



2 0 1 7 E D I T I O N

SHALHEVET

AUGUST 4-5, 2017 / PARSHAT VA'ETCHANAN

From Darkness to Light

Powerful. Inspiring. Unifying. Transformative. These are some of the words that come to mind when reflecting on our incredible experiences this past week at Morasha.

As Tisha B'Av began Monday night, marking the saddest day on our Jewish calendar, we participated in a somber torch procession to Boys Campus to hear Megilat Eicha. We sang together and watched the words "Yersushalayim Shel Zahav" burn into the night sky. Campers enjoyed a moving video presentation and program connecting the tragedy of Tisha B'Av to our times. The next day, we davened, recited Kinot and participated in special activities connected to the fast. May we merit to see the Beit Hamikdash rebuilt speedily in our days!

On Wednesday night, just 48 hours later, we followed that same path to the Mercazia, also carrying torches. But the contrast was remarkable. This time, we were happily waving flags and glowsticks, with upbeat music playing in the background, as we joyously sang and danced in honor of the dedication of a new Sefer Torah, part of our poignant transition from darkness to light. The Torah was generously donated by Bernice and Seme Jozsef, parents of our director Jeremy Jozsef. It was written in memory of Bernice's mother, who heroically hid and saved many Torah scrolls in Romania during the Holocaust. During the day, campers attended special interactive shiurim to learn hands-on about the mitzvah of Ketivat Sefer Torah, from a Sofer and our Education Staff, and many also had the privilege of writing a letter in the Torah. When the ink dried on the final letter, the entire camp danced the Torah to its new home in the Mercazia, where we enjoyed an amazing concert and beautiful kumsitz with Simcha Leiner! It was heartwarming and inspiring to see how campers and staff truly appreciated the sanctity of this unique mitzvah. They displayed incredible achdut, ruach and excitement as they shared together in the celebration and helped make the evening especially memorable, lebedik, fun and meaningful.

Other highlights this week included a delicious "Make Your Own Pizza" night activity and the Boys Campus Super Bowl, as well as Bunk Wars for Machzor Aleph girls and Color War for Machzor Bet girls. A power outage earlier in the week was the perfect opportunity to build a cozy bonfire, roast marshmallows, eat s'mores and have a spirited kumsitz under the stars. On Thursday, our Alufim/Fot departed on their long-anticipated Road Trip, and flew down to Florida to begin their journey back to camp. We are excited to welcome 120 Morasha Mania campers on Sunday to give them a little taste of the Magic of Morasha, for three jam-packed days.

We look forward to an uplifting Shabbat Nachamu! Mazel Tov to Koby Aronovitz and family on celebrating his Bar Mitzvah this weekend! Shabbat Shalom!



SPOTLIGHT ON NITZI GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM



On Friday, July 28th, the Nitzi girls basketball team went to Camp Seneca Lake to compete in a four-team tournament versus Seneca, Mesorah, Nesher, and Morasha. After a rocky first game against Mesorah, the girls breezed past Nesher and Seneca to compete again against Mesorah in the championship game. The second time though, the girls were on a roll and had strong defense and offense that ultimately won them the tournament. To celebrate, Seneca rewarded the Morasha players with cookies with the #1 on them and the famous Seneca Sprinkles ice cream free of charge. Congratulations to the team again, and a special thank you to the coaches Marlene Levy and Brenda Tawil.



MORASHA 2017 BY THE NUMBERS:

72... steps up to the Mercazia

527... staff members at camp

41,630... bottles of water we drank

8,000... pizza snaps prepared per meal

55... bunks full of campers

16,752... bottles of Gatorade consumed

2,100... pints of milk used each week

5,000... pounds of pasta eaten every week

18...amazing division heads and head counselors

11,000... quarters used for laundry machines

112... DJ's ice cream parties

3,000... potatoes prepared weekly

108... Como pizza parties

15... full basketball courts at camp

18,000... eggs used a week in the kitchen

120... Morasha Mania campers

1,800... people on the Morasha campus

2,500... hot dogs cooked for a BBQ

1,329... total campers in Morasha this season

(including Day Camp, Kollel, Shores, Sulam and Yachad)



Too many to count...

**amazing friends and memories
we made this summer at Morasha!**

GIRLS: BUNKS WARS AND MACHZOR BET COLOR WAR!



BOYS: SUPERBOWL SUNDAY!



HACHNASAT SEFER TORAH!





Parshat Va'etchanan:

Dvar Torah by Adele Lerner, Chinuch Fellow

This past week on Tisha B'Av, we cried, mourning the destruction of the Beis Hamikdash. For many people, the hardest part of the day is that we've spent Tisha B'Av the same way for the past 2,000 years, and every year, no matter how much we've davened, Hashem still hasn't given us a Beis Hamikdash.

The greatest leader of the Jewish people, Moshe Rabbeinu, experienced something similar. After years of serving Hashem and leading His people, he makes one mistake, and faces the ultimate punishment: Hashem tells Moshe that he will not be able to enter the holy land of Israel. Moshe is heartbroken, and in this week's parsha, he tells the Jewish people how he responded.

This week's parsha is called Va'eschanan, which means "and I prayed" or "and I begged." Rashi explains that the gematria of Va'eschanan, 515, teaches us that Moshe asked Hashem 515 times to let him into the land of Israel. On the 515th time, however, Hashem told Moshe, "Stop!!! If you ask me one more time to go into Israel, you know I'll have no choice but to let you, but it's the wrong thing to do. So please, stop asking." And Moshe, somehow, accepted this answer.

This is how we feel every year on Tisha B'av. After a year of pleading and crying to Hashem, He still tells us no, and sometimes, it's very hard to accept. We can sometimes feel that Hashem cares more about what He wants than what we want and that no matter how much we daven, He doesn't want to make us happy.

But what we learn from Moshe Rabbeinu is the exact opposite. When Moshe got to his 515th tefila, Hashem turned to him and said, "It is so hard for me to say no to you, because I love you so much. I don't want to give this to you because it won't be good for you or for Am Yisrael, but if you keep asking, I'll have to give in. Please accept my decision." Only then did Moshe realize how much Hashem loved him: more important than Hashem giving into Moshe and making him happy in the moment was Hashem's commitment to doing what was right for Moshe and for Am Yisrael for the future. We learn from here that if Hashem ever says no, it's not because He doesn't want to make us happy, but because He knows better than us that what we want just isn't good for us. Hashem sometimes has to say no to us not because He doesn't love us, but because His love is so great that He only wants what's best for us.

This year, unfortunately, having the Beis Hamikdash just wasn't what was good for the world. But today, on Shabbos Nachamu, we start a new chapter in history, and we have the chance to become worthy of the Beis Hamikdash. May this year be the year that we finally see the Geulah Shleima.