



CTA Weekly Communicator

Weekly Newsletter with Important News & Updates from Columbus Torah Academy

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March 27 - Video Message from Rabbi Drandoff, Head of School



Shabbat Shalom D'var Torah

By Rabbi Avrohom Drandoff, Head of School

In this week's Torah portion, Vayikra, the Torah introduces us to the concept of a Karbon, animal offerings. Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch points out that there is no word that truly captures the essence of the concept of a Karbon. Some translate the word as a sacrifice, but in truth, sacrifice misses the mark. The term sacrifice implies the idea of giving up something of value for the purpose of benefiting G-d. This is not plausible because G-d does not have needs. The alternative translation commonly used is offering, which also fails to capture the essence of a karbon. Offering implies the need to appease G-d with an animal offering, which is not the true goal of a karbon.

The essence of a karbon is captured in the word karbon itself. The root of the word karbon is karov, which means to approach, to come near, and to come in close relationship with somebody. The purpose of a karbon when giving an animal offering is to bring the individual closer to G-d and to intensify and strengthen one's relationship with G-d.

We are living in unprecedented times with all of us trying to adapt to a new way of life, which we never could have imagined. The world around us is at a standstill. The sports and entertainment industries have come to a halt. Libraries and museums have shut their doors. The retail industry is limited to e-commerce. Yes, we might be overwhelmed with educating and entertaining our children who are homebound with us. However, we have an enormous opportunity to strengthen our relationships with our families and collectively with G-d. It is important to embrace these days as an opportunity to appreciate that time has stopped, so we now have a chance to have meaningful conversations with our children in the middle of the day. We now have time to learn a little more Torah or pray with a little more concentration. G-d willing everyone should stay healthy or recover soon. May we merit to grow as a community and seize the moment. Our children will thank us!

Shabbat Shalom

THE SCHOOL BUILDING IS CLOSED, BUT AT-HOME LEARNING CONTINUES.

Preview of the Week: March 30-April 3, 2020



Important School Information

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN SCHOOL CALENDAR:
NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY, APRIL 6.

UPPER SCHOOL AT-HOME LEARNING

Students in grades 7-12 are receiving their assignments via [Alma](#) and teachers are using tools from teleconferencing, Google Classroom and more to communicate with their students. The weekly class schedule can be viewed at https://docs.google.com/document/d/12QxA39ax1H3DEOvwsOqR1TTLZ_YoC3RtstjYLmZ0EQw/edit Any questions can be directed to teachers or to [Mr. Staffling](#).

Teachers are meeting virtually to review the week, share experiences, and fine tune to improve our systems. Parents or students who need help with Alma should contact Mrs. Delman at edelman@torahacademy.org.

LOWER SCHOOL WEEKLY LESSONS

Students in grades K-6 will be receiving weekly lessons for at-home learning. Mrs. Miller will send an email to parents with links to grade level HyperDocs that include daily activities in each subject area. The email will be sent on Sunday night for the coming week. If you have any questions about the work, contact teachers directly or [Mrs. Miller](#). Sixth graders should also check their [Alma](#) account where assignments are being posted.

The HyperDocs are also posted on the CTA website at <https://www.torahacademy.org/lower-school-weekly-lessons-hyperdocs/>

Class Zoom Gathering Links for Social Emotional Learning (SEL), teacher office hours and Shabbat parties will be sent by email to parents.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- April 1: Tuition Assistance Forms Due for 2020-2021
- April 15: Ohio Ed Choice Expansion Scholarship Forms mailed to Ohio Department of Education.
- April 6-17: Passover Break



Music Time with Morah Cheri

Join in a virtual activity with Morah Cheri, CTA music teacher, on **Tuesday, March 31 at 6:30 pm.**

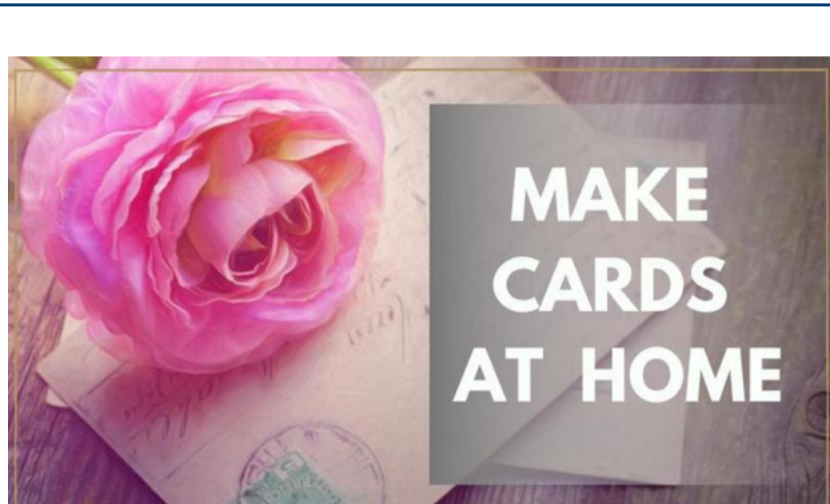
Best for students in grades K-4

Use this link to join in

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/651313927>

Volunteer to Help Someone Else

CTA is proud to support the important work and acts of kindness performed by JewishColumbus.



Students, K-12, are asked to make cards that will be distributed with goody baskets to the residents at Wexner Heritage Village.

Students can create cards using [this template](#) or simply use their own creativity. We have been asked to create 3 types of theme-based cards:

- Shabbat
- Passover
- 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 alysa@jewishcolumbus.org, and she will print it out for you

The first round of Passover-themed cards needs to be completed by **April 3**. The second round of cards needs to be completed by **April 10**. As we don't know how long this social distancing phase will continue, I imagine that we will need a continuous supply of cards for quite some time.

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

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/502100806513212/>. 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/aUv9UHoVxmXMPU9>

Your submission could be featured in an upcoming CTA communication!

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.

Worry Strategies for Children during Coronavirus Please [click on this link](#) to see a resource from school counselor, Lacey Drake, Lower 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 Klaffer, 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/enroll/CommunityRewardsNow> 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/>



We will continue Days of Learning during the At-Home Learning. Consider sponsoring a Day of Learning in memory or honoring 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 Monday, March 23, the 27th of Adar, is sponsored in memory of Linda Greenberg, z"l (Rivka bat Hayyim u'Bracha) on the 2nd anniversary of her yahrtzeit by Cantor Jenna Greenberg, Rabbi Joshua Ginsberg and family. May her memory be for a blessing.

CTA's Day of Learning for March 25, the 29th of Adar, is sponsored in memory of Moishe Herszage, z"l (Moshe Yehuda ben Pinchas) on the 26th anniversary of his yartzheit by Shari and Dotan Herszage and family. May his memory be for a blessing.

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.

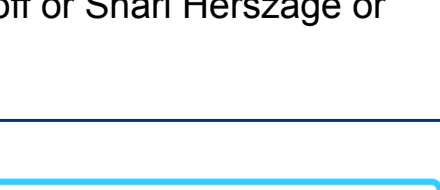
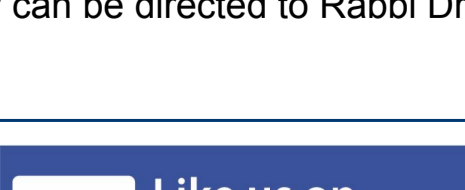
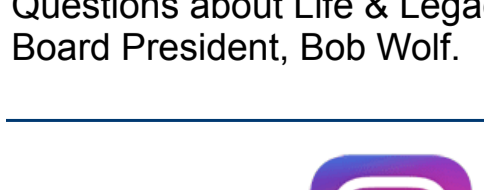
Life & Legacy



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 \$950 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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