing to recorded music. The Israel Awareness Committee organized an Israeli *shuk* in which they sold Israeli items and novelties to benefit the victims of the Itamar massacre. The weather was perfect for some well deserved outdoor celebration.



above, seniors Amy Schwartz, Rachel Ullman and Chana Ben-Zacharia (and Alona Stewart, not pictured) created a map of Israel that's "good enough to eat"

Ms. Ariella Steinreich supervises the grilling...and that yummy aroma filled our halls

Later that afternoon, Mrs. Merav Tal-Timen, *Ivrit* Chair, presented the *Chidon* Israel. Planned with Mrs. Tal-Timen's typical creativity, the *Chidon* was billed as a contest during which representatives from each grade would go head to head answering questions about Israel. The questions were taken

from four categories: history of the State of Israel, Famous People, Places and Sites and, of course...Hebrew. Each grade had to present a song, which was judged on accuracy, musicality and stage presence. The idea behind the *Chidon* was to inspire our students to increase their knowledge about Israel, as well as to create an atmosphere of pride in its accomplishment, its people, and its landscape. The students who helped Mrs. Tal-Timen bring this all to life are the members of the *Behina* class, seniors **Michelle Zivari**, **Michal Wiseman**, **Elana Feldman**, **Evie Notis** and **Esti Mellul**. The competitors were Freshmen **Nediva Susman**, **Hannah Piskun** and **Pearl Goodman**; Sophs **Racheli Weil**, **Gavriella Colton**, **Tzipporah Rossman** and **Talia Weiss**; and Juniors **Michal Fromowitz**, **Ilana Kruger** and **Rebecca Lipschitz**. Wish you could recapture the spirit? Wish you had been here? Let the pictures on the next page draw you in.



Reach out and help someone...

Chai Lifeline Walk-A-Thon



When? Sunday, May 15, 2011
Where? Votee Park in Teaneck

Chai Lifeline is an organization that provides support for children suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses. The support is financial, emotional and, in fact, extends to all aspects of life with which sick kids and their families might need help. **Camp Simcha**, part of the Chai Lifeline organization, provides summer camp experience for children whose illnesses might prevent them from attending camp otherwise.

This walk-a-thon is to help raise money to provide camping experiences to as many children as possible.

To sign up or to learn more, see **Chava Danishefsky '12**

You can also visit the homepage of "Team **TART**" and sponsor our Sophomore participants **Tamar Landsman, Rina Landsman, Tali Spier and Adina Schwartz** by clicking [here](#).

Bone Marrow Drive

On **Friday, May 20**, Philip Blass, a TABC senior and brother of Sara Blass '07, will host a bone marrow drive at TABC, hoping to find a match for a two year old boy, Ezra Fineman of Fair Lawn, who has a bone marrow disease called Hyper IgM Syndrome which will be fatal unless Ezra receives a bone marrow transplant.

Previous searches to find a marrow donor for Ezra have not been successful. The more people who are tested, the more likely the chances of finding a match! Genetically, his best chance of finding a match is from Jewish adults. A representative of "Gift of Life" will be at TABC to take cheek swabs from participants between the age of 18 - 60. All it takes is a minute and a cheek swab and you could help save a life! For more information, contact blasp2011@tabc.org. To learn more about the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation, click [here](#).



Great Strides for Cystic Fibrosis



Goldie Owrutsky '11 is asking for our help. She reports, "My sister was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis two years ago and since then I have been looking for a way to help her. Making a team for the Cystic Fibrosis walk is just one way of helping her and all the other people who have this disease. If you are free on May 22 to participate in the walk that would be greatly appreciated! Join my team and visit the CFF website, where you can visit my Great Strides home page by clicking [here](#). Thank you!"

Ma'ayanot's Chesed Committee is featured in the Jewish Standard of April 22, 2011, page 34. Point your browser to www.jstandard.com.

**LOOK FORWARD TO
MA'AYANOT'S
FOURTH ANNUAL SHAVUOT LEARNING
PROGRAMS**

**FOR STUDENTS, MOMS, GRANDMOMS AND WOMEN GUESTS.
SHIURIM AND PROGRAMMING WILL TAKE PLACE IN TEANECK
AND THE "GREATER MA'AYANOT COMMUNITY," INCLUDING
ENGLEWOOD, FAIR LAWN, HIGHLAND PARK/EAST BRUNSWICK,
MANHATTAN, MONSEY, NEW ROCHELLE, RIVERDALE, STATEN
ISLAND AND WEST ORANGE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.**



Save the Date

May 14 - 15 (Friday - Saturday): Junior *Shabbaton*

May 17 (Tuesday): Mandatory College Panel for Juniors and their Parents

May 19 (Thursday): Physics Day

May 22 (Sunday): *Lag b'Omer*

May 23 (Monday): Sports Dinner

May 24 (Tuesday): Heartbeats

May 25 (Wednesday): Last day of clubs, Senior Dinner

May 26: (Thursday): Physics Day

May 30 (Monday): Memorial Day, no classes

May 31 (Tuesday): Last full day of classes

Recognize an important event and support our Parent Council at the same time - send a Ma'ayanot Mitzvah card!
Contact Mrs. Susan Levin at Susanklevin@gmail.com



LATE BREAKING NEWS: Our **JV Soccer Team** just ended its season undefeated in eight games! Keep your eye on "The Stream" for further news.

The Stream

is a publication of

Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls
1650 Palisade Avenue Teaneck, NJ 07666

Mrs. Rivka Kahan, Principal

Mrs. Tamar Appel and Ms. Elana Flaumenhaft, Assistant Principals

Rachel Feldman, Administrator

Dr. Howard Friedman, President

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visit us on the web at www.maayanot.org