



THE SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL
OF GREATER HARTFORD

Learn. Think. Do.

SSDS-HARTFORD.ORG



26 Buena Vista Road West Hartford, CT 06107 [860-561-0700](tel:860-561-0700)

Shabbat Shalom

May 6, 2011 * 2 Iyar 5771

Candlelighting for Shabbat 7:34 PM

SAVE THE DATE!

AN EVENING WITH

Marvin Hamlisch

CELEBRATING SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL'S
40TH ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2011 AT THE BUSHNELL



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Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, May 8th

***Eighth graders
leave for Israel

Monday, May 9th

**Yom Hazikaron
Israel Memorial
Day**

***Scrip orders due**

Shabbat Shalom from Behzad Dayanim



This is one of my favorite times of the year. After a great deal of celebrating (and cleaning!) we find ourselves between Pesach and Shavuot during what is called the Omer. We count the seven weeks between the beginning of Passover, commemorating the exodus from Egypt, and Shavuot, which represents the moment we received the Torah at Mount Sinai. This Sefirat Ha'Omer is couched between two of the most influential events in our history that, in many ways, have long defined us as a nation.

The roles of various characters in these biblical events are equally memorable. Of course, we have Moses and Miriam and the other recognized figures from this period. Each is heroic in their own right and justifiably admired. I'd like to mention a character who is alluded to at a critical point in the story, but rarely gets the spotlight. This person is Nachshon ben Aminadav.

As the Jews were leaving Egypt, Pharaoh famously rescinds his decision to finally release the Jews from their bondage and is in pursuit of the nation. Upon reaching the Red Sea the Jews are faced with a dilemma... choose to confront the Egyptians or take a literal leap of faith into the sea. This would be no small test for anyone! Amazingly, it is not Moshe or Aharon or Yehoshua who takes that first step, but Nachshon who musters the requisite faith and determination to, as the Midrash relates, step into the sea up to his neck. Miraculously, the sea splits and the Jews traverse safely.

I am always amazed to read this story as it reminds me of a sentiment that I hold very dear. In a world replete with fictional superheroes, it is important to recognize those heroes we may not always notice. Of course, we recognize the doctors and firefighters and police officers and many others who protect and serve our community. It is important also to recognize the heroes among us, like our teachers, whose dedication is unparalleled. But it is also important to look for the hero within each of us.

This week many of us experienced the Hero Show, an annual tradition in first grade. Beyond the adorable costumes and presentation, group singing and overwhelming sense of community that this event exemplifies, I realized something else. Looking around the auditorium at the embraces and smiles and tears, and at

***12-12:45 Birth to 3
Presentation**

***Israeli Musicians
perform for
our students

**Tuesday, May
10th
Yom Ha'atzmaut
Israel Independence
Day**

***Celebrations
throughout the school**

*** 7th graders attend
Science Trip

**Wednesday, May
11th
*9-11:30 AM
EC Yom Ha'atzmaut
Festival**

***9-10 AM
Ima, Abba, & Me
session begins**

***Second grade
annual picnic at the
Hebrew Home

**Thursday, May
12th
*Grade 7 returns

**Friday, May 13th
*9-10:30 AM
Second grade
Shacharit program

**Monday, May 16th
*11:20-12:20**

the pride on the faces of our first graders, it became abundantly clear that I was looking at the heroes of tomorrow. What our children are gaining from their experience here at Schechter is beyond academic preparedness. They are learning to be positive contributors to our collective story, to seek out opportunities to make a meaningful difference in others' lives, to be the best that they can be.

We should take the time to appreciate the challenging decisions that we each face each day. Is it not heroic when a child deliberately seeks to include a classmate who may be feeling left out, or when families reach out to new families and reach in to those families already part of our community? Doing what is right and best for our children is not always easy or glamorous. Yet it is no less heroic. May we continue to seek and find our inner heroes.

As our eighth graders and Mrs. Kurtis embark on their Israel adventure, we wish them safe travels.

Shabbat shalom,

Behzad

Behzad Dayanim
Head of School
bdayanim@ssds-hartford.org

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SAT TESTING WEEKS

As you know, we do testing in Grades 3-8 every other year - and this is the year!

The dates are:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| May 24-27, 2011 | Grades 3-7 |
| May 31-June 2, 2011 | Grade 8 |

These are firm dates, and we want every student in these grades to be present on testing days - so if you have any appointments scheduled that would keep your children away from school during Testing Week, please work on changing those appointments now!

Please contact Phyllis Siegal with any questions.
Thank you.

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Taste of Spring
for EC 4 in the
Kindergarten
Room

**Tuesday, May
17th**

*7-8 PM

Grade 3 Recorder
Concert

Friday, May 20th

*5-7 PM

PTO Shabbat
Family Dinner

Sunday, May 22nd

*7 PM

SSDS 40th
Anniversary Gala
Celebration
at the Bushnell
with
Marvin Hamlisch

Monday, May 23rd

*9-10:30 AM

Grandparents/Special
Friends Day

*Eighth grade
returns from Israel

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Quick Links

www.ssdshartford.org

www.ssdshartford-pt.org

Parashat Ha'Shavuah

Parashat Emor

(Leviticus 21:1-24:23)

Learn.Think.Do

כָּל-מְלָאכָת עֲבֹדָה, לֹא תַעֲשֶׂוּ

"All forms of work you shall not do" (Leviticus 23:8)

Holidays...holidays...holidays. In the middle of this parasha, we read about God's "appointed times" or holidays. The first is Shabbat, where we are told, "כָּל-מְלָאכָה לֹא תַעֲשֶׂוּ" - "no forms of work will you do". A similar phrase is repeated when reading next about Passover, Shavuot, Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and Sukkot - "כָּל-מְלָאכָת עֲבֹדָה, לֹא תַעֲשֶׂוּ." This idea of not working is emphasized again and again in the text. At the end of chapter 23, in the last verse, the Torah states, "And Moses told to the Children of Israel of God's appointed seasons." It is this verse in Hebrew that we use as the introduction to Kiddush during the day on these holidays.

"Quick Queries"

1. Why do you think the people needed to be told several times not to work? Didn't they know it after the first time?
2. What types of work would you give up doing to help celebrate a holiday?
3. The Torah says that we celebrate Rosh Hashana on the 1st day of the 7th month. If it's marking a new year, why isn't it in the 1st month?
4. The line at the end of chapter 23 is a very short introduction for Kiddush. Why do you think the rabbis picked that verse as opposed to any other?

If you'd like to read more about Parashat Emor, consider visiting the following web site:

http://uscj.org/Emor_57718578.html

Shabbat Shalom,

Heather Fiedler

Jewish Studies Coordinator

Do you know someone who might enjoy reading about the wonderful activities and exceptional learning going on in our school? Please forward this issue to them or you can send us their email address.



Life Cycle Events

Mazal Tov to...

Sheila Silverman and Stuart Feldman on the occasion of their daughter *Talia* becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

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#### **Our Condolences to...**

Rabbi Debra Cantor, her husband James Beede and their children Max and Penina on the passing of their beloved mother and grandmother *Marion Cantor*.

*May her memory*

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## **Middle School**

### **Mrs. Kurtis - Eighth Grade Humanities**

Our bags are packed and we're ready to go. The eighth graders are looking forward to boarding their EL AL flight to Israel this Sunday morning. You will be able to follow our adventures on our daily blog.

We have been working very hard since Pesach vacation. We are finishing our research papers (final drafts) and writing our graduation speeches. The students have become quite introspective as they reflect upon their years here at Schechter. Especially poignant was watching them as they joined their reading buddies/first graders on stage, during the Hero Show. They have come full circle and will work hard to make the world a better place.

### **Rabbi Chatinover - Judaic Humanities**

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders, in honor of Yom HaShoah v'Ha-G'vurah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), read several articles related to the topic, as did students in Grades 6 & 7. Grade 6 students also continued studying the theme of Qedushah (Holiness) in Deuteronomy 14:1-21. Grade 7 also concluded its study on the theme of Tzedaqah (Righteousness) as found in Deuteronomy 15:1-11 (sh'mittah/the year of release). And the learning goes on and on...BEST WISHES TO THE CLASS OF 2011 AS THEY EMBARK ON THEIR JOURNEY TO ERETZ YISRAEL! DON'T FORGET TO USE THOSE COMPASSES!

### **Mrs. Fleming - Math**

Mrs. Fleming's sixth grade math class is doing a geometry unit. We have been learning how to name lines, rays, half-lines, and angles. Also, we are studying polygons. Ask your child to draw a convex pentadecagon. They have a list of the names for many polygons including one with one hundred sides. They had fun pronouncing them. We have been doing elaborate diagrams with many angles in them and discovering many special relationships. Did you know that the sum of the interior angles of a triangle is 180 degrees? The sum of the interior angles of a quadrilateral is 360 degrees. The sum of the interior angles of a pentagon is 540 degrees. They noticed that each time you add a side to a polygon, the sum increases by 180 degrees. Also, we learned that if you take one set of exterior angles for each shape, the sum is ALWAYS 360 degrees no matter how many sides the shape has. Pretty

*be a cherished blessing.*

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## Schechter Library

Eleanor Goldman,  
Library and Media  
Specialist



## Masterpiece

*by Elise Broach*

(Great for grades 3-8)

Masterpiece is a delightful mystery about a boy and an artistic talking beetle and some missing art, worth a mint. It's a Nutmeg nominee for this next year, and is recommended for all readers (other than old fogies or young cynics). Elise Broach is also the author of the much loved mystery, *Shakespeare's Secret*.

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amazing!!!

The sixth, seventh, and eighth graders are also preparing for the Stanford Achievement Tests by doing review packets. A calculator may be used for the problem-solving sections.

The seventh and eighth graders are also preparing for a final exam in their algebra course. The exam will encompass all of the material learned since the mid-term exam in February. This includes graphing systems of linear equations and inequalities. Another topic is solving systems of linear equations using substitution or elimination. Other topics included are probability, percent, and compound inequalities.

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## Lower School

### Kindergarten / Gan Yeladim...Yeshiva Cohen & Michelle Fontaine

Now boarding flights to Mexico and Israel, make sure you have your passport ready. The children were busy learning about these two wonderful places, which they will continue to learn about in the upcoming weeks.

We have been reading stories and focusing on comprehension skills (making predictions, recall of detail, and cause and effect). In Math, we also made beautiful May calendars to celebrate our new month. The children are practicing writing numbers 1-31.

We started a new unit about Mexico. Miguel, our puppet friend, came to visit and teach the children about his country and some words in Spanish. We are learning simple greetings, counting, and songs. We learned that Mexico is our neighbor and is much smaller than the United States. We discovered that we can fit 5 "Mexicos" in the United States, so in math that would mean that Mexico is about  $1/5^{\text{th}}$  the size of the U.S. We listened to many stories about Mexico, dramatized a Mexican fashion show, and made some Mexican crafts. Our fiesta will take place on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

In Judaic Studies we began learning about Israel and Yom HaAzmaut. We learned that Israel is going to be 63 this year. This means that some grandmas and grandpas are older than Israel! We found Israel on the map and saw that many "Israels" would fit into one USA. We took a good look at the shekel and the children came up with original ideas for their own shekalim.

## Lunchtime!



### Lunch Menu

**May and June menus have now been posted on Renweb. Please take the time over vacation to enter your order.**

NEW IN THE KITCHEN:  
**\$5 punchcards** available for purchase. Many kids enjoy buying snacks at lunchtime but often do not have money with them. You can now purchase a \$5 punchcard and we will keep it in the kitchen with your child's name on it and each time he/she wants to purchase a snack/drink or anything from the kitchen, we will deduct it from the card. If you have any questions, please contact Leah Berson [thebersons@comcast.net](mailto:thebersons@comcast.net). To purchase a card, please send the money in with your

### **Grade 1 / Kitah Aleph...Joyce Ben-Kiki, Anita Cohen, Ziva Kovner**

The first graders were wonderful, as usual, in the Hero Show! It is truly a great time of the year when those little kids show their stuff! We are now starting to study oceans and will culminate the unit by going on our annual trip to the Mystic Aquarium. The class is going full force ahead with their math skills while reviewing that which they have learned this year. Everyone is reading nicely and writing lots of interesting information in their journals. The first graders were very excited to get a letter of thanks from Koko the gorilla because they sent the Koko Foundation money to take care of her. They got bookmarks and pictures of Koko and a poster for the classroom of Koko signing some of the 1000 words she knows. Koko will be 40 years old on July 4<sup>th</sup>. What a wonderful animal!

### **Grade 2 / Kitah Bet...Joyce Ben-Kiki, Anita Cohen, Ziva Kovner**

Each second grader is busily writing in his/her Special Person's Book. The class is rehearsing for their presentation, which will be on May 31st. We have started learning about rocks and minerals, and we have a wonderful display in our classroom of many different kinds and colors of rocks. We will be going to Nature's Art for our year-end trip to dig for gems. The class has been working hard in math, learning new concepts in order to be ready for third grade. The year has gone by too fast! Maxx Smith-Rapaport received his Flat Stanley back with a wonderful letter from the author of *I Spy*, Walter Wick. He complimented Maxx and said maybe he will be a famous author one day! As the old saying goes- "Better Late Than Never!!"

### **Grade 3 / Kitah Gimel and Grade 4 / Kitah Daled...Nancy Rosen, Helen Schwartz, Maya Schwartz**

The third and fourth graders are "eggspecting" to hear the patter of little webbed feet in about 4 weeks. We have heated up the incubators, worked on getting the humidity just right and have placed Pekin, Cayuga and Australian duck eggs in them. We are learning about the life cycle and the egg development and hope to begin candling the eggs next week to see the development taking place.

This week the third graders took family photographs and made these beautiful keepsake plates for their mothers. Fourth graders worked hard on a writing piece dedicated to their mothers using the skills they have learned in writing to describe their mothers and have

child and give it to Leah Berson or Karen Shakun in the Business Office.

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## New Hartt School Music Program at SSDS

Is your child interested in jamming on the saxophone or tooting the flute? Last week students in grades 2-7 heard a wonderful performance from woodwind and brass faculty from the **Hartt School's Community Division**. In the fall, we will be starting an exciting music lesson program in conjunction with these amazing teachers! In order for this fantastic program to occur, we must indicate enough parent and student interest. Please fill out the interest form your child brought home before the Pesach break and return it to Mrs. Sussman by next *Friday, May 13*. Another copy of the form is available by email from Mrs. Sussman. Feel free to contact Mrs. Sussman with any questions at [vhattis@ssds-hartford.org](mailto:vhattis@ssds-hartford.org).

decorated frames for these writing pieces.

We have started practicing for the SAT's by working on many strategies for test-taking, math problem solving and reading comprehension.

Both grades have taken significant steps in Chumash, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders moving on to Parashat Vayera and the 4<sup>th</sup> on to Parashat Miketz. In addition, both classes have begun their respective units on Israel as we prepare for Yom Ha'atzmaut.

*This is a letter sent home to the parents this week.*

Dear Parents,

Today was a particularly powerful day in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades as we commemorated Yom HaShoah V'hagevurah, the day on which we remember the Holocaust and Heroism. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, we read the beautifully written book, *Promise of a New Spring*. In this allegory, the Holocaust is likened to a deliberately set forest fire that destroys life out of season. The few new buds on an otherwise dead tree, the deer that escaped ahead of the fire and the few remaining rabbits of a large family who survived the fire are likened to the survivors of the Holocaust-as well as to our children who are the promise of a new spring after the destruction. The children asked very meaningful questions and offered very insightful comments.

The 4<sup>th</sup> graders read the book, *The Terrible Things*, which is based on the writing of Pastor Martin Niemoller who penned that famous statement: "When they came for the Socialists, I did not speak up because I wasn't a Socialist...When they came for the Jews, I did not speak up because I wasn't Jewish. When they came for me, there was no one left to speak up for me." In this book, a small rabbit questions why no one spoke up when the Terrible Things, an unseen menace, rounded up various animals in the forest. The older, "wiser" rabbits tell him to remain quiet and be glad that "the things" were not coming for the rabbits. In the end, of course, even the rabbits are taken away. The small rabbit survives and dedicates his life to warning and teaching other forest communities to stand up to the Terrible Things. You can imagine the wonderful discussions that we had today with your wonderful children.

In addition, both classes continued reading their class novels: ***Number the Stars (4th grade)*** and ***The Night Crossing (3rd grade)***. As if all of this wasn't enough, today we also discussed the capture and killing of Osama bin Laden. The importance of the confluence of these two events was not lost on these two classes. It could

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## Scrip Order Info

**May 9 & 23**  
**GLS**  
**June 6 and 20**  
**GLS**

**Note 1:** You may send in your order form and payment at any time. The order will be placed on the next date indicated.

**Note 2:** Cards may be picked up from the school office the following week.

**Note 3:** Crown gift cards may be purchased or re-loaded any time at the store itself. If you are purchasing a new card, be sure to give them your name and tell them it is for Schechter in order to receive SHARE credit.

**\*\*Get your friends, family and co-workers to order scrip through you, and watch your SHARE balance drop even faster!\*\***

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probably be best summed up in the question of one of the 3rd graders, who when hearing that followers of bin Laden willingly committed suicide (9/11) while bin Laden made his plan in safety asked: What kind of person would do a thing like that (willingly commit suicide at the bidding of a leader)? This led to a powerful discussion on the role of a charismatic leader, the difficulty of standing up against what is dangerous and evil and the need to work together to increase what is good in the world.

We ended the day on a more positive note as the two classes watched the film, *Paper Clips*, learning how a group of middle school children in Tennessee became teachers and ambassadors for openness, kindness, acceptance and hope in our world.

As always, thank you for sharing your wonderful, promising and hopeful children with us.

### **Grade 5 / Kitah Hay...Meghan DePeau, Heather Fiedler, Maya Schwartz**

The fifth grade has had a very exciting week! Monday marked the official beginning of our Civil War Symbols Museum Exhibit. The students' creative artwork and explanatory captions are on display in the front hallway for the next several weeks. If you have a chance, please come see the exhibit! We also began our Westward Expansion unit in social studies. Throughout the rest of the year, we will be doing a simulation of a journey on the Oregon Trail. Students will be using the collaborative skills they honed during literature circles to work in families on their trip. They will be making difficult decisions that will impact the team and depending on their ingenuity to solve problems they encounter along the way. It promises to be an interesting challenge!

Sadly, this will be our last week of literature circles in language arts. The students have thoroughly enjoyed working with each other so closely and have developed a greater sense of responsibility for themselves, their work, and the effectiveness of a group meeting. It was a joy to watch students figure out ways to facilitate their own learning, as well as to support the other members in their groups! Many students offered to call or Skype each other with reminders about assignments, and some checked in with each other during the week at school as well. And, they improved their reading comprehension in the process- what a productive learning experience!

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## Early Childhood

## More Photos



Sacajawea



Sacajawea and Paul Revere



## Special Events for Early Childhood Students & Parents

\***Monday, May 9th 12-12:45** in the Gershman Lounge: Early Childhood families are invited to "A Dialogue about Development" with presenter Eileen McMurrer.

\***May 11th 9-11:30 AM** Yom-Ha-atzmaut Festival: All Early Childhood families are invited.

\***Monday, May 16th 11:30-12:30** - Taste of Spring in Gan Yeladim (for Early Childhood 4).

### EC 2 Dubonim (Bears)...Jayne Clark, Marcia Garfinkel, Diane Salm

For the past week and a half we have been learning all about farms. The Dubonim have had a great time playing with barns, animals and tractors. They learned that farms provide us with fruits, vegetables and other foods. Many of the children were surprised that milk comes from cows! We have had fun making all the different animal sounds and singing "Old MacDonald." Art projects included adorable, colorful chickens sitting on eggs in our very own chicken coop, marble painted cows and farm animal stamping, which was a nice way to review colors. The kids also made collages with farm stickers. All the peeling and sticking was great practice of fine motor skills.

On Monday we went to Westmoor Park for a "gentle touch" field trip. Moms, Dads, students and teachers spent the morning petting many animals such as an angora bunny, a lamb, donkey, chicken (with eggs!), rooster, long haired guinea pig, and a lizard with a blue tongue! Everyone enjoyed the time spent together. We have also been counting as often as possible- chicken eggs, ducklings, puppies, etc., and reading a book that uses opposites to tell a story about a little duck named Quack.

"**M**" is for Mom, so today we are going to make **M**uffins and finish our **M**other's Day gifts. We also plan on playing two games. The first is a farm animal hide-and-seek game, and the second is a mommy/baby match game. We are going to the stage to practice our dance for next week and will celebrate Shabbat in the Beit with our Kochavim and Ilanot friends. As always, the children love to celebrate Shabbat!

### EC 3 Kochavim (Stars)...Bonnie Schneider & Julie Wilkins

The Kochavim have been learning about Israel, which we have all been enjoying. We have many pictures of

Sandy Koufax  
and Derek Jeter



Judah Macabee



Dr. Trager  
and Rocky

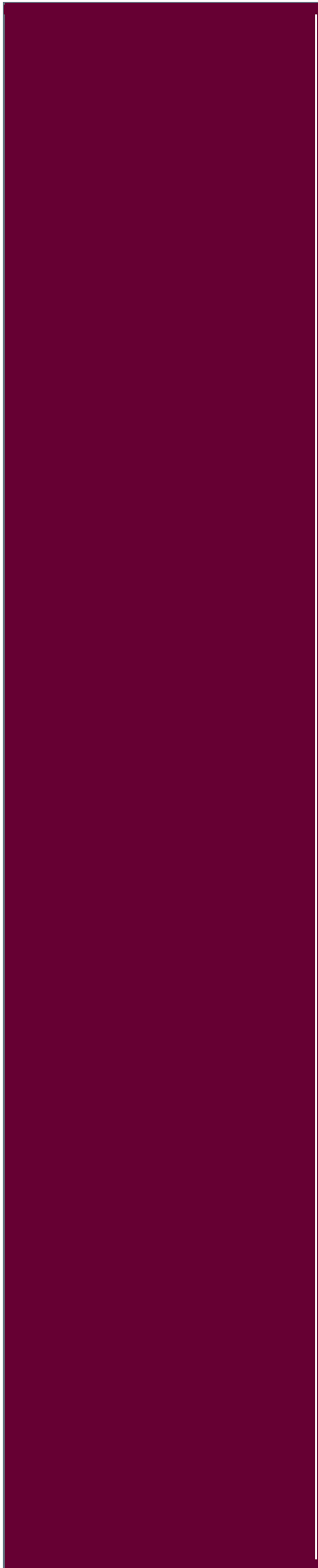
Israel to look at and learn from; some of them are decorating our classroom, and we glued some of them on a map of Israel to make a collage. We used our hand-prints to make the Israeli flag. We have been using suitcases and chairs to fly on El Al airlines to Israel. The pretend falafel (pompoms) were fun to play with, but a little messy... We made real Israeli chopped salad and enjoyed eating it with hummus and pita. We also got authentic chocolate bars from Israel to bring home. Thank you to the Shani family for bringing those back for us! We also have been practicing our Israeli dance that we will perform at the early childhood Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration next Wednesday at 9:00 AM, and we have made surprise costumes. You are going to be so proud of your children! Speaking of surprises, we have worked very hard this week to prepare cards and gifts for our special mommies for Mother's Day. We are pretty sure that you are going to love your gifts and that they will become keepsakes for you- we can't wait for you to take them home...

On Thursday, we had "Cinco de Mayo" fun. We learned some Spanish words, ate chips and salsa, and loved making Mexcan wedding cake cookies. They are easy to make and delicious! Rounding out our busy week were three birthday celebrations! We haven't had a birthday in our class since January, and this week there were three. Happy birthday to Ellah, Rachael, and Sydney, who are now 4 years old!

#### **EC 4 Ilanot (Trees)...Linda Casasanta & Barbara Checknoff**

Every Monday we have two very popular special activities in our class--Torah Time and Creative Drama and Movement, or, as we call it for short, "Torah and Drama".

We divide the class into two groups, and each group gets to have both experiences, switching places halfway through. Here is an example of what happened in these special groups this week: During Torah time, we learned that things got even more exciting for the Children of Israel after they crossed the Sea. We learned that, after wandering in the desert for a time, they returned to the mountain where Moshe had first talked with God. First, we looked at a map in the Chumash to see how close Egypt was to the ancient land of Canaan. But God led the Israelites round and round in the desert, so that the whole journey lasted 40 years! We walked though the desert until we reached the wilderness of Sinai. Only Moshe could go up the mountain (and lots of kids wanted to be Moshe), so the rest of the people waited down at the bottom, washing themselves and putting on clean clothes to be



ready for the moment that Moshe would give them a message from God. When that moment came, there were special effects--lightning and the sound of thunder! Then a shofar blew as a thick cloud of dark smoke surrounded the mountain. What will God want to say to the people? Stay tuned!

This week in drama we took a ride to the moon! First we read about Little Bear's visit to the moon (from the *Little* book Linda had when she was learning to read!). The children like the book so much we had to read *What will Little Bear Wear?* before our blast off. We then counted down from 10 and blasted off. After a short flight, the children got out to walk on the moon. We found the moon was hot, sticky, slippery and thick like peanut butter. Never fear, everyone came safely back to earth and a good lunch!

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## **An Evening with Marvin Hamlisch**

Hi Everyone,

2 weeks and counting! Have you bought your tickets to our 40<sup>th</sup> Gala Anniversary, "An Evening with Marvin Hamlisch?" We do have some orchestra seats left and we are moving up to the mezzanine. Please see the amazingly talented and organized Kim Bartenstein in the office to purchase your tickets if you have not done so already. This past week Marvin Hamlisch was on WDRC radio being interviewed by Mary Jones and this coming week he is going to be featured in the Arts section of the Hartford Courant (all thanks to Schechter's PR Guru Sandrine Sebag.

We need help promoting the event at the Crown over the next 2 weeks. Please let Audrey Sobel know if you can sit outside the Crown for even an hour this Sunday or next Sunday. All you need to do is smile and invite customers to give us their email or phone number so that we can contact them about tickets. Remember this is all for our school and we all benefit from this event.

Thanks for your help,  
Jayne

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## **Box Tops for Schechter**

Thanks to everyone participating in the **Box Tops for**

**Schechter Chai Contest.** We have collected 2,414 box tops since January 14th!! With 5 weeks left, we should easily surpass our goal to collect 2,700 box tops by May 20th.

Don't forget to ask your family and friends to save them for you - and please check the expiration dates. You can save time and paper and collect them in a baggie - no more taping and gluing!

Will the teachers beat the students? Who will win a special treat in June? Keep clipping!!

Thank you,  
Michelle Meyer

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## **PTO Update...**

- **Shabbat dinner**
  - Friday night **May 20<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 PM.**
  - Please contact Jannine Leshem at [weena@comcast.net](mailto:weena@comcast.net) , if you would like to help.
- **Rock Cats Outing**
  - **Tuesday May 31 at 6:35 PM** (gates open at 5:35pm)
  - For tickets or more information contact Michelle Meyer at (860) 232-4929
- **End of Year Picnic**
  - **Monday June 6<sup>th</sup>** at the JCC Pool and Tennis Club
  - If you are interested in helping please contact Lauren Eisen at [eisenl2001@yahoo.com](mailto:eisenl2001@yahoo.com).
- **SSDS PTO Cookbook**
  - Cookbooks are now available and they look great! There are a limited number and are going fast! Don't miss out! To get one (or many) email [daniellefweiss@gmail.com](mailto:daniellefweiss@gmail.com) or stop by the office to order them. They are \$18 each.
- **Box Top Chai Contest**
  - For 18 weeks, from January 14 through May 20, we are collecting as many box tops as possible. Our goal is to collect at least 2,700 box tops. The class that brings in the most will get a treat sponsored by the PTO. Place collection sheets, with your child's name on it, into the box outside the school office or

deposit it directly into the bag in their classroom. Please contact Michelle Meyer [mgmct9@yahoo.com](mailto:mgmct9@yahoo.com) or Eileen McMurrer [Eileen.mcmurrer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Eileen.mcmurrer@sbcglobal.net) if you have any questions.

- **Concierge Desk**
  - If you are looking for a program flyer, schedule of happenings at Schechter, or a place to make suggestions, please stop by the Concierge Desk in the lobby.
- **Next PTO meeting is Wednesday June 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:45AM** in the PTO room.

PTO Co-Presidents

Jodi Schwartz ([jaoschwartz@gmail.com](mailto:jaoschwartz@gmail.com))

Danielle Weiss ([daniellefweiss@gmail.com](mailto:daniellefweiss@gmail.com))

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## Community Events

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Yom Hazikaron

Memorial Ceremony  
Sunday, May 8, 2011  
7:30 pm

at the Mandell JCC, West Hartford

יום הזיכרון  
לחללי מערכות ישראל  
ולנפגעי פעולות האיבה

Remembrance Ceremony for  
soldiers and victims of terror  
who lost their lives  
establishing, defending and  
preserving the State of Israel.



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



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER HARTFORD

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

Zachs Campus, 335 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford



**Congregation B'nai Shalom**

- **Every Thursday @ 11:00 a.m. at SSDS**, we welcome you to join us for Torah Study: Back to the Future. In this weekly study group, we delve into the compelling themes - covenant, justice, Torah, land, leadership, past and future - which emerge from Sefer Devarim/The Book of Deuteronomy. No experience necessary - drop-ins welcome!



**Emanuel Synagogue Invites Prospective Members to Family Friendly Friday**

BBQ and Family Friendly Friday are hosted by The Emanuel Synagogue, **Friday evening, May 13, 2011**. Prospective members are invited to join the congregation for a special Shabbat: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm inflatable bouncer for kids and BBQ dinner (hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, chicken, drinks, and cookies), 7:00 pm - Family Friendly Shabbat Services (run by the religious school students)

The dinner is free to prospective members and to Emanuel members who bring prospective member guests.

Reservation deadline is May 9. For more information visit our website [www.emanuelsynagogue.org](http://www.emanuelsynagogue.org), call 860-236-1275 or email [Carolyn@emanuelsynagogue.org](mailto:Carolyn@emanuelsynagogue.org).

*A vibrant, egalitarian Conservative Jewish community, The Emanuel Synagogue empowers its members to seek a meaningful and robust path to Jewish values for everyday living. Our down-to-earth ambience is a welcome respite from the social pressures of suburban life. We are located at 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford, CT 06117. Learn more about us at [www.emanuelsynagogue.org](http://www.emanuelsynagogue.org) and visit our booth at Celebrate West Hartford on June 12.*



**Let's Do a Mitzvah**



# INSPI(RED) SOCCER

## 3 V 3 TOURNAMENT



**WHO:** 2nd-8th Graders  
No soccer experience needed!

**WHAT:** Solomon Schechter Day School  
INSPI(RED) SOCCER 3v3 Tournament

**WHEN:** May 15, 2011 at 4:00pm

**WHERE:** 26 Buena Vista Rd  
West Hartford, CT 06107



**WHY:** It's soccer with a purpose. It's youth around the world fighting for an AIDS Free Generation.

Sign up by May 13th at  
[www.grassrootsoccer.org/INSPIRED-SOCCER](http://www.grassrootsoccer.org/INSPIRED-SOCCER)

Gabrielle Gershon Mitzvah Project



### Chai Mitzvah

We invite you to join us at the  
**End of Year CELEBRATION**  
Tuesday May 31st, 7-9 pm  
in the Gallery at the Mandell JCC.

*All activities open to the public. For more information or to let us know that you plan to attend, please contact [galya@chaimitzvah.org](mailto:galya@chaimitzvah.org)*

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**Special Offers for SSDS Families**



**Solinsky  
EyeCare™**

**One Day  
Event Only**

**Eyeglass Fashion Show**  
**\*50% OFF Eyeglass Frames**  
**25% OFF Sunglass Frames**  
**Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> • 8 am - 6 pm**

\* With purchase of frame and lenses. Cannot be combined with any other discounts or insurances

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 1013 Farmington Ave. West Hartford Center CT 06107 **233-2020**  
 www.solinskyeyecare.com

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***A Private House and yard in Raanana
For rent August 1st - Sep 4th 2011***

Three floors: finished basement, living room, dining room, kitchen, den, ½ bathroom, four bedrooms, including a master bedroom, and a kids' full bathroom, yard and across the street from a beautiful park. Walking distance to shops and public transportation. Central air.

Price: \$1500 per week + electricity and cleaning service once a week for 350 Shekels.

\$4000 for the whole period (five weeks) + electricity and a cleaning service once a week for 350 Shekels.

Contact: Yosefa Drescher
 42 Pardes Meshutaf
 Raanana, Israel
 Email: yosephoto@gmail.com

When calling in Israel dial 077-559-2869.
 When calling from the United States dial 011-972-77-559-2869

Photo Gallery



Practicing our Torah readings.



Dubonim (EC 2) enjoy a barnyard story.



"We all need heroes." First graders, joined by eighth graders sing at the 18th annual Hero Show.



It's fun to be in the Ilanot (EC 4) :)

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Shabbat Shalom

Susan Kurtis, Editor
Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford

**Newsletter submissions must be received no later than
Thursday at 3 pm.**

Thank you.

[Forward email](#)



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