

Rambam Record

Parshat Tetzaveh/ Shabbot Zachor

Rambam Joins Teach NYS in Albany

Last Wednesday, March 1st, students from Rambam Mesivta got up early in the morning to make the trek to Albany and participate in the Teach NYS mission to advocate for additional funding for private school education. After davening Vasikin and eating a quick breakfast, the boys boarded the bus to Albany. Currently, NYS provides over 3 billion dollars for public education, while spending one tenth of that on private education. Rambam was represented by their students, Michael Akhavan, Avraham Balsam, Dovi Breuer, Eli Deutsch, Benjamin Kattan, Aaron Moradi, David Rabinovich, Akiva Schuck and Uriel Sussman.

The lobbying mission was coordinated and organized by the Orthodox Union for 500 students, yeshiva administrators and community Rabbis all across of New York. All who came had the opportunity to hear from Governor Mario Cuomo, who was introduced by Mr. Allen Fagan, Chief Executive Officer of the Orthodox Union and then from Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan.

The Rambam delegates then met with Assemblyman Francisco Moya who represents Jackson Heights and is a strong supporter of funding private education. He lauded the efforts of the student lobbyists and urged them to continue the process and assured them that members of the Assembly are responsive to lobbying and public opinion.

After that meeting, the students were invited to the assembly floor by Assemblyman David Weprin who publicly acknowledged them and welcomed their presence before other members of the Assembly. Shortly thereafter, Assemblyman Dov Hikind spoke about Rambam in front of the crowd.

The Rambam contingent closed out the day with a private meeting with Senator Majority Leader John Flanagan. They thanked the senator for all of his efforts on behalf of private education and he responded by reaffirming his commitment to deliver educational excellence to all students in New York State.

Other yeshivas who participated from the South Shore were HAFTR, HANC and Shulamith. The voices and presence of all of the students clearly had a positive impact on the New York State Assembly.



Classic Film Club Trip to 1950 Best Picture Winner

Nominated for 13 Academy Awards in 1950, and winner of six, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Screenplay, and Best Supporting Actor, *All About Eve* is an undisputed "classic." This past Wednesday, the Rambam Classic Film Club traveled to "Fathom Events" in Farmingdale to see a big-screen showing of *All About Eve*, which also ranks number 28 on The American Film Institute's Top 100 Greatest American Films.

The film connoisseurs appreciated the film and had a truly cultural experience. One student remarked, "This was my first time seeing a black and white movie." After the screening, the Club Davened Mincha, led by sophomore Oren Teeter, and then participated in a post-film discussion and were given a copy of Roger Ebert's analysis of *All About Eve*.

It was a wonderful experience for all and another film was checked off the American Film Institute's List.



Purim Comes Early to Rambam!

Surprise! Rabbi Friedman called an assembly Erev Purim, only it was the "other" Rabbi Friedman: Rabbi Y. Friedman! Having taken control of the PA System through a series of mysterious events, Rabbi Y. announced that there would be an assembly. Once the entire school was seated in the Shul, Rabbi (Y) Friedman proceeded to give a Dvar Torah on the subject of "Bitul" urging everyone to use their time to the fullest in the pursuit of Avadat Hashem. He then started the singing and the whole school was soon dancing, welcoming the Purim festivities a little early!

