Shalhevet

Erev Shabbat Parshat Matot-Masei
Friday July 19, 2004
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What A Week!

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What's New in Camp?

So much excitement! Where do we begin?

Trip Day for Machzor Bet was one of the highlights of this past week. **Alufim and Alufot** traveled to Lake Placid, New York, for the first of their two-day trips. The highlight of the trip was bobsledding, according to the Alufot girls that this reporter spoke with. Other activities included ice skating, rafting, tubing, hiking White-Faced Mountain, viewing an Aerial Show which was "really cool" and touring the Olympic Center.

The **Ilanot Boys** were also privileged to an overnight trip, this one of a different 'nature.' This group of campers visited Ring Homestead where they enjoyed swimming, volleyball, basketball and a ropes course, after which they camped out in Leantoos (small huts) under a starry sky. The next day featured a trip to the Galleria Mall and a viewing of Spiderman 2, a favorite among the Ilanot Boys.

Their female counterparts, the **Ilanot Girls**, also enjoyed a viewing of Spiderman 2 after spending the morning playing mini-golf, laser tag, rock-climbing and eating ice cream at Skate Estate. They ended the day in Vestal Park where they ate dinner and enjoyed the great outdoors.

Our youngest campers, the **Day Camp**, also had a blast on their trip, which included a visit to Fun and Games as well as some delicious ice cream to top off the day.

1-2-3-4, we want **Color War**! Well, Machzor Aleph, Ilanot and Alufim/fot all enjoyed their own One-Day Color War this past week. According to Alex Stromer of G-15, color war is great because it "takes a lot of energy, effort and enthusiasm." Atara Staiman (G-14) maintains that it is also a great way to "meet a lot of new people". All of the different divisions participated in a variety of different activities including sports competitions, dances, cheers, shield presentations, baking, and the Machzor Bet campers even had the opportunity to take part in an apache relay. Highlights for the girls of G-10 were pin dodgeball, swimming and shiriah. Win or lose, a fun time was most definitely had by all.

All around camp our campers are enjoying their daily activities as well as those special ones that come around once in a while. The **Nitzi Girls** participated in an overnight as did the **Older Shtili Girls** who were joined by **Yachad**. Between the hiking, boating, story-telling and sleeping under the stars, the girls had a blast! Shayna Wagner of G-6 reports that sleeping outside, without a tent was the best part of the overnight.

The **Nitzi Boys** have been *shteiging* away in the beis medrash on boys campus where they learn with the **BMP** guys three nights a week for their own version of night *seder*. The only question is, who is enjoying it more, the BMP guys or the Nitzis?

Yachad has been making the most of camp by participating in all kinds of exciting activities around camp. Every Yachad camper has been able to go horseback riding and they have thoroughly enjoyed it. They are so pleased that the beautiful view of their girls bunk has been restored and love all the visitors that stop by to hang out. Tutoring with Alufot is underway and hopefully the program on boys' campus will get started very soon. Be sure to stop by the bunks and introduce yourself if you haven't already!

The **Machon-BBYO** program began on Wednesday with a trip by our machoniks to the B'nai Brith Youth Organization Camp. The program included discussion groups with Machoniks, BMP/MMP members, BBYO campers and members of the Morasha and BBYO staff. Together, the groups played "Jewish Futures" a game designed to generate discussions on the views that Judaism has on the world. The game prompted discussions about what is truly important and what should be important. Overall, the program was a success and we are looking forward to Machon-BBYO Part II.

Based on this week's *parsha* where we learn

about the *mitzvah* of ***tevilat keylim***, Senior Day Camp and Nitzi Girls had an opportunity to perform this *mitzvah*, which was a first for many of them. We learn about this *mitzvah* from the actions of *b'nei yisrael* after the war with *Midyan*; they *koshered* and were *tovel* the dishes that they won during the war. While the dishes that our campers dipped in the lake were not spoils of war, they will enhance our eating experience at camp. The girls went down to the lake and "made a *bracha* and dipped them in the lake," according to Rebecca Melman of Senior Girls. Chevi Jacobson and her friends "made sure there were no stickers" on any of the pans, frying utensils or serving pieces. Special thanks to the waterfront staff for their help in making this *mitzvah* possible.

Wednesday night's **Carnival** was the highlight of the week for the campers and staff alike. The twenty booths which were brought in from a professional entertainment company, included a basketball shoot, ring toss, darts, skee-ball and a dunker where campers had the opportunity to dunk Dr. Stan Goldstein, among others. The booths though, were just the beginning. Everyone enjoyed the joust activity were campers pretended to be American Gladiators as they tried to knock their opponents to the ground. Another favorite was Adrenaline Rush, a race through a giant obstacle course. The 90 foot slide which adorned boys campus was a thriller for all! When they weren't busy playing and climbing, campers could help themselves to carnival foods or they could redeem their prize tickets for prizes including glow in the dark basketballs, Morasha paraphernalia, board games and so much more!! What an evening!

What's New In the Real World ?

President Bush defended his decision to invade Iraq as he conceded that investigators did not find any weapons of mass destruction that Iraq was thought to possess.

The US government plans to open a "national bank" to better grow the only embryonic stem cells eligible for government-funded research. Embryonic stem cells are master cells that form during he early days after conception and can turn into any tissue on the body. Many scientists hope to be able to grow replacement tissues to treat diabetes, spinal cord injuries and other diseases.

What's New in Israel?

A United States Federal Court in Rhode Island has handed down a $116 million verdict against the PLO and the Palestinian Authority in favor of the parents and children of Yaron and Efrat Unger. The Ungers were murdered in a drive-by shooting in 1996 near Beit Shemesh.

Over 400 new *olim* (immigrants) arrived in Israel yesterday from North America on a flight sponsored by the *Nefesh B'Nefesh* organization. This is the third consecutive year that they have sponsored a mass homecoming and each year the numbers increase. They plan to bring a total of 1500 *olim* to Israel this year.

What's New in Sports?

Shaquille O'Neal, the Lakers' center who didn't come through for them in the NBA finals this past spring has been traded to the Miami Heat for forwards Brian Grant and Lomar Odom, guard Caron Butler and a future draft pick.

The Yankees headed into the All-Star break with the best record in baseball at 55-31. The Mets lost 2 out of 3 in last weekend's series with the Marlins leaving them 2 games behind Florida in the standings.

The American League will have home field advantage in this year's world series as determined by their 9-4 win in Tuesday's All-Star Game, including a 6 run first inning against Roger Clemens. Alfonso Soriano of the Texas Rangers was the MVP.

Weather Update

(As of Wednesday Afternoon, July 17)

Shabbos:	Thunderstorms possible, high 73°
Sunday:	Showers, high of 75°
Monday:	Thunderstorm possible, high 78°

Theme Thoughts

Welcome to Week 4!

On the fourth day of creation, the bodies that provide the world with light came into being. Hashem created the sun, moon and stars to illuminate the world (*Breishit* 1:14-19).

If you ask anyone why there is a sun, the answer you would most likely hear would be "So we can see." The Torah tells us otherwise. *Pasuk* 14 states that light was created "to separate between the day and the night and to serve as signs for festivals and for days and years." While the sun plays a crucial role for all human beings, it plays a special role for us as Jews. Its setting indicates the beginning of *Shabbos* and *yom tov,* its rising the dawn of a new day. The timing for *tefilot* are also determined by the rising and setting of the sun.

The moon has a very central role in Judaism as well. The first *mitzvah* that the Jewish people were commanded upon being taken out of Egypt was "*Hachodesh hazeh lachem rosh chodashim* — This month is for you, the first of the months." It was at this time that the Jewish people were commanded about the sanctification of the new month based on the lunar cycle. The first sighting of the moon represents the first day of each month in the Jewish calendar.

One might wonder why this was the first mitzvah given to the Jewish people. The answer may be that *Hashem* was trying to teach us an important lesson. Even though he created this world, he put it in our hands so that we can control our own destiny. It is for this reason that he put us in control of the timing of the months and by extension when the *chagim* would fall out.

The *mishnah* tells us that each person must believe that the world was created solely for them — *bishvili nivrah ha'olam*. It doesn't mean that its your world, but rather it shows us the importance of our connection to the world. If one feels a connection to the world, he or she will make it a better place. This is not to make us haughty, but to make us feel a sense of responsibility and to recognize that the world will only be as great as we make it.

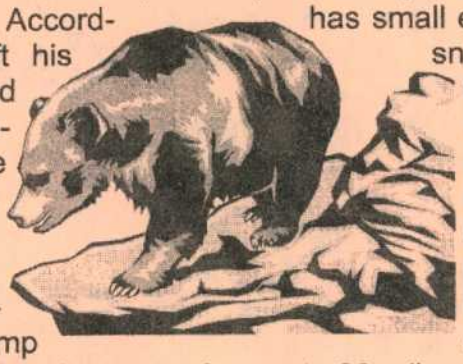
The stars have an important lesson for us as well. The light that is seen from the stars can be thousands of light years away. The star you see now may not even exist anymore in its original location. This can teach us a valuable lesson. One should not think that everything he does begins and ends with him. Rather, one must understand that all of his actions can have repercussions that can extend light years into the future.

It is with the lessons of the sun, moon and stars we go into the fourth week of camp. May we remember our responsibily to ourselves and the world around us in the coming week.

The Bear Facts

As the first month begins to draw to a close, Camp Morasha has had a very unique request for an August camper, a 5 year old, 225 pound American Black Bear with a missing lower jaw. Here is his story.

With the exception of the past few days, it has been a dry spring and summer. The forest doesn't contain many berries or juicy leaves. As a result, Barry the Bear has had to look elsewhere for food, according to Jim Barton, Jr. According to Jim, the bear left his wooded home and visited ours, here at Camp Morasha, because we were able to provide him with a "free meal".



Barry made various appearances all over camp throughout this past weekend, most of the time with his nose in garbage can. As a result, the warden of the Pennsylvania Game Commission was called in. The warden, Officer Frank Duley and his deputy, Deputy Mark Kellem arrived on the scene at camp at around 8 o'clock Sunday night to find the bear eating dinner in the back of the garbage truck. The warden saw this as an opportunity to tranquilize the bear and was successful in doing so. He then, accompanied by Jim Jr. proceeded to the Mercazia where they found the bear taking a nap.

It was at this point in time that Barry the Bear was identified based on a tag he wore from a previous capture which had taken place in Camp Lohikan, just near Morasha, where he was also turning over garbage cans and disturbing the peace. The warden then loaded Barry into a bear trap can and brought him down for all to see.

Barry was then taken to another game land located about 2 hours from camp by car where he was released so that he may go about his normal lifestyle.

Barry is a member of the Ursus americanus species. The black bear is approximately 4 to 7 feet from nose to tail. It has small eyes, rounded ears, a long snout, a large body, a short tail, and shaggy hair. Bears see in color and have good vision close-up. Their distance vision (over two hundred yards) has not been tested. They have an extremely keen sense of smell and can run up to 30 miles per hour, uphill, downhill or on level ground.

What to do if you see one of Barry's friends:

- Stay calm
- If you can do so undetected, leave the area
- If the bear is aware of you but distant, quietly walk slowly away from it
- If the bear is very close to you, avoid sudden movements and eye contact, talk in a low, strong voice and slowly wave your arms as you back away slowly
- Don't run or climb a tree

Remember these important pointers, you never know when they might come in handy. As for Barry, he'll have to be placed on the waiting list.

Parsha Pointers

This Week's Parsha: Pinchas
Candle Lighting: 8:16 PM
***Motzai Shabbos*:** 9:22 PM
***Sof Z'man K'riat Shema*:** 9:27 AM (*Gr"a*)
***Sof Z'man Tefilah*:** 10:41 AM (*Gr"a*)

BY AN ANONYMOUS ED STAFF MEMBER

In the first of this week's *sedras*, something happens which is a lesson for us at all times but, especially here in camp. Moshe *Rabbeinu* gets angry at the pikudei hachayil (Bamidbar 31:14). Almost immediately, Eliezer is forced to teach the *halacha*. What happened? Chaza"l tell us, in *Pesachim* 66a, that "*Kol shekoeis, im chacham hu, chachmato mistaleket mimeno* - One who gets angry, his wisdom leaves him." It is for this reason that Moshe lost his wisdom at that moment. However, here Moshe's anger was almost understandable. The people had ignored his words. Yet, he still lost his wisdom? Why is that so?

Rav Chaim Shmulevitz explains, in his *Sichot Mussar*, that the very act of losing one's temper, of getting angry, causes one to forget. It is not that getting angry causes one to get punished and therefore one forgets. No. The act of getting angry itself "burns" up ones knowledge, even if the anger might seem to be justified. It is a force of nature, not a punishment.

He adds, further, that the wisdom of the *Torah* is not like the wisdom of the world. In the non-*Torah* world, a man or woman can be a great scholar or sage and have very bad *middos*. Not so in *Torah* learning. *Torah* can not reside in a body that has bad *middos*.

Here in camp, we all live very close together for many weeks at a time. It is very easy to lose one's temper and get angry. We should be aware how bad it is to do so.

May we all learn to be more accepting of others and also to try to keep our tempers in check!

Good Shabbos.

Campers on girls' and boys' campus have been participating in Wayne County Althetic Association Tournaments over the past few weeks. They have participated in tennis in various divisions and we are very proud of their achievements. Here's an update on how we are doing in the basketball department:

- YSB 7/11 - Morasha 28, Indian Head 9
- OSB 7/7 - Morasha 33, Indian Head 25,
  2nd round — Morasha 56, Pocono Ridge 19, next opponent is Seneca
- IB 7/2 - Morasha 43, Lavi 30
  7/11 - Morasha 40, Wayne 41
- IG Morasha 28, Indian Head 36
- AB Morasha 68, Tioga 19, next opponent is Poyntelle

Special thanks to Judah Rhine for all his work in making this tournament possible.

Roving Reporter

Question: What is the first thing you plan to say to your parents when you see them on Visiting Day?

Gaby Kay (B-4) ..... "I miss you!"
Marvin Lerer (B-2) ..... "What's up?"
Adina Hart (G-3) ..... "I miss your chulent, Mommy"
Eytan Weintraub (B-1) ..... "Did you bring my stuff?"
Yossi Rosenstein (B-1) ..... "Is the month over already?"
Eliana Diament (G-1) ..... "What food did you bring for me?"
Elana Frankel (G-3) ..... "I'm having a really great time in camp!"
Yonina Leichtung (G-3) ..... "The camp food is awesome!"
Sabina Abarbanel (G-4) ..... "Take me to D.J.'s"
Randi Alenick (G-4) ..... "I need warmer clothes."
Melissa Appel (G-4) ..... "Camp is so much fun!"
Juliet Gerber (G-5) ..... "I have millions of stories to tell you."
Yael Herskovits (G-5) ..... "How's the dog?"
Laleh Simoni (G-5) ..... "Did my report card come?"
Sherri Luxenberg (G-5) ..... "Is it quiet in the house without me?"
Rachel Klein (G-15) ..... "I went rock-climbing for the first time."
Amanda Zelman (G-15) ..... "I've met so many new people."
Eytan Austein (B-11) ..... "How was the ride up?"
J.J. Butler (Boys' Yachad) ..... "Did you bring the BBQ?"
Lauren Winter (G-5) ..... "How's life without me?"
Lior Goldstein (B-4) ..... "Camp was amazing so far!"
Benjy Kestenbaum (B-5) ..... "Did you bring any sushi?"
Jonathan Odinsky (B-5) ..... "Can we go out for pizza?"
Noah Kirschner (B-5) ..... "How are the Mets doing?"
Jordana Pachter & Ilana Spector (G-10) ..... "I can't believe its visiting day already!"

Morasha Celebrates Rock Appreciation Week

This week campers and counselors took time out of their busy schedules to recognize the important contributions of rocks to Camp Morasha. Although they are often stepped on, kicked around, or sometimes (unfortunately) thrown rocks form the very foundation of our camp, and provide us with a dependable surface each and every day.

In celebration of rocks everybody was urged to express their appreciation. Signs were posted to encourage rock-friendly behavior and to discourage rock throwing which, according to experts, is not only dangerous but is also interpreted by the rocks as aggressive behavior. An election was held in the library to elect a favorite rock on campus. Although no official results are available yet, early exit polls suggest that the big rock between the library and infirmary is a clear front runner.

Rock appreciation week took place in the third week of camp. It was on the third day that Hashem named the dry land "ארץ" and covered it with vegetation. We often take time to "smell the roses" and appreciate the flowers and trees. This week was a unique opportunity to appreciate the rocks that can be just as beautiful.

A special thanks to Rock Davis who graciously opened up her library as the central hub of rock week activities, and is far and away everyone's favorite Rock.

BRAIN TEASERS

Can you find the answers to these puzzles? Submit your answers with your name and bunk number in the Shalhevet box in the library. Those who answer all of the puzzles correctly will receive a free Powerade. Congratulations to Avi Tsadok of Yachad, the Dratch Family, Ari Shnidman and Ilan Ulmer and Seth Dimbert and the tech staff for getting the most correct answers last week. Please contact Chavie Balsam at extension 200 to receive your prize. To give you an idea of how it is done, the first one is done for you. Good luck!!

1. LE
   VEL (Split Level)

2. OdOoOmO

3. T_RN

4. 023456789 lives ever ever ever ever

5. weekkkkkkk

6. EILN PU

7. E
   N
   O Mr. Titanic

8. Ci(3Dsquare)gar

9. UUUUU
   - 411
   _____

10. QUE___ON

Answers to Last Week's Brain Teasers:

1. split level
2. on top of old smokey
3. going through the motions
4. unhappy without you
5. see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil
6. for instance
7. Tennessee
8. the ball is in your court
9. a right of passage
10. insider trading
11. the third degree