



Chadashot



SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL OF NASSAU COUNTY • JERICHO, NEW YORK
SOLOMON SCHECHTER HIGH SCHOOL OF LONG ISLAND • GLEN COVE, NEW YORK



Message From the Head of School

Dear Parents and Friends,

It's hard to believe that half the year has already gone by. As part of our ongoing effort to keep you up-to-date on what's happening at all divisions of our school, *Chadashot* will attempt to highlight some of the key events of the preceding months and foreshadow upcoming ones. There is so much to be proud of, it has proven difficult to select only a few of the many wonderful achievements we seem to rack up on a regular basis.

Personally, let me add that it is most exciting and an honor to be at the helm of our excellent Conservative Jewish Day School (K-12).

The unwavering support of our Board of Education — coupled with the unique aspects of our school's faculty and students — allows us to implement an outstanding and innovative educational experience for your children. I hope this edition of *Chadashot* will give you a taste of what makes my work here so rewarding and our school such a superb one.

My vision is of a school that blends serious Conservative Jewish values and study, along with outstanding secular academics — a school with a spirited Jewish *neshama*, strong sense of Zionism, positive community involvement, and opportunities for individual personality development. I am confident that students in all of our divisions — elementary, middle and high school — are destined for great things. I am proud to be working in partnership with you, the faculty, and our very dedicated and committed Board of Directors. Our common goal is to shape a strong Schechter community that will serve our children today and for many years to come, molding them into outstanding Jewish citizens of the world.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ben Dachs

G. Ben Dachs, *Head of School*

Message From the President

- An upcoming Kindergarten with a Waiting List;
- Standardized Test scores (ELAs, SATs) that are among the highest averages for Long Island;
- College early admission acceptances to Brown, Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, Wesleyan, George Washington, NYU, Vassar, University of Michigan, List College, and SUNY Binghamton; as well as
- Long Island IPPSAL Championships by the Girls' High School and Boys' JV Basketball teams.



That's the "short list" of accomplishments at our School just over the last few months!

We have much to be proud of at Solomon Schechter of Long Island. As a result of a lot of hard work by our students, faculty, administrators, parents, and donors, we have established one of the finest private schools on Long Island and one of the best Jewish Day Schools in the country.

Of course, as our tradition teaches us, notwithstanding one's achievements, "the work remains great and the time is always short." As you turn the pages of *Chadashot*, with a new layout guided by the School's recently retained marketing/public relations firm, please consider all of the wonderful goals we have accomplished together. Moreover, dream about all the great achievements that are yet to occur and which, continuing to move ahead together, are so possible, for the enhancement of our children's future.

I look forward to working with our entire Schechter family to continue our great progress, substantially advance the educational excellence of our School and continue making our children's future shine brightly. If you wish to communicate with me directly, please do not hesitate to contact me at lstern@ssdsnassau.org.

Warmest Regards,

Les Stern

Les Stern, *President, Board of Directors*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Schechter School News

- Family Mission to Israel Trip
- Alumni Day
- "From the Students"

Page 2

Elementary School

- Tuition Reduction
- Storytime Program

Page 3

Middle School

- Aron Kodesh Dedication
- Middle School Trips

Page 4

High School

- United Synagogue Youth Elections
- Torah Learning Sessions with Rabbinical Assembly
- College Acceptances

Page 5

- Special Announcements
- Upcoming Events
- Contact Us

Page 6

2005 Tuition Reduction for Kindergarten and Grade 1

See Page 3 for further details.

"The Pirates of Penzance"
Spring Musical
March 26 & 27, 2005
Long Island Children's Museum
See back cover for additional information.

SCHECHTER SCHOOL NEWS

Unique, Multigenerational Family Mission Departs for Israel



Map illustrating the trip to Israel.

What began as a conversation over Shabbat dinner at the home of Rochelle and Jeff Canarick well over a year ago has resulted in a unique event, never before experienced by an entire Long Island school community. As this issue of *Chadashot* goes to press, 170 Solomon Schechter students, family members and professional staff are setting off on a family mission to Israel.

That Friday evening discussion covered such issues as anxiety over travel to Israel, the decrease in tourism and its economic impact on the country, and the Solomon Schechter community's need to support the Jewish state. That conversation was the genesis of this month's Family Mission to Israel.

The resulting 10-day trip combines a tour with formal and informal educational activities. The Solomon Schechter mission, customized for the children, also features intergenerational activities for students, their parents and even grandparents.

Unlike routine planned-learning trips to Israel, with limited parental participation and possibly no higher involvement from the school than a teacher or two, this mission includes students, and in many cases, their

entire families and multiple faculty and staff members.

"The mission is a reflection of the Solomon Schechter extended-family approach to education," says Head of School Ben Dachs. "The sense of community continues well beyond the end of the school day," he explains. ♣



1st Grade students' project related to the Israel trip.

Graduates Return for Alumni Day Activities

At Schechter, it's common to have individual alumni drop by to say hello to a former teacher or schoolmate. Just as gratifying was the return of 72 graduates for this year's official Alumni Day activities. And they came for more than lunch with faculty members.

Many alumni volunteered to lead discussions with current students. Shirah Bergman, '00, presented her recent fashion designs for the modest dresser. Eddie Silvera and Craig Fryman, '04, spoke of their experience in a summer college program. Iris Feinberg, '02, and Mollie Spevack, '03, described their year spent in Israel on the Conservative Movement's Nativ program. Eytan Kurshan, Josh Tobias, Danielle Skurnick and Matt Krichmar, '04, described their adjustment to college life and offered valuable advice to students on how to survive freshman year. Shuli Rank, '02, led a discussion entitled "When your friends aren't all Jewish and straight." Ariella Dalfen, '03, spoke about life as a pre-med student.

A highlight was the Girls' Alumni Basketball Game played in The Den. The alumni team played hard, but could not dominate the girls' varsity team.

The day also included a memorial service commemorating the first *yahrzeit* of Eliezer Schwartz, Class of 2000. A plaque was dedicated and memorable words of Torah were offered by Rabbi Chesler. ♣

"FROM THE STUDENTS"

Beginning with the next issue, we will dedicate an area of this newsletter to student contributions, opinion pieces, poetry, photos and art.

Please send your submissions to:
studentsubmissions@ssdsnassau.org.

AN EDUCATION THAT'S WORTH MORE DOESN'T HAVE TO COST MORE

Tuition Reduction Encourages Commitment to Solomon Schechter Education

In a move taken to encourage family commitment to providing students with a Solomon Schechter education, the school's Board of Directors unanimously adopted a 50 percent tuition reduction for families of all kindergarten students and 25 percent for first-grade students for the 2005-2006 school year. The Board recognizes that parents have many dreams and hopes for their young children, including 13 years of Solomon Schechter as part of that vision. The Board applauds the commitment to Conservative Jewish education yet recognizes that it is, at times, a financial burden for families.

"As a school we watch with pride as our students reach each milestone: reciting the *shehecheyanu* when receiving their first *siddur*,

*"By investing in
our children,
we're investing in
the Future of the
Jewish People."*

developing critical thinking skills, excelling in the standardized ELA and SAT exams and becoming a community of caring, sensitive young people guided by the teachings of our people," Board President Les Stern wrote to parents. "We appreciate that you also value these experiences," he added. ♣

*An Education
That's Worth More
Doesn't Have to Cost More...*

Solomon Schechter Day School of Nassau County is offering a 25% reduction in Grade 1 tuition and a 50% reduction in Kindergarten tuition.

Solomon Schechter Day School of Nassau County is a well-known Jewish Day School affiliated with the Conservative Movement offering outstanding programming by:

- Providing children with a nurturing and supportive environment
- Creating student-centered classrooms
- Offering an outstanding secular and Judaic Studies curriculum
- Using every opportunity for experiential and integrated learning

Please join us at our
Open House
Wednesday, March 16th, 2005 - 7:30pm
Call Susan L. Katz, Director of Recruitment
at 516-656-5500, ext: 135 for more details.

*"By investing in our children, we're investing
in the Future of the Jewish People."*

Solomon Schechter Day School of Nassau County
Barbara Lane, Jericho, New York 11753

G. Ben Dachs
Head of School

Philip Dickstein
Principal, Elementary School

Elementary School Influence Reaches Beyond Barbara Lane

Elementary-level, community-outreach initiatives are demonstrating the Solomon Schechter Day School's commitment to quality Conservative Jewish education and advancing its reputation.

The highly successful "Community Story Telling" series, held on the Jericho campus, invites children aged three to five from the community-at-large, to join Schechter kindergarten students for engaging, participatory sessions led by acclaimed author and storyteller Susan Remick Topek. Initial storytelling programs focused on Thanksgiving, *Chanukah* and *Tu B'Shevat*. The children hear a story, participate in kinebic activities, create an art project and enjoy a snack.

"One of the great thrills for our visitors is to mingle with 'the big kids' – our kindergarten students," says Curriculum Coordinator Sandi Swerdloff. "More importantly, these mini-field trips introduce the children and their parents to the warm, caring, comfortable environment of our school and introduces the benefits of a Solomon Schechter education."

Storytelling sessions are held weekday afternoons and attract preschool children from local synagogues and Jewish Community Centers.

Also on the elementary level, Parent University, co-sponsored with three area synagogues, helps parents connect with their children. Topics have included learning issues, friendships and social issues and transitioning to the next grade.

A special Parent University afternoon featured author/educator Adele Faber's workshop, "How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk." ♣



Professional author, Susan Remick Topek, reads a book to children.

ARON KODESH DEDICATION

Miracle of Chanukah Reflected in New Aron Kodesh

On December 13, the Middle School experienced an exciting event with the dedication of a new *Aron Kodesh* (holy ark) during an all-school *shacharit* service. The middle and high school choirs sang for the students and the assembled guests, and Rabbi Barry Chesler gave a pertinent *d'var Torah*.



The new Aron Kodesh.

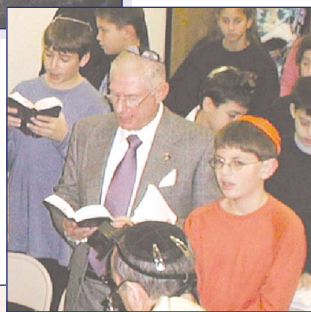


Top: B. Dachs and A. Dalfen supervising the reading of the Torah.

Mr. Allan Dalfen, principal, spoke about the miracles of *Chanukah* and the miracle of the new beautiful ark. In our case, the miracle began when one student, Josh Tallis, saw the state of disrepair of our previous *Aron Kodesh*

and together with his family, stepped forward and donated money from his *bar mitzvah* gifts.

Middle: Morgan Hammerman and his grandfather



Then – independently – the Hammerman family became involved and helped underwrite the cost. Together with Mrs. Hiltzik, assistant principal and director of Jewish Studies, they retained the services of an expert craftsman and began the actual

Bottom: Student Chorus during the Aron Kodesh Dedication.



process of building the ark.

Because Reuben Berman was also displeased by the condition of our old *Aron*, he too donated money from his *bar mitzvah*. So the miracle of *Chanukah* has visited our school, thanks to the generosity and foresight of these families. May we all merit more miracles! 🌟

Highlighting the middle school experience are the annual trips that each grade takes. In addition to being educational experiences, each trip is relevant to the subject matter students are studying and serves as a bonding experience between students and teachers.

The sixth graders, visiting Lancaster and Philadelphia, Pa., learned about the customs of the Amish and were able to compare some of that culture's practices and rituals to their own. The Franklin Institute, the National Constitution Center, the USS Becuna submarine and a short visit with the rabbi at Mikveh Israel Synagogue were on the Philadelphia agenda.

Newport, R.I., and Boston were on the seventh-

Middle School Students Experience Boston, Philadelphia and Washington

grade itinerary. The rabbi of Newport's Touro Synagogue, provided a spell-binding commentary on the oldest operating synagogue in the country. Boston-area stops included Plymouth Rock, the Mayflower, Plymouth Plantation, Quincy Market, Harvard University and the MIT Museum.

The eighth-grade Washington trip began at Baltimore Harbor's Fort McHenry where students learned about the origins and background of the national anthem. In addition to visiting major Washington attractions, the group gained new insight into a tragic chapter of Jewish history at the Holocaust Museum. They also demonstrated knowledge of current Israeli events in a discussion with an education liaison officer at the Israeli Embassy. 🌟



Left to Right: D. Hochbaum, M. Greenspan, and Z. Roseman.

Mordy Greenspan, Daniel Hochbaum and Zachary Roseman Elected as USY International Officers

In an historic vote, three seniors from our Solomon Schechter High School of Long Island were elected as international officers of United Synagogue Youth (USY), the youth arm of the Conservative Jewish movement. This is the first time that three USY officers have come from the same school.

Mordy Greenspan, a senior from Oceanside, was elected president at the group's 54th annual conference held in Chicago. Senior Daniel Hochbaum of Islandia was elected vice president-Israel affairs; Zachary Roseman, a senior from West Hempstead, was elected vice president-membership. They represent one-half of the six-member international slate elected by USY.

"This unprecedented election result is a compliment to these students who are active in USY while maintaining the rigorous commitment and schedule that Solomon Schechter High School of Long Island requires," says Jules Gutin, international director of USY. "We are particularly gratified that these three outstanding students have chosen to advance both their formal and informal educations through the Conservative Jewish movement," he adds.

More than 14,000 high school students from the United States and Canada are active USY members. Some 1,150 students participated in the Chicago conference. ♣

Rabbinical Assembly Teams with Students for Torah Learning Sessions



Rabbinical Assembly Left to Right: S. Hoffman, I. Jacknis, J. Kohn, H. Hoffman, M. Greenspan (middle), A. Vernon, B. Dachs (Head of School), H. Stecker, A. Daljen (Middle School Principal).

Member rabbis of the Rabbinical Assembly of Nassau-Suffolk (RANS) teamed up with students from Solomon Schechter High School and Day School for a unique series of Torah learning sessions at the group's January meeting held at the high school. The master classes, conducted by each attending rabbi with a small group of the school's scholars, delved into the week's Torah portion with insightful interpretations and analyses.

"As a region, we're proud of the accomplishments of Solomon Schechter High School of Long Island," says RANS President Mark Greenspan, rabbi of Oceanside Jewish Center.

"By convening our January monthly meeting at the high

school and working directly with students, our rabbis experienced the high caliber of Jewish education being provided."

In addition to conducting student learning sessions, the rabbis reviewed issues of mutual concern such as initiatives in support of tsunami-relief efforts, as part of their regular monthly meeting. ♣



Rabbi Ian Jacknis with students.

Seniors Accepted to Top Colleges

Early-decision college acceptances for the Class of 2005 have come in, and Solomon Schechter seniors will be headed to some of the top colleges in the country. The desired "fat envelopes" have come from:

- Brown University
- Columbia University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Wesleyan University
- George Washington University
- New York University
- Vassar College
- Syracuse University
- SUNY Binghamton
- List College
- Muhlenberg College
- University of Michigan

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Solomon Schechter High School's Lady Lions clinched their second IPPSAL basketball championship in three years, with a resounding 36-23 victory over Lawrence Woodmere Academy. The varsity girls led during the entire game. The win capped a 15-2 season, with a perfect 8-0 record in Western Division league play. Junior

Danielle Stern was Solomon Schechter's top scorer with 11 points and five assists. Tenth-grader Sigalit Altmark followed with eight points.



Sophomore Amanda Boris, in addition to scoring seven points, played an impressive defensive game, grabbing 11 rebounds.

Congratulations to Senior Zachary Roseman, who received a perfect 1600 score on the SAT exam.

Rabbi Perry Raphael Rank, president of the international Rabbinical Assembly, will speak at the May 12 Annual High School Tribute Dinner.

The high school Drama Department presents Gilbert and Sullivan's, "The Pirates of Penzance," on Sat., March 26 at 8:00 p.m., and Sun., March 27 at 1:00 p.m. and at 4:00 p.m. in the theater of the Long Island Children's Museum in Garden City.

Watch the Web as the updated Solomon Schechter site soon will be available at www.ssdsnassau.org on or around March 15th.

CONTACT US

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Susan Aberbach, Chairman, Board of Directors
Judith Hirsch, Co-Chair, Board of Education
Marvin Rosen, Co-Chair, Board of Education
Susan Bartell, Co-President, Parents' Association
Simi Schwartz, Co-President, Parents' Association

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual High School Tribute Dinner

Thursday, May 12, 2005
Woodbury Jewish Center

Edward Kaplan Memorial Classic Golf Outing

Monday, June 20, 2005
North Shore Country Club

For further information, please contact
Sam Nussbaum, Executive Director: 516-656-5500 x106

Solomon Schechter Day School of Nassau County (K-5)

Barbara Lane, Jericho, New York 11753 • 516-935-1441

Solomon Schechter Day School of Nassau County (6-8)

Solomon Schechter High School of Long Island (9-12)

27 Cedar Swamp Road, Glen Cove, New York 11542 • 516-656-5500