

# The Stream

Bringing news to the  
Volume 4



online community  
issue 17



## חג פורים שמח

Ma'ayanoters **Penina Stewart '13**, **Goldie Baum '13**, **Gabrielle Zarour '13**, **Shira Rosenberg '10**, **Miriam Shestack '10**, **Alisa Schnitzer '10**, **Talia Weiss'13** and **Devora Millen '13**, accompanied by **Mrs. Ruth Wang Birnbaum**, Associate Principal, went to the JCC on the Palisades to bake hamantashen with Senior Citizens on Monday, February 22.



## Esther, Yosef and the First Gulf War a dvar Torah by Mrs. Sally Mayer, Ma'ayanot Israel Liaison



The language of *Megillat Esther*, as well as the storyline, is rich in parallels to the story of Yosef in Egypt. Let's explore those parallels and derive a message from them.

First, Yosef and Esther are both children of Rachel *Imeinu*, as Mordechai, Esther's cousin, is described as an "*ish yemini*" – from the *shevet* of Binyamin. They are both described as beautiful: "*yefei/yefat to-ar.*" Both are a Jew in disguise – Yosef's brothers think he is an Egyptian ruler, and Esther hides her Jewish identity from the royal court. In both cases, we find an inconsolable mourner – Yaakov tears his clothes, puts on sackcloth, and refuses to be comforted by his children over the loss of Yosef; Mordechai too tears his clothing and puts on sackcloth when he hears of Haman's evil decree, and he refuses to accept Esther's offer of a change of clothing.

In both stories, the king makes a *mishteh*, a party, Par'oh for his birthday, and Achashveirosh, just about all the time. The king has a bad night's sleep – Achashveirosh can't sleep one night, and Par'oh has troubling dreams about cows and stalks of grain that he can't explain. Yosef gives advice to the king, he likes the advice, and Yosef gets great perks – the king's ring, royal clothing, and a ride on a royal horse. Similarly, Memuchan/Haman gives advice to the king (to get rid of Vashti and choose a new wife), the king likes the advice, and Haman receives the king's ring. Later, the king gives royal clothing and a ride on the royal horse to the one whom he wants to honor.

Both Yosef and Esther are where they are for a reason – Yosef tells his brothers that Hashem planned his descent to Egypt so that he could save everyone from famine, and Mordechai says to Esther: who knows, perhaps this (to save the Jews) is why you have become queen? When Yaakov sends Binyamin down to Egypt to the ruler who asked to see him, he says to his sons, "*ka-asher shacholti, shachalti*" – and if I am bereft, so be it. Clearly parallel language describes Esther's attitude to going to the king when she has not been called: "*ve-cha-asher avadeti, avadeti*" – and if I am destroyed/killed, so be it. She also uses the words, "*Eichacha uchal vera-iti bera'ah asher yimtza et ami,*" how can I stand by and see the evil that will befall my nation – the same words that Yehuda uses when begging the ruler to let Binyamin go home: "*Eich e-eleh el avi vehana-ar einenu iti, pen er-eh bara asher yimtza et avi*" – how can I go back to my father, and the boy is not with me, lest I see the evil that will befall my father? Almost all of these parallels, as well as others not mentioned here, are not only parallel in the storyline, but also use almost exactly the same language.

What is the point of all of these similarities? What message did Esther and Mordechai intend to send by using language that clearly compares their story to that of Yosef in Mitzrayim?

The story of Yosef is the story of a Jew in *galut*, exiled from his homeland. The Torah makes it clear that Hashem is with Yosef every step of the way – the Torah describes how Potiphar saw that Hashem blessed his house because of Yosef, and the name of Hashem appears throughout the story. The *megillah*, on the other hand, is written without the name of God, to symbolize that Hashem is hidden from us. But Mor-

(Continued on page 3)

## a dvar Torah by Mrs. Sally mayer (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

dechai and Esther intentionally evoke the Yosef story to teach us that even though we are in galut, Hashem is with us, and, even more importantly, that we will be redeemed, as the Jews ultimately were from Egypt.

This idea reminds me of my experience when I was in Israel for the year during the first Gulf War. I remember how scared everyone in Israel was, as Sadaam Hussein attacked Israel with SCUD missiles, the air raid sirens and the gas masks we wore. I remember how amazed we were that Hashem protected us from terrible casualties in those attacks. And then the war ended on Purim, and we were all saying that it was Yad Hashem, that the leader of an enemy nation was once again attacking us, and Hashem saved us on Purim, just as He did in the time of the *megillah*. Then it occurred to me that when the history books write about the Gulf War, they will not talk about Hashem. They'll talk about the date it began, the date it ended, the strategy Sadaam employed in trying to bring Israel into the war. The story in the history books would actually read just like the *megillah* – with no mention of God. This is the message of the *megillah*: that it is our job to see the Hand of Hashem in history, and furthermore, to sense the presence of God in our own lives.

Shabbat shalom and Chag Purim Sameach,

Sally R. Mayer

Mrs. Sally Mayer, former *Talmud* Chair at Ma'ayanot and current Israel Liaison

Mrs. Mayer made *aliyah* with her family and serves as a resource and source of support for our graduates in Israel and their families. Parents and students in any grade who wish to "touch base" with Mrs. Mayer can reach her at [Sally.Mayer@gmail.com](mailto:Sally.Mayer@gmail.com)

## Sports Update

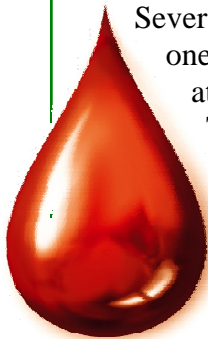
"Coach" Eileen Schwartz, Athletic Director; Ms. Laura Schuette, Assistant Athletic Director

Come out and cheer on the Rapids as our teams advance to the playoffs! Volleyball A is going to HAFTR on Wednesday, March 3 at 7:15 PM. Volleyball B will travel to Shulamith on Thursday, March 4 for a 7:30 game, and Basketball went up against SAR at SAR on Thursday night, February 25. Watch this space for late-breaking results.



Members of our basketball team, chaperoned by Coach Eileen Schwartz and Coach Laura Schuette, just returned from the annual Miami Beach basketball tournament, held last weekend, in which they went up against teams from all over the country, including YULA and Shalhevet (California), Yavneh (Dallas), Heschel, Ramaz and SAR (New York, Hebrew Academy of Miami Beach (the host), Yeshiva of Atlanta (Georgia) and Ulpana of Toronto (Canada). In the picture at left are, in front from left to right, **Tzipora Leiser '13** and **Sylvie Sapadin '13**; at rear from left to right are **Rena Bierig '12**, **Rebecca Kleiner '12**, **Emily Fruchter '12**, **Atara Polinsky '12**, **Kayla Gottlieb '12** and **Ariella Barishansky '11**. Go Rapids!

## A Class Act



Several of our AP Bio students went on a trip to the New York Blood Center in Manhattan, chaperoned by **Mrs. Evelyn Gross**, at the beginning of February. The New York Blood Center is affiliated with the New Jersey Blood Services, for which Ma'ayanot holds a blood drive each year. The program consisted of a presentation by some of their staff researchers, followed by a tour of their labs. "It was amazing to see so much of the equipment I've been learning about in AP Bio come to life," said **Allison Alt '11**, a student in the class. "We chose to go and it was a very informative day," added **Atara Clark '10**, "as we learned about the facilities, tools and processes used in researching the components of our blood. The other AP Bio students who volunteered for this trip were **Amalya Sherman '11** and **Ayala Schnaidman '11**.



*from left to right, Seniors Aliza Gottlieb, Jordana Wietschner and Serena Rapoport hold a model of a DNA*

**Mrs. Esther Slomnicki**, the teacher of our AP Bio classes, accompanied her Junior and Senior AP Bio students to the Dolan DNA Learning Center, which is described as the world's first science center devoted entirely to genetics education. The Dolan Center, an operating unit of the renowned Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, is housed as an independent unit in a public junior high school in Manhattan. To read more about this facility, click [here](#).



*at left, our students pay attention as the DNA-sequencing technique is presented*

Mrs. Slomnicki's students took their own cheek cells (even for the squeamish, this is a standard and simple technique; our cheek cells slough off easily when rubbed), extracted their DNA, which they then cut into pieces using restriction enzymes. The DNA pieces were then separated by electrophoresis and visualized with ultraviolet light so that the banding patterns on each DNA fragment became visible. These banding patterns are the equivalent of "DNA fingerprints," and so can be used in crime scene analysis or in paternity cases, to name just a few situations in which it is imperative to know exactly whose DNA is contained in a given sample. To see our students' results, click [here](#).

And late breaking news...we are proud and pleased to announce that Freshmen **Elana Forman**, **Eliana Applebaum** and **Ariella Applebaum** were named finalists in the Toshiba Exploravision Competition for their exploration of research on human limb regeneration. See the next edition of "The Stream" for more information. In the picture are, from left to right, **Mrs. Esther Slomnicki** (Biology Teacher), **Mrs. Phyllis Serfaty** (Science Research Teacher), **Mrs. Gila Stein** (Science Chair), **Eliana Applebaum**, **Elana Forman**, **Ariella Applebaum** and **Mrs. Rookie Billet** (Principal).



## YUN-MUN!

as reported by **Mr. Yaacov Samuels**, History Faculty and Model UN Advisor

The Ma'ayanot Model UN Team did an outstanding job at this year's Yeshiva University National Model United Nations ("YUN\_MUN"), which was held at the Sheraton Stamford Hotel from Sunday, February 21 through Tuesday, February 23. Ma'yanoters who participated in this event were **Cheli Arussy '11**, **Elana Blanchard '12**, **Ariella Cohen '11**, **Michal Greenspan '10**, **Adena Kleiner '10**, **Elana Kook '11**, **Tobey Linhart '13**, **Shira Marder '10**, **Talia Moss '12**, **Rikki Novetsky '10**, **Rachel Olshin '13**, **Rebecca Peyser '10**, **Amira Tepler '13** and **Michal Wiseman '11**.

Over 450 students from yeshiva high schools around the country attended the event. This year, the Ma'ayanot delegates represented Taiwan, Chad, Fiji, and the UK. Preparation for this event began back in November, as the delegates worked hard researching and writing position papers for topics they were assigned. At the conference I watched with pride, as the delegates spoke with confidence and enthusiasm. They worked tirelessly to develop solutions to world problems.



*in the front, from left to right are Rachel Olshin, Rebecca Peyser and Rikki Novetsky; in the center row, from left to right, are Amira Tepler, Elana Kook, Michal Wiseman, Adena Kleiner, Michal Greenspan and Mr. Yaacov Samuels; at rear, from left to right, are Tobey Linhart, Elana Blanchard, Ariella Cohen, Talia Moss and Cheli Arussy.*

It was a true honor being part of this special event and advising a delegation of passionate, hard-working students. I want to congratulate the entire team for doing such a wonderful job. Thanks as well to additional Faculty Chaperones **Ms. Elana Flaumenhaft** and **Mrs. Rookie Billet**.

## Un Día en la Playa\*

Spanish II took advantage of the spirit of Adar and last week's "beach dress up day" to review the chapter vocabulary on clothing and colors. Student used the props brought in by **Sra. Tammy Abramowitz** to discuss beach fashion in Spanish! Student were able to describe the props, decide in what weather the clothes would be worn, state whether they are in fashion or not and talk about suitable prices for the items. In the photo with Sra. Abramowitz are, from left to right, Juniors **Shira Westrich**, **Leora Kook**, **Sara Kaszovitz** and **Allison Alt**.



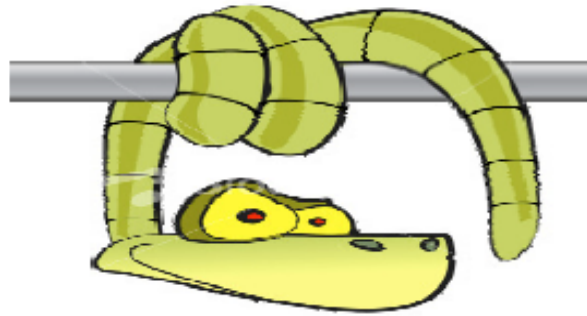
Save the Date

**MA'AYANOT**  
מעיינות

is proud to present  
our student drama production

# You Can't Take it With You

by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart



*Mrs. Beth Selter, Director*

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

*7:30 PM*

*Men and Women Welcome*

PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH  
DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC.

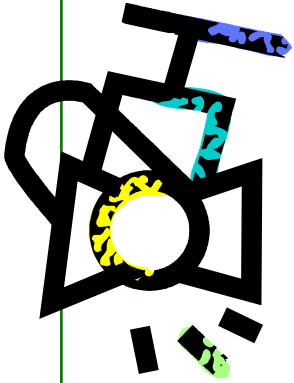


Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls  
1650 Palisade Avenue  
Teaneck, New Jersey

[www.maayanot.org](http://www.maayanot.org)

Presenting the Cast of "You Can't Take it With You"

in order of appearance-



Penelope Sycamore.....	<b>Tsiporah Cohen '12</b>
Essie.....	<b>Daniella Greenbaum '12</b>
Rheba.....	<b>Aviva Leshaw '13</b>
Paul Sycamore.....	<b>Zisse Hanfling '12</b>
Mr. De Pinna.....	<b>Talya Adler '10</b>
Ed.....	<b>Batya Sadek '10</b>
Donald.....	<b>Elana Blanchard '12</b>
Martin Vanderhof.....	<b>Michal Greenspan '10</b>
Alice.....	<b>Shira Kaye '11</b>
Henderson.....	<b>Gali Sadek '13</b>
Tony Kirby.....	<b>Naomi Kadish '13</b>
Boris Kolenkhov.....	<b>Tobey Linhart '13</b>
Gay Wellington.....	<b>Atara Yaros '12</b>
Mr. Kirby.....	<b>Shirelle Cohen '10</b>
Mrs. Kirby.....	<b>Rivka Golding '12</b>
Three FBI Men.....	<b>Devorah Giller '13, (Chief), Gali Sadek '13 (Mac), Rena Levin '10 (Jim)</b>
Olga.....	<b>Yaffa Cohen '12</b>
Crew.....	<b>Layla Blenden '11</b>
Director.....	<b>Mrs. Beth Selter</b>

From the desk of Ms. Ariella Steinreich, Chessed Coordinator

The following are upcoming *chessed* opportunities:

**Sunday, March 7: UJA NNJ Super Sunday.** The UJA NNJ is looking for people to sign up to take a shift at the telethon. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit their website by clicking [here](#). The event will take place at the UJA building, 50 Eisenhower Drive, Paramus, New Jersey 07666).

**Ongoing *chessed* opportunity in Fair Lawn, NJ:** **Yachad** is looking for a volunteer who is available to visit and play with a seven year old girl who has some siblings with special needs and who would really benefit from the extra attention. They are looking for someone to visit her for some one-on-one time (particularly on *Shabbat*) and play board games, or read with her, or just pass the time together. If you are interested in volunteering, or for more information, contact Eve Yudelson at [eve.yudel@gmail.com](mailto:eve.yudel@gmail.com).

**Ongoing *chessed* opportunity in school:** **Our school librarian, Mrs. Roz Friedman**, is looking for girls to help in the library for cheseds. If you are interested, please see Mrs. Friedman.

**Ongoing *chessed* opportunity:** **Yavneh Academy** is looking for someone to tutor a sixth grade boy and someone else to tutor a third grade boy. Both boys live in Teaneck. If you are interested, please email me at [steinreicha@maayanot.org](mailto:steinreicha@maayanot.org).

**Ongoing *chessed* opportunity:** **OHEL Bais Ezra** is looking for volunteers. If you are interested, contact the volunteer department at [volunteers@ohelfamily.org](mailto:volunteers@ohelfamily.org) or call 718- 686- 3103.

**Ongoing *chessed* opportunity:** **Jewish Family Service (JFS)** and the **Kosher Meals on Wheels (KMOW)** program of Bergen County and Northern Hudson are looking for volunteers to help them deliver hot and frozen meals to homebound, elderly clients. Hot meals are distributed between 11 am and 11:30 am from the lobby of the JFS office at 1485 Teaneck Road in Teaneck. Frozen meals can be picked up from the same office anytime during regular business hours. You must be at least seventeen years old with a valid driver's license. Teen drivers are welcome!! For more information or to volunteer, please contact Melody Sandor at [MelodyS@JFSBergen.org](mailto:MelodyS@JFSBergen.org) or call 201-837-9090 ext. 238.

**Ongoing *chessed* opportunity:** There is a gentleman at Care One who is losing his sight and would like **visitors to read** to him. If you are interested, please contact Leah Lifschitz, her home number is 201-833-8638 and her email address is [zzdata@att.net](mailto:zzdata@att.net)

**Ongoing *chessed* opportunity:** **Bikur Cholim of Rockland County** is looking for volunteers to assist in the "Shabbat Rooms" that they keep in Hackensack and Holy Name hospitals on *Arvei* and *Motz'ei Shabbat* (Friday afternoons and Saturday nights). For more information or to volunteer, please contact Leah Goldstein at:(845) 425-7877 x 114 or via email at [goldsteinleah@yahoo.com](mailto:goldsteinleah@yahoo.com).

**Ongoing *chessed* opportunity:** **Met Council** (located in NYC) is looking for volunteers to get involved in their new **Appointment Buddies** program. Appointment Buddies matches volunteers to their Senior clients to help the Senior citizens go to and from their doctor appointments. This program aims to offer assistance and support, as well as to provide an important social network. Appointment Buddies is available as a one-time or as an ongoing opportunity. Volunteers must be friendly, compassionate, and reliable. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Julia Sherman at [jsherman@metcouncil.org](mailto:jsherman@metcouncil.org) or call 212- 453-9526.

Shabbat shalom,



Ms. Ariella Steinreich

*Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls*

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND DINNER

HONORING

*Debbie and Michael Rapoport*

PARENTS OF THE YEAR AWARD

*Reva Judas and Leah Shteingart*

MA'AYANOT SERVICE AWARDEES

*Mrs. Elise Vitou*

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 13, 2010 28 ADAR 5770 AT 8:30 PM  
AT CONGREGATION KETER TORAH TEANECK, NJ

*Save the Date*

March 1: No student attendance (*Chessed* opportunity day)

March 2: regular school day

Saturday evening, March 13: Annual Scholarship Dinner

Sunday, March 14: SAT I

Tuesday, March 16: *Rosh Hodesh Nisan*; Family Conferences from 5 -10 PM

Wednesday, March 17: classes begin at 10 AM with periods 1 and 2.



## The Stream

is a publication of

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

Mrs. Rookie Billet, Principal

Mrs. Evelyn Gross and Mrs. Ruth Wang Birnbaum, Associate Principals

Ms. Elana Flaumenhaft and Mrs. Rivka Kahan, Assistant Principals

Rachel Feldman, Administrator

Dr. Howard Friedman, President

Mrs. Madeline Schmuckler, Managing Editor, Contributing Editor and Layout

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

