



Shutafim

SUMMER 2012



Please enjoy this issue of *Shutafim*: 'Partners' intended to update our grandparents and other friends of SAR on events and programs in and around SAR.

The summer provides a special opportunity for our students, staff, parents and grandparents to step back from the daily routine of any Jewish Day School, and reflect on the accomplishments, special events and inspirational moments we have shared over the past year.

While our students are spending their time visiting family, enjoying summer camp, working at the local pizza shop and starting their first corporate internship, the administration and faculty are planning for the next school year.

This past year's theme of Arvut - Connections was integrated in the daily curriculum and special programs throughout the year.

On June 16th, 7th grade took a break from their usual Shabbat morning routine, and walked over 3 miles each way to spend Shabbat with an aging congregating in the East Bronx. On Lag BaOmer, younger and older students were paired together for both Torah study and outdoor teamwork activities. The High School completed a Siyyum on Tanach and Mishnayot - with each student learning in memory/honor of a loved one.

We recently had the honor to graduate 88 students from the Academy, and 114 from the High School! We are so proud of everything our most recent alumni have contributed to our school community, and can't wait to see

what they will continue to accomplish.

We hope you enjoy your summer and have the chance to engage with the SAR students in your life. Stay in touch with and keep your eyes peeled for invitations to in-school events throughout next year.

Thank you for being our partners!

Rabbi Binyamin Krauss
Principal, SAR Academy



Rabbi Tully Harcsztark
Principal, SAR High School

Save the date -- This year's auction, in support of the SAR Scholarship Fund, will be a LIVE event on Saturday night, November 17th. Please consider becoming an auction sponsor in honor of your grandchildren. Simply complete the form inside and return in the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your support!



grandparents@saracademy.org

Team Neshama Runs for Chai Lifeline



Eight SAR faculty members ran in the Miami Marathon this past January to raise money for Chai Lifeline in honor of SAR student, Neshama Ryman. We would like to congratulate Melissa Rothwax, Elayna Koevary, Hedva Schachter, Tali Cohen, Shira Irwin, Chloe Levenson, Chana Adatto, and Aliza Ainsberg for being stellar members of Team Neshama.



Open Kitchen Cookbook

Dedicated in Memory of Sheri Raskas z"l

This is a newly created cookbook featuring the best culinary treats SAR has to offer. Including:

- 200+ inventive, delicious recipes using the finest whole ingredients
- Inspiring dishes for every day of the week, Shabbat & Holiday menus
- All recipes tested for the most delicious results
- Professionally produced full color photographs with detailed instructions

NOW AVAILABLE!

openkitchencookbook.com
(718) 548-1717



SAR High School Wins 2012 BJE Science Olympiad

The Science Olympiad, sponsored by the Board of Jewish Education, is a challenging, fun and engaging set of competitions that motivate students to problem solve and think scientifically. Over 150 students from ten Jewish high schools in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area competed in 13 events. The events are drawn from the National Science Olympiad, which is a national nonprofit organization whose goal is to increase interest in science on the part of high school students and improve the quality of science education. Because the National Olympiad meets on Saturday, the BJE organized an Olympiad to be held on a Sunday for Jewish high schools.

The SAR students were terrific! The team won medals in 11 different events - more than any of the other ten schools participating - and won First Place overall. The team consisted of students from each grade: two 9th graders, five 10th graders, three 11th graders, and three 12th graders. Each

STING REPORT

Academy Sports Highlights:

- **Boys 6th Grade Basketball** - Yeshiva League Champions, defeating HALB in the finals
- **Girls 7th/8th Grade Basketball** - Yeshiva League Champions, defeating MDS in the finals

High Sports Highlights:

- **Girls JV Basketball** - Semi-finalists
- **Boys JV Hockey** - Quarter-finalists
- **Boys Varsity Hockey** - Runner up in Championships
- **Girls Varsity Volleyball** - Semi-finalists
- **Girls JV Volleyball** - Runner up in Championships
- **Boys Varsity Basketball** - Runner up in both the Yeshiva League Championship and the Sarachek Tournament
- **Boys JV Basketball** - Yeshiva League Champions

In Other Sports News:

- **Two New Teams Were Added to the Roster:** 6th Grade Girls Basketball Team and Boys Soccer Team
- **Michael Schreck Memorial Games** - Staff defeated the 8th graders in a close, well-fought battle.

grade won at least one medal playing a critical role in advancing the team.

The students worked diligently to prepare, both on their own and with the teachers in the science department. Members of the team are: Marcella Dabbah, Adina Goldman, Akiva Goldman, Mickey Harris, Elie Lerea, Doni Moskowitz, Elana Rosenthal, Alex Rosh, Marty Rubin, Rebecca Sichel, Leah Slaten, Zach Smart and Aryeh Zapinsky.



Most gratifying to us is the large number of students (45) who participated in the in-house competitions we conducted here at SAR to select the team.

Smart Plans for Smarter Giving.

SAR recently celebrated its 43rd year of excellence in Jewish Education and is subsequently making plans for long-term sustainability. The school is working to maintain the warmth and spirit of SAR, keeping pace with the remarkable growth it has experienced over the years. SAR has almost 1400 students from nursery through 12th grade! As we embark on the next segment of our journey, we are seeking partners to ensure a successful future for SAR.

Planned gifts provide you with the stability of long-term financial planning, and the satisfaction in knowing that your support for SAR will continue for many years to come. There are many options for planned giving including: Charitable Bequests, Endowment Funds, Gifts of Life Insurance, Gift Annuities, and more.

To discuss planned giving options, please call SAR Director of Development Heidi Greenbaum:

(718) 548-1717 x1256

SARVUT SIYYUM

SAR High School celebrated a school-wide Siyyum, a joyous celebration upon finishing the study of Mishnayot and Tanakh on Tuesday, May 29th over a gala breakfast of waffles, bagels and spreads. The Siyyum was a beautiful and most fitting way to end the school's yearlong commitment to the theme of Arvut - Connections.

Each Gemara class studied certain tractates of Mishnayot, and students volunteered to individually learn perakim of Tanakh. Students dedicated their learning in honor, memory, or refuah of someone they know. Miriam Lichtenberg and Matt Landes shared divrei Torah at the event on behalf of the student body.

As part of the program, students thanked the Beit Midrash Fellows who had spent so much time learning with them this year. The presentations were heartfelt and demonstrated the very important role the Fellows Program plays in the life of the school.

There was a beautiful feeling of pride and Ahavat haTorah in the room as the Siyyum concluded. We look forward to continuing this tradition in 5773 and building on this most special event.

SAR High School Lishma Unit

As an institution dedicated to understanding each student's process and motivation for learning, SAR High School implemented a unique, exciting experiment this past year - The Lishma Unit. In every class, students learned a unit in which they were not assessed through grades or assignments. The goals of this experiment were to analyze students' motivation to learn, encourage teachers to develop novel vehicles for transmitting information, and alleviate pressure from the students.

The program was a great success on various levels. Students took risks in learning; they were not inhibited by fear of failure. Teachers developed and adjusted approaches to learning as this program challenged commonly held assumptions about education. Furthermore, this program assuaged some of the students' stresses without compromising the level of scholarship.

Student and faculty response to this program was excellent. Students provided critical and constructive feedback to teachers, and teachers amassed valuable information on students' fervor for learning. We are incredibly proud of the Lishma Unit as it represents one of the ways we are addressing the ever-changing needs of our students.

PASTA FOR PURIM?

Students in the Junior High came up with a creative way to fulfill two mitzvot at one time! Students brought in boxes of pasta (non-spaghetti variety, of course) that were used as groggers on Purim day and then donated to a local food pantry after the chag.



SAR LOVES ISRAEL!

Yom Ha'Atzmaut at ELC:

The Kindergarteners learned the map and topography of Israel. As part of a larger unit in the class, each child was assigned a place, or topic, relating to Israel to research with their parents and presented what they learned to the class. The kindergarten classes noted Israel's varied climate and topography as they learned that even though Eretz Yisrael is a very small country, it has so much to offer—from the green mountainous region of the north—to the sandy desert in the south, from the walled holy city of Yerushalayim—to the ports and beaches near the coast—there is no place like Israel!

Each Nursery class concentrated on a single part of the map. From the Golan all the way down to Eilat – our youngest students learned about Israel in depth! Entering each classroom was like entering one of Israel's wonderful cities.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut at Academy:

It was Yom Ha'Atzmaut Color War for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students!! The grades were split into four teams, Yerushalayim (yellow), Tel Aviv (green), Sefat (blue) and Beer Sheva (red). Throughout the day the teams competed in sports and worked on their team cheer, d'var torah, song and banner after which the teams came together in the gym to present their artwork, songs and cheers to the judges. It was a difficult decision, but in the end Yerushalayim (yellow) was crowned the winner!

The 6th grade had a creative Yom Ha'Atzmaut activity—"Mini Israel". Using all sorts of arts and craft materials, plus their imaginations, the 6th grade students built models of places in Israel and mapped them out in front of Rabbi Krauss' office. It's amazing what the students were able to make in a few hours!

Beit Sefer L'Muzika is the Israeli equivalent of American Idol, and on Yom Ha'Atzmaut SAR had its very own show! The 6th, 7th and 8th grade audience were joined by the 1st and 2nd grades. The MC's, Olivia Tulkoff and Ariel Benillouche introduced each act in perfect Hebrew.. Each act chose a song in Hebrew –some sang and danced, some were accompanied by guitar. They were all amazing!



Yom Ha'Atzmaut at SAR High School:

The High School had an inspiring Yom Ha'Atzmaut which commenced with a special tribute to members of SAR who will be joining the Israeli army. Max Kane (SAR HS'11) addressed the school through video from Israel speaking about his decision to join the army this coming year. The High School also had a Kochav Nolad (Israeli version of American Idol) competition in which nine acts competed. Competition was fierce, and the performances were really terrific. After text message voting by the audience, the group that won included: Noah Benus, Max Slepian, Yishai Chamudot, Aryeh Zapinsky and Ethan Metzger. The chagigah which followed the Kochav Nolad rocked, and the festive lunch was quite delicious.



Happy 64th birthday to Israel!

SARPAA & Israel Activism at AIPAC Conference

Totally committed to activism and standing with Israel, politically aware and concerned student leaders, parents and faculty advisors of SAR High School turned out in record numbers for the AIPAC conference in Washington from March 4-6. SARPAA and Israel Activism students departed Saturday night in order to be in attendance for President Obama's speech and take full advantage of every aspect of the 3-day program culminating in lobbying opportunities with Congressional leaders. The highlights of the conference included PM Netanyahu's address to the assembly of over 13,000 participants and the special tribute for President Shimon Perez to honor his lifetime of service to and leadership of Israel from the



War of Independence until now. PM Netanyahu agreed with President Obama that there would be no tolerance for a nuclear Iran, and went further to affirm Israel's right and responsibility to act in its own interest, independently if necessary, to address an existential threat to the people of Israel. Students attended workshop sessions dealing with energy, the Arab Spring, media, campus activism, Israel/American collaboration on defense projects and a host of other important topics presented by Congressional leaders, scientists, journalists, statesmen, military leaders and others.

SAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Committed to securing SAR's strength and vibrancy for years to come, we have now embarked on the most important journey of this decade. SAR seeks to raise 15 million dollars for the Capital Campaign in order to fully retire all of the school's outstanding debt.

Underscoring the importance of this goal, SAR community leaders Jack and Giti Bendheim have extended a once in a lifetime opportunity - the **Bendheim Challenge Grant (BCG)** - which will match all 2012 gifts to the SAR Capital Campaign 1:2.

The Bendheims' tremendous act of generosity, together with the philanthropy from the larger SAR community, will enable SAR to respond to 21st century demands, challenges and opportunities while ensuring that we continue to deliver the highest quality education.

Successfully achieving our goal of eliminating this debt will enable us as a community to creatively confront challenges, such as the rising costs of a yeshiva education, as well as consider the infinite opportunities that can strengthen our school.

For further information about the Capital Campaign or to make your gift, please contact Heidi Greenbaum at 718.548.1717 x1256, greenh@saracademy.org



MATCH MATH

Each eligible gift made to the SAR Capital Campaign will be matched at 50 percent up to five million dollars. For example, a gift of 100 thousand dollars will be matched by 50 thousand dollars from the BCG. If a donor's gift is matched by a Corporate Matching Program, the BCG will match the corporate gift as well as the donor gift.

DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Naming opportunities are available. Dedications encompass academic and recreational facilities, administrative areas and main corridors.

Each dedication plaque is customized to include your inscription and also carries a quote or pasuk to give more meaning to the SAR areas where our students learn, pray and socialize. Spaces are available at the Early Learning Center, the Academy and the High School.



A Muppet Visits 254th Street



Nick Raposo came to write a song with the Kindergarten. Nick's father Joe Raposo composed over 3,000 songs in his years at Sesame Street including; "C is for Cookie" and "Sing a Song". The idea behind "Sing a Song", Mr. Raposo explained, is that it shouldn't matter if you don't have a good voice, you should still sing your song.

Together they wrote the lines "On Tu B'Shvat we take care of trees, just like I take care of me...." Mr. Raposo will make a recording of the finished song and send it to the Kindergarten.

Following the music, Mr. Raposo introduced the children to a Muppet he had brought with him. He showed them how the Muppet's arms and mouth move, and the children each had a turn to touch it. The children had a great time and will likely never watch Sesame Street the same way ever again.

SAR 43 Anniversary Dinner

In Support of the Scholarship Fund



A Banner Year for Our Annual SAR Dinner!

We did it! Together, as a community we broke a new fundraising record for the dinner and successfully raised \$1.6 million for the SAR Scholarship Fund. On Motzai Shabbat, January 28th over 900 supporters came together to celebrate this milestone, pay tribute to our honorees and rejoice in the warmth and accomplishments of our beloved SAR. It was truly a special evening that made us all proud to be part of SAR.

The evening featured tributes to our honorees Judith and Harry Ballan, Stephanie Minkove, Milly Rosner and Abbie and Moshe Greenberg; special musical presentations for Mrs. Rosner and the Ballans; a wonderful buffet dinner; announcement of The Open Kitchen Cookbook, (dedicated in memory of SAR Grandmother Sheri Raskas z"l); and, an iPad raffle.

Thank you again to our parents, grandparents, alumni and friends for your endless support of SAR, our community and Klal Yisrael.

GET YOUR STING GEAR!

Students are proud to be a part of the SAR "Sting Nation," and that's why **Sting Gear** has been flying off the shelves. In school, at home, in the gym or out with friends, SAR students are wearing Sting Gear wherever they go!

If you want some Sting Gear for yourself, or want to buy some for your grandchild, you can now order online at www.saracademy.org/store or you can request an order form by calling 718-548-1717 x1230 or by emailing grandparents@saracademy.org*

Currently Available:

- Pullover Sweatshirt
- Sweatpants
- Kippot
- Sting Slippers



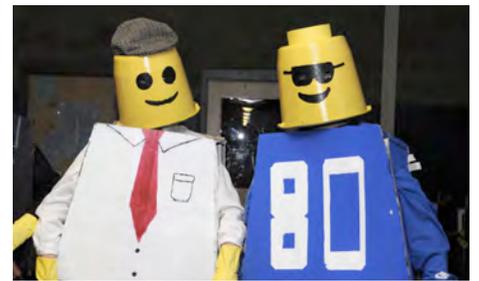
*Sting Gear is available for pickup in the SAR Office.

SAR Israel Reunion



We are happy that so many alumni, former faculty and friends joined us for a beautiful evening of laughing, reminiscing and reconnecting on March 17th in Jerusalem. It was heart-warming to see everyone together for an evening of SAR consisting of the melodious singing of Avshalom Katz, viewing old pictures in the slide show and yearbooks, and joking around with old classmates. We hope this is only the beginning for building a stronger extended SAR community in the US, Israel and beyond!

AN SAR PURIM IN PICTURES



Do you have any pictures for our next Shutafim newsletter?

Email pictures to: shutafim@saracademy.org

Mail pictures to: SAR Academy, c/o Aaron Steinberg | 655 W. 254th Street | Riverdale, NY 10471

Please limit your pictures to one per grandchild. While we do our best, we cannot guarantee to publish all pictures we receive.

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To register for Chadashot our
weekly Academy e-newsletter,
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To register for Koleinu our
bi-weekly High School
e-newsletter, email
koleinu@sarhighschool.org

For information about
grandparent programs, email
grandparents@saracademy.org



SAR Grandparent Program

There are hundreds of programs each year that open our students' minds, and challenge them to engage the world around them through the lens of Jewish Tradition.

Beyond that, over the course of this year, there will be more than a dozen opportunities for grandparents to visit the school for plays, programs, celebrations and special events. We relish the opportunity to bring together members of the wider SAR community for these occasions.

We are looking for partners in this endeavor. The following sponsorship levels for our SAR Grandparent Program are available:

- \$100
- \$500
- \$3,600
- \$180
- \$1,000
- \$5,000
- \$360
- \$2,500
- \$10,000

If you would like to be a sponsor of our SAR Grandparent Program, please send in a check made out to "SAR" using the enclosed envelope.

For more information, please call Heidi Greenbaum, Director of Development 718-548-1717 x1256

Thank you for your support!



STAY IN TOUCH

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