



בינינו

Benainu "Between Us"



Chag Sameach!

Newsletter Date: December 19, 2008
Volume 6, Issue 12

Vayeshev

Candle Lighting: 4:19pm

Shabbat Ends: 5:29pm

Chag Sameach to all! From our Barrack Hebrew Academy family to yours, a happy, healthy Chanukah and a relaxing winter break. Classes resume on **Monday, January 5.**

Now is the Time to Make Your Annual Fund Gift: As 2009 draws to a close, please consider making your tax-deductible Annual Fund gift to Barrack Hebrew Academy. **Every gift, of any amount, counts.** Each gift enriches the lives of our students and teachers in innumerable ways and helps fund the day-to-day operations of our school. We thank you for your support.

Save the Date: Barrack Hebrew Academy will honor **Beryl D. Simonson**, past parent, past Board member, Past President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, staunch supporter of Jewish Day School education, on **Sunday, March 29, 6-8pm** in our dining commons. Beryl was instrumental in securing a new home for our school. Please plan to join us for a festive cocktail party.

Transportation Update: Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, we will be able to provide free transportation next year for those students who live in the northern suburbs: Bucks County, Dresher, Elkins Park, Fort Washington, and Germantown. The commute will be shortened by creating a separate Germantown route. We will also be adding a Fort Washington stop. Look for a letter that will detail arrangements. In addition, we are exploring ways to increase our busing subsidies for all students.

Alumni Basketball Game in New Gym: Young Alumni (2003-2008) are invited to play against **Alumni of all Ages** at the Akiba-Barrack Annual Alumni Basketball Event set for **Thursday, January 8, 6:30pm** in our athletic building's new gym. The games will be followed by refreshments. Look for your email invitation. This event is **free and fun for all alumni!**

A Great Last Minute Chanukah Gift: Copies of **Rabbi David Wolpe's** new book, **Why Faith Matters**, are available from our Akiba-Barrack Alumni Association for \$18 per copy. David, a member of the Class of '76, recently reviewed his book at Barrack, wowing the audience. His book makes a great Chanukah gift. **To purchase copies**, send a check for \$18 to JBHA, use PayPal or order with a credit card. Please contact **Randi Butow** for details: rbutow@jbha.org or call 610-922-2328 today. Rabbi Wolpe also appeared on **The Today Show** and discussed his book. You can log onto the www.todayshow.com website and type in David Wolpe to see his interview.

ניחום אבלים

CONDOLENCES:

We send heartfelt condolences to **Dr. David Rabeeya**, a member of our Jewish Studies Department, on the passing of his beloved brother, **Ovadia Rabi**.

שמחות

MAZEL TOV:

Mazel tov to **Joshua Perloff** who celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on December 6. Joshua is the son of **Michele Katz Perloff '82** and **Jay Perloff** and the grandson of **Avi Watman Katz '59** and **Alan Katz**. Michele and Avi both served as presidents of the Akiba Alumni Association, and Avi currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees.

בוגרים

ALUMNI NEWS:

Mazel tov to **Lynne Garber Bruskin '91** and her husband **Daniel** on the birth of **Nicole Hannah**, sister to **Benjamin**.

Michael Bihovsky '05 reports that he won a rap contest at NYU that featured his lyrics and music. **Dana Gitlin '07** joined Michael. He also created an orchestral arrangement, originally written for the piano that was performed by a 21 piece Juilliard Orchestra.

Thank you to **Jill Golub Daube '76** for coordinating our Alum Shabbat in Israel and to all our alumni who hosted our juniors studying in Israel this semester.

Mazel tov to **David Lipsitt '95** on his position as Post-Doctoral Fellow of Psychology at Harvard Medical School. Prior to his fellowship, he earned a doctorate in clinical psychology from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. He lives in Cambridge, MA.

Oscar! Oscar! **Jeremiah Zagar '99**, received the exciting news that his intimate family film and memoir, *In A Dream*, has been shortlisted for an Oscar in this year's **Best Documentary** award category. The film, that tells the story of his father, a prominent Philadelphia mosaic artist, has won a number of awards and will be released in theaters this spring. Working with Jeremiah is **Jeremy Yaches '99**. They are partners in their film company, **Herzeliya Films**.

מה עוד חדש

SPORTS UPDATE:

All our sports teams are on winter break: Tune in for more news in 2009.

MORE NEWS:

Rak Shalom Highlights Chanukah Assembly: Our school-wide Chanukah Assembly is set for this **Monday, December 22**. **Rak Shalom**, the Jewish Acapella group from the University of Maryland, **will perform in both English and Hebrew**. Their repertoire ranges from American pop to Israeli classics. Following candle lighting and the concert, Rak Shalom will join our

students for lunch and have their **CDs available for sale**. Join us for this festive Chanukah celebration.

Sweet Treat: Everyone will receive a *Sufgaiyya* at lunch. Whether you buy lunch or not, a **delicious jelly donut** awaits you this Monday at lunch.

Poetically Speaking: Four of our seniors, **Aaron Bloch, Reid Ginsberg, Rachel Schwartz, and Henry Steinberg**, along with their English teacher, **Susan Weisgrau**, have been attending poetry-writing workshops at the University of Pennsylvania. The project is called *Heartspeak* and our students are working along with other students from University High School, including those from Ghana, Sierra Leone and Bangladesh.

Save the date. The Upper School drama production of *Third* is set for **February 8-11, 2009, 7pm** in our school auditorium. The play will be directed by **Georgia Robbins-Gerike '09**.

Egalitarian Minyan: If you are interested in learning more about Barrack's egalitarian minyan, please contact **Sarah Waxman:** swaxman@jbha.org.

Class of 2010 Fundraiser: The 11th grade class is selling Chocolate boxes for Chanukah. They make the perfect holiday gift! Please support the class of 2010 in this sweet way.

More Tuition Assistance and Merit Scholarship Funds: Pass the Word! Due to the generosity of Barrack benefactors, we have expanded our already existing tuition assistance and merit scholarship programs to help families of all economic backgrounds provide their children with a stellar Barrack education. We are currently providing funds to families with incomes ranging from \$20,000 to over \$200,000, depending on individual circumstances. And for students new to Barrack, our **Rabbis' Scholarship merit stipend** has been **increased to \$5,000 for the first year and \$3,600 thereafter** for scholars in good standing. Rabbis are now invited to nominate a number of student candidates from their congregations. Tell your family and friends about this exciting news. To schedule a visit and explore new opportunities, contact **Vivian Young**, today at vyoung@jbha.org or 610-922-2350.

Drug Education Workshop: 6th and 7th grade students will travel to the Education Center of Lakenau Hospital for a drug education workshop on **Thursday, January 8**.

HSA Drug Awareness Program: HSA will host a Drug Awareness program featuring speakers from the Montgomery County Narcotics Division on **Tuesday, January 20, 7pm** in our school auditorium.

Save the Date: A 10th Grade early evening get together is set for **Sunday, January 25, 2009** at the home of **Aviva Leberman**. Time to be announced.

Best Cake Challah Sale: Senior fundraising continues with the sale of freshly baked challot from Best Cake Kosher Bakery. Great for Shabbat dinner, holidays, and everyday snacking. To order, print the form from the JBHA website and submit it to **Mrs. Rubin** at the front desk. Thank you!

HSA Reminder: HSA sells kippot and benchers for special events. Please contact **Susan Rosen** at 610-405-5360.

Next Open House: Tuesday, February 3, 9am to noon. Spread the word!

השבוע הבא

LOOKING AHEAD:

Dec 24-Jan 2: Winter Break. Classes resume on January 5

Jan 8: 6th & 7th grade Drug Education Trip

Jan 8: Alumni Basketball Game

Jan 20: HSA Drug Education Program for Parents

Jan 25: 10th Grade Student Get Together

Feb 3: Open House

Feb 8-11: Upper School Drama: *Third*

**If you have news directly related to the Barrack Hebrew Academy family,
please email it to Beverly Rosen at brosen@jbha.org.**