



CTA Weekly Communicator

Weekly Newsletter with Important News & Updates from Columbus Torah Academy

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Shabbat Shalom D'var Torah

By Sarah Weinstein, 4th Grade Judaic Studies Teacher

As I reviewed the parshah for this week I came across a summarized portion of text that I found compelling. "Tzav means to command, and as the parshah begins, G-d tells Moses to command Aaron and his sons about how to do their job with the korbanot (which we began to discuss in last week's Parshah, Vayikra). A fire must be constantly burning on the altar; it is the Kohen's responsibility to make sure it never goes out." (Chabad.org)

The first point that struck me was that this week's parshah literally means "to command". In our current situation we are not being asked but rather told and commanded to stay home. While we still have free will and can make independent choices, staying home isn't really an option, it is a reality we must accept. The second is that the job of the *Kohain* was to make sure that the fire kept burning and that it would never go out. While the connection to the second point is not as literal, I think still applies to our current situation. It is our responsibility to make sure the light of Torah and holiness does not go out in our homes. We can not rely upon synagogues, youth programming, or another mentor, role model, or family member to keep the flame of Judaism going in our homes. Now, more than ever, it is we who are responsible for maintaining holiness in our homes.

It is also no coincidence that this Shabbat is also Shabbat Hagadol. Shabbat Hagadol is a time when we read a special *haftarah* that recalls the Jewish people who were preparing the sacrificial Passover lamb. "On that day, the Children of Israel were given their first commandment which applied only to that Shabbat, but not to future generations: On the tenth day of this month [Nissan]... each man should take a lamb for the household, a lamb for each home (Exodus 12:3)". This *pasuk* clearly states each man and each home must perform this mitzvah. No one could let someone else take on the preparation of this mitzvah. Similarly, we can not let someone else take on our preparation of Passover this year.

This year we are "commanded" to stay home and take ownership of the mitzvot of Passover like never before. For many of us the idea of making a Passover for the first time is intimidating for many reasons. All of the concerns and stress surrounding this responsibility is valid and worth discussion. It is also a tremendous opportunity and connects to the root of the holiday itself. For the first time we have no choice but to create the Passover experience in our homes. We must lead the Seder, clean, cook, decorate, infuse conversations with Torah and so much more. We can not depend on our relatives or loved ones to create the experience for us to latch on to. It is on us, each home and each individual.

While intimidating, Hashem is giving us this tremendous opportunity to create the Passover experience in our homes like never before. Just like the Kohanim kept the light of the fire going in the Mishkan (as described in this week's parsha) this Passover it is on us to keep that tradition, that flame of Judaism going in our homes. This year we must ask ourselves, now that it is up to me, what will my Pesach be?

Shabbat Shalom and Chag Kasher v'Sameach

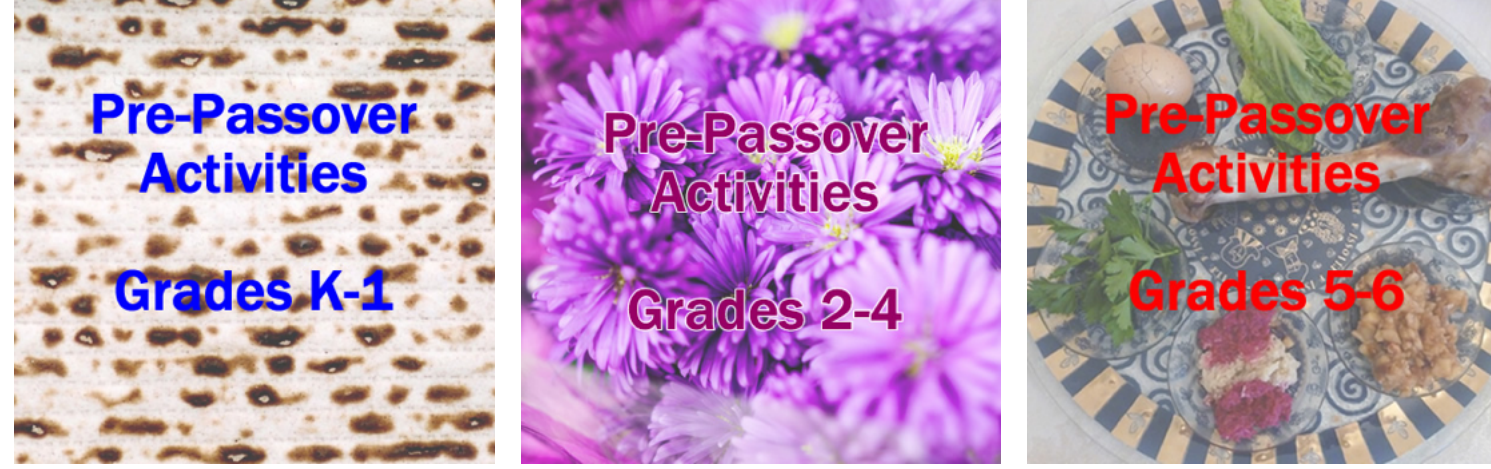
THE SCHOOL BUILDING IS CLOSED. PASSOVER BREAK BEGINS ON MONDAY, APRIL 6 THROUGH APRIL 17. AT HOME LEARNING RESUMES ON MONDAY, APRIL 20.

Important School Information

More information about at home learning plans for after Passover Break will be shared by email to parents on Monday, April 6. Classes will resume on **Monday, April 20.**

Lower School Passover Challenge: Are you looking for a challenge for your children for the days of Chol Hamoed. Teachers have created activities for different grade levels. If your child completes ALL of the activities, please email Mrs. Miller by Sunday, April 19 by 5 p.m. There will be fun prizes that we will offer your child such as gift cards. If your child does 6 activities, please email Mrs. Miller. We will do something special for them, too.

Please note that you must follow the directions of the challenge in order to be entered into the contest.



Upcoming Dates to Remember

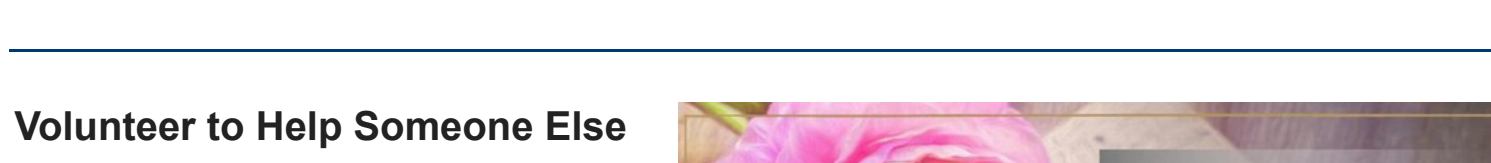
April 15: Ohio Ed Choice Expansion Scholarship Forms mailed to Ohio Department of Education
April 6-17 : Passover Break
May 13-14: CTA Day of Giving

Get Ready for Passover

with Morah Miriam Gisser

Monday, April 6 at 6:30 pm
Virtual Meet Up
Stories, games, activities and more

Contact info@torahacademy.org for the link



Volunteer to Help Someone Else

Help make cards for good baskets being distributed by JewishColumbus to residents at Wexner Heritage Village.

Deadline is April 10.

Use [this template](#) or create your own for Shabbat, Passover and General well wishes

There are strict rules about delivery. Cards will not be going straight to WHV because of health and safety concerns for the residents. All mail needs to be properly disinfected first.

There are two options for card delivery:

- Drop off your completed cards to the mail slot outside of JewishColumbus (1175 College Avenue) – make sure that the envelope is clearly marked to the attention of Alyssa Russell
- Email your completed cards (or attach a word doc) to alyssa@jewishcolumbus.org, and she will print it out for you

Please clearly mark 'CTA xxx grade' in the subject line when you email Alyssa. She will let Mrs. Delman know as she receives them. Let's see how many cards CTA can generate!!

High School students can earn community service hours credit for this!!

If you have any questions, contact edelman@torahacademy.org



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Share

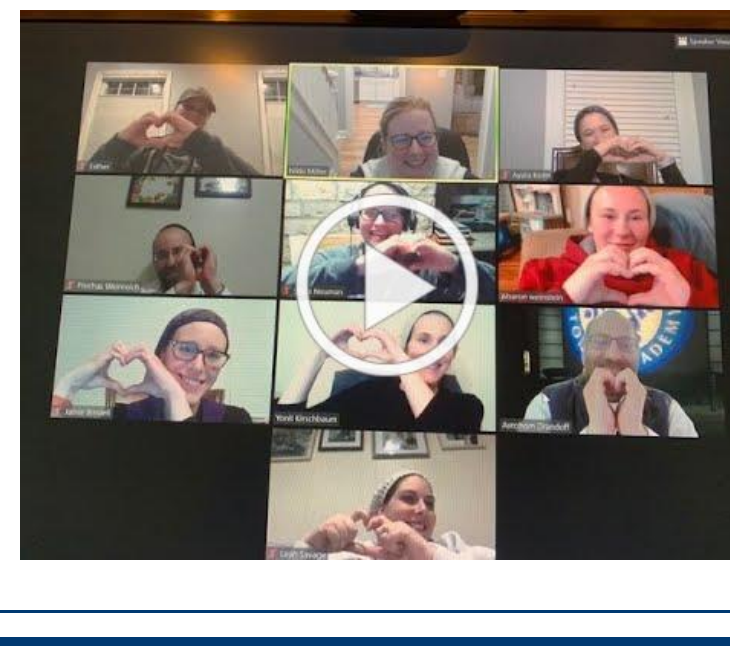
Let's keep our community strong! While learning isn't happening in our building, there are many ways we can share what we are doing to stay busy, active and engaged.

Join the Columbus Torah Academy PTO Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/502100903515212/>. Anyone can post there and share thoughts, pictures, musings or ask the "hive" what to make for dinner!

Send us pictures, thoughts, student work, videos, audios and more by email (info@torahacademy.org), text (614-561-1335) or upload to <https://forms.gle/aUw3UHoVknXt9PU9>

Your submission could be featured in an upcoming CTA communication!

CTA teachers are Missing Their Students



Need Help?

Need Help? In these very uncertain times, there are people who want to help. Please reach out to Rabbi Drandoff if your family is encountering any financial or emotional challenges. Rabbi Drandoff is working with community Rabbis and JewishColumbus to provide support. If you are in a position to help out, contact Rabbi Drandoff. It is important that efforts be coordinated so that everyone's needs are met.

Healthy Parenting Tips in the time of COVID-19 Check out [these](#) resources from the World Health Organization

Worry Strategies for Children during Coronavirus Please [click on this link](#) to see a resource from school counselor, Lacey Drake, LoHwer School Counselor

Talking to your Children about Covid-19 Eliza Delman, Upper School Counselor, recommends [this article](#) about talking to your children about Covid-19. It is written by Dr. Andrew Klafner, a psychiatrist, who happens to be her brother and shared with the CTA community with his permission.

CTA Events & Links

2020-2021 CTA School Calendar

The preliminary calendar for the 2020-2021 school year is now available. You can [click here](#) to download it. It is a PDF.

HELP CTA EARN KROGER REWARDS:
<https://www.kroger.com/account/mcc/CommunityRewards> how to make sure that your rewards card is linked to Columbus Torah Academy. We earn 3% of every sale in donations to support our students. Now is the time to confirm you are enrolled. More information [here](#).

Start saving those Box Tops. Lots of promotions! [Click here for more information](#) [Box Tops Back to School Promotions](#) - [Earn Prizes](#)

Shop. Snap. Earn.
Instantly turn pictures of your shopping receipts into donations for your school!
Start Earning Today!

Fundraiser Links: <http://www.torahacademy.org/school-wide-fundraisers/>

Sponsor a Day of Learning

We will continue Days of Learning during the At-Home Learning. Consider sponsoring a Day of Learning in memory or honor of a loved one or to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, b'nai mitzvah or other life cycle event. A Day of Learning is a \$180 donation and dedications are listed on Fridays in the CTA Weekly Communicator and each month in the CTA Dateline. All proceeds directly support CTA.

CTA's Day of Learning for Friday, April 3 is sponsored by Mr. Staffilino in honor of the birthday of his grandson, David, who will be 5 this weekend! Happy, Happy birthday!

To choose your Day of Learning, contact Shari at sherszage@torahacademy.org.

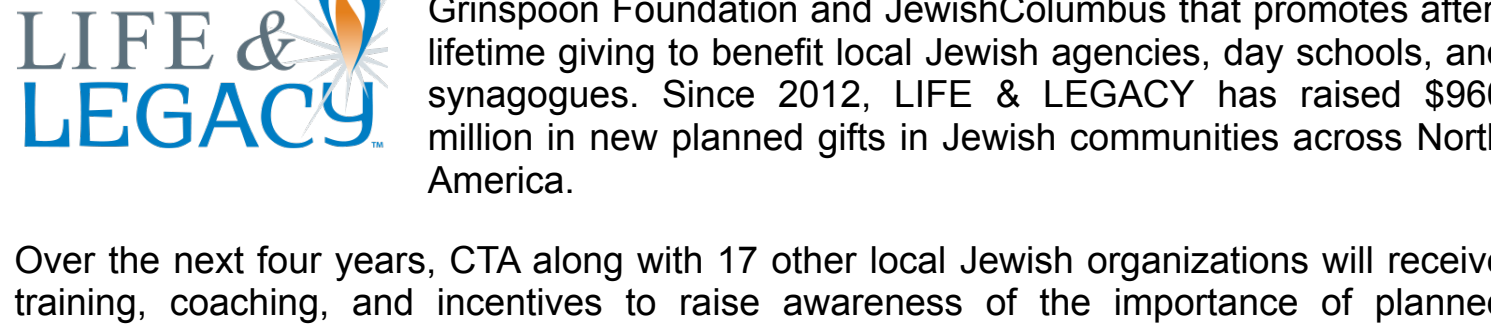
Give to CTA



CTA accepts donations to our Annual Fund or Scholarship Fund throughout the year. We also accept Tribute Donations in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Donations can be made through the school office at 614-864-0299 or online by clicking [here](#).

Donations are listed in our monthly CTA Dateline. Check [here](#) to see our most recent issue.

Life & Legacy



CTA is a member of the JewishColumbus Life & Legacy cohort. The Life & Legacy Initiative is a partnership of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and JewishColumbus that promotes after-life giving to benefit local Jewish agencies, day schools, and synagogues. Since 2012, LIFE & LEGACY has raised \$960 million in new planned gifts in Jewish communities across North America.

Over the next four years, CTA along with 17 other local Jewish organizations will receive training, coaching, and incentives to raise awareness of the importance of planned giving. Expect to see more information in the next few months about the Life & Legacy Initiative and how you can make your planned gift to CTA.

Questions about Life & Legacy can be directed to Rabbi Drandoff or Shari Herszage or Board President, Bob Wolf.

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