



בינינו

Benainu "Between Us"

**Did you RSVP in support of our
#1 fundraiser? If not, RSVP today.**

7th Annual Tribute – Sunday, March 29th



There's No Place Like Home... Our Home

Honoring **Beryl D. Simonson**

Newsletter Date: March 13, 2009
Volume 6, Issue 21

Ki Tissa

Candle Lighting: 6:46pm

Shabbat Ends: 7:56pm

NEWSFLASH:

Dr. Brown Announces New Initiatives: Dr. Steven M. Brown, head of school, announced a number of new initiatives for the 2009-2010 academic year, including the introduction of a **trimester schedule** that will provide many advantages. "This new schedule, under consideration since 2007, will best suit the academic needs of our students and faculty, providing a 21st century approach to education and furthering the mission of our school," shares Dr. Brown. **Details are outlined in the full letter online on the news page.**

Did you RSVP to our 7th Annual Tribute Event? Your participation in our Tribute Dinner supports our Annual Fund that enriches the lives of all our students and faculty and helps assure a vibrant future for our community. Join us on March 29 to salute **Beryl D. Simonson** for his many contributions to education, Jewish life and the community and simultaneously support Barrack Hebrew Academy. Return your RSVP card that is enclosed in your invitation today, or click on the **ruby slippers** that appear on our school's home page: www.jbha.org.

Blood Drive: The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at Barrack Hebrew Academy on Monday, March 23, 8:30am to 2:30pm. The blood drive will be held in our gymnasium. Those volunteering to donate blood should bring a valid ID that verifies you date of birth. Driver's licenses and passports are suggested. Additionally, all donors are highly encouraged to stay away from caffeine 48 hours in advance of donating blood and to stay well-hydrated. If you have any questions, contact **Henry Steinberg '09**, student coordinator: henry.steinunberg@jbha.org.

Winter Sports Banquet: The Winter Sports Banquet is set for **Thursday, March 26, at 3:30pm** in the **school's dining commons**. A pizza party will follow the awards presentation.

שמחות

MAZEL TOV:

Mazel tov to Jacob Reich '14 who will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah this month. Congratulations to his parents **Dvora** and **Dr. David Reich** and his sister **Shoshana '11**.

Mazel tov to Jake Tischler '14, who will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on March 28 and to his parents **Terri** and **Mark Tischler**.

Congratulations to David Carel '09, who received the **Philadelphia Inquirer's 2009 Student Citizenship Award** in recognition of outstanding scholarship and community service. The award was presented to outstanding high school seniors throughout the tri-state region at the National Constitution Center.

Mazel tov to Max Gering who recently donated a substantial portion of the money that was gifted him for his Bar Mitzvah to the Jewish National Fund to help build a playground currently under construction in Sderot, Israel. His personal commitment and dedication to Israel and this project were commended by Marina Furman, Regional Director of the JNF.

Congratulations to Dr. David Rabeeya, whose book, **1,001 Jokes About Rabbis and the Rest of the World**, is keeping people smiling in these uncertain times.

Mazel tov to Rebecca Saionz, Cappie reviewer, whose review of the recent performance of **Annie** presented by the Delaware County Christian School, was forwarded to the **Philadelphia Inquirer** for publication.

בוגרים

ALUMNI NEWS:

Alumni Rise in Politics: Chris Van Hollen and Speaker Nancy Pelosi recently announced that House strategist and skilled political operative **Jon Vogel '93** has been named Executive Director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman (DCCC). He comes to the DCCC from the Global Strategy Group, a traditional polling and consulting firm. He, his wife **Kate**, and daughter **Anya** live in Washington D.C.

Mazel tov to Tamar Field Gersh '97 and her husband **Akiva**, a member of the Alexander Muss faculty who has worked with our 11th grade students, on the birth of a daughter (yet to be named), sister to **Shaya**. Congratulations also to grandparents **Rabbi Phil** and **Diane Field**. Yet another reason that Rabbi Philip D. Field, former head of school, made aliyah.

מה עוד חדש

SPORTS

Congratulations to Sam Sittenfield '09, who received **two awards from the William H. Markwood Memorial Basketball Club: the "Unsung Hero" Award and the William Ferguson Award that is given to an athlete who excels on the court and in the classroom.** Sam was accompanied by the boys' varsity basketball coach, **Barnett Kamen**.

Winter Sports Roundup:

Boys' Varsity Basketball: Coach Barnett Kamen reports that the boys' team came on strong at the end of the season, winning five of the last six games and advancing to the semi-finals in the Tri-County League Tournament. **Captain Derek Benedict** averaged 17 points a game. Senior

Captain Jon Wexler provided leadership and stability at the point guard position. Seniors **Brian Levy, Sam Mellits, and Sam Sittenfield** made valuable contributions. **Tal Ben-Maimon** and **Harrison Grass** joined the team after their semester in Israel and helped make up for the loss of **Michael Leyman** who was injured early in the season. Sophomores **Ron** and **Dan Gabbay** and **Josh Ackerman** improved tremendously as the year went on. **Yakir Gola** was injured and missed the year. The team played with drive and determination and looks forward to next season.

Jr. Varsity Boys' Basketball Recap: **Coach Andrew Kaham** reports that the boys had a great, successful season, losing only two games in league competition. They made it all the way to the championship game of the JV tournament, losing in a dramatic overtime effort to Phelps. Congratulations, team!

Girls Basketball Roundup: The girls' varsity basketball team completed the season with an over all record of 11-13 and made it to the Tri-County quarterfinal playoffs. **Freshman Tamara Moskowitz** averaged 13 points, 4 assists, 7 steals and 4 rebounds. **Sophomore Davida Vogel** led the team well and **8th grader Jackie Khutorsky** made a big impact throughout the season, averaging 5 rebounds a game. **Coach Jen Ricco** reports that the whole team demonstrated great spirit, and that everyone is looking forward to next season.

In the Swim of Things: **Coach Jerry Kleger** reports that almost every member of the swim team was able to improve his or her personal times and showed noticeable improvement in stroke mechanics. "Every one of you was a delight to work with," adds Coach Kleger.

Middle School Basketball Team: **Coach Troy Daniels** states that the **2008-2009 Boys Team** won 6 games, a great improvement over last year's record. **Daniel Saltz, Jeremy Goldfrad** and **Ben Bernstein** provided steady leadership throughout the season. **Ethan Magaziner, 7th grade,** provided steady guard play.

The 2008-2009 girls middle school basketball team won four games this season. The team overcame many obstacles and was led well by **8th graders Jackie Khutorsky, Caroline Batoff, Lindsay Petersohn, Sarah Krulik** and **Arielle Steier**, who all demonstrated consistent strength on the court.

MORE NEWS:

Most Socially Relevant Award: Members of our **5th Annual Annenberg High School Science Symposium** team won the **Most Socially Relevant Award** this week for their presentation entitled *Advancements in Prosthetics*. Team members included: **Sara Abramson, Sivan Ben-Maimon, Noah Bloch, Leonie Cohen, Rachel Gordon, Yaakov Malomet, Zara Mellits, Jeremy Rudoler, Mira Taichman** and **Renee Zwillenberg**. The team was led by **Sarah Turner** and **Zachary Taylor**. Faculty advisors were **Rhonda August** and **Kim Polishchuk**. Congratulations to all!

Israeli Film Festival Screening at Barrack: **FREE admission** is being extended to Barrack Hebrew Academy students, faculty, administration and staff. Barrack Hebrew Academy will host an Israeli Film Festival of Greater Philadelphia screening of the award-winning film *The Beetle* in our auditorium **this Saturday, March 14, 8:30pm, followed by a dessert reception for the entire audience**. The entire community is invited. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors. Tickets can be purchased online: www.iffphila.com.

Annual Drama Department Fundraiser: A festive **Cabaret** themed *All That Glitters: a Salute to the Golden Age of Broadway* is set for **this Sunday, March 15, 7pm**, in our school's dining commons. This major fundraiser will feature the cast of *Beauty and the Beast*, **Akiba-Barrack alumni, Dewey Oriente-Cassidy** and **Jim Wade** on the piano. **Admission is \$12**. Light refreshments will be served. Come out and support Barrack's award-winning drama department.



Strut Your Support Fashion Event: Barrack Hebrew Academy will host our school's first ever fashion fundraiser, **Strut Your Support**, on **Tuesday evening, March 17, 7pm** in our dining commons. The event will benefit the **Tikva Children's Home for abandoned or homeless Jewish children in the Ukraine**. The ultimate goal is to help the children emigrate to Israel. Organized by 10th graders **Nicole Henzel** and **Shoshana Reich**, the evening will feature a light dinner catered by *Max and David's*, followed by a stylish fashion show, exciting raffle, live DJ, and an after party presented by RakDan. Event packages follow:

Fashionably late admission is \$20 at the door.

For details, email Nicole.Henzel@jbha.org or Shoshana.Reich@jbha.org

A Happy Purim was had by all: Congratulations to members of the Young Jewish Leadership Initiative, and advisor **Sarah Waxman**, for organizing a festive and fun-filled Purim celebration, complete with readings of the *megillah*, a lively assembly, and a fanciful costume parade, all capped off with Purim treats in the gym. Our faculty celebrated in style as well.

The David Project: An assembly focusing on the Arab-Israeli Conflict provided 11th and 12th graders with the opportunity to practice the knowledge that they learned in class by discussing ways to deal with questions and allegations about the Middle East conflict that often are raised on college campuses.

Middle School Chesed Day: All our Middle School students will participate in a variety of volunteer projects on **Thursday, March 19**. During the morning, students will volunteer at the **Jewish Relief Agency, Adath Israel Nursery School, The Riverbend Environmental Center** and **Tacony Creek Park**. After volunteering, they will enjoy a pizza lunch and roller skate at the Marple Sports Arena.

Model UN Preparation: A number of Barrack students in the World Affairs Club joined 200 other students from throughout the tri-state region for a preparation Model UN session held at the Union League. The 11th grade members included: **Hannah Dardashti, Gabe Duec, Danny Elkin, Samara Gordon, Noy Meshulami, Jackie Retig, Ilana Stolyar**, and **Eli Taichman**. The 10th graders included: **Josh Ackerman, Matan Ayash, Shane Feifer, Yana List, Will Margules, Dan Parmet, David Stein, Josh Stein**, and **Jessica Wolfson**. These students will represent five countries at the actual Model UN set for April 27. **Gail Simon** is the World Affairs Club advisor.

"GREEN" Water Bottles: The Environmental Action Club is selling environmentally-friendly water bottles for \$1.00 each. Wet your whistle and benefit the environment at the same time. **Order forms** are available on the Benainu home page.

Human Rights Club T-Shirts & Fair Trade Chocolate: Our **Human Rights Club** is selling really cool t-shirts for just \$13 to benefit the **Invisible Children, former soldiers in Uganda**. The **Fair Trade Chocolate** sale will help defeat abusive labor practices, especially those **endured by over 284,000 children who toil in West Africa's cocoa fields**. The t-shirt order form is available on the Benainu home page. Additional forms are also available at Mrs. Rubin's desk.

Help Create a Library in Africa: Our **Chesed Club** is teaming up with **Anne Prusky '14** who is collecting books to create a library in Africa as part of her Bat Mitzvah project. Please place donated books, including picture books, early readers, text books, K-9 novels, children's dictionaries etc, in the basket located under the TV in the main foyer across from Mrs. Rubin's desk. This is an easy way to help repair the world and encourage children's literacy in Africa.

Host Families Needed: In honor of Yom Ha'atzma'ut and Tel Aviv's 100th birthday, Barrack Hebrew Academy will host the Towers of Tel Aviv Choir, April 21- April 30. Host families are needed to host the teens (9th-12th graders) and 3 to 4 chaperones. Host families will be asked to provide home hospitality for 1 to 3 teens, room and board; transportation to and from school; and occasional lunches for day trips. Shabbat and/or Kosher observance are not a requirement, for most choir members are not observant. Interested host families should contact Dr. Sigal Strauss as soon as possible: sstrauss@jbha.org Thank you!

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. Every new student who enters our school in September 2009 will receive a \$3,600 merit grant toward tuition. Our **Rabbis' Scholarship merit tuition grant** for new students has been **increased to \$5,000 for the first year** and **\$3,600 thereafter** for scholars in good standing. We also have increased tuition aid for existing families. 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.

SA Magnet Sale: SA is selling Cougar Paw magnets. **Cost: \$3 for one; \$5 for two.** Please make checks payable to JBHA Student Association. Any questions, email David Barnett: david.barnett@jbha.org

6th Grade Trip: Our sixth graders will visit the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology to tour the Greek and Roman exhibits on Thursday, **April 2.**

Library Volunteers Needed: Parents, grandparents or grandfriends are needed to help perform light clerical duties in our beautiful new library. Please contact head librarian **Wendie Gabay** if you are interested in volunteering: wgabay@jbha.org Thank you!

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

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. **Order forms** are available on the Benainu home page and can be submitted 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.

השבוע הבא

LOOKING AHEAD:

March 13: 12th Grade American Government and Economics Trip

March 14: Israel Film Festival Screening: *The Beetle*

March 15: Cabaret: Drama Department Fundraiser

March 17: 12th Grade AP Environmental Science & AP Biology Students Trip

March 17: Strut Your Support Fashion Benefit Event

March 19: Middle School Chesed Day

March 23: JBHA Blood Drive

March 26: Winter Sports Banquet, 3:30 in Dining Commons

March 29: Barrack Annual Tribute Event

April 2: 6th Grade Trip to Museum of Archeology and Anthropology

May 17-20: Upper School Musical: *Beauty and The Beast*

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