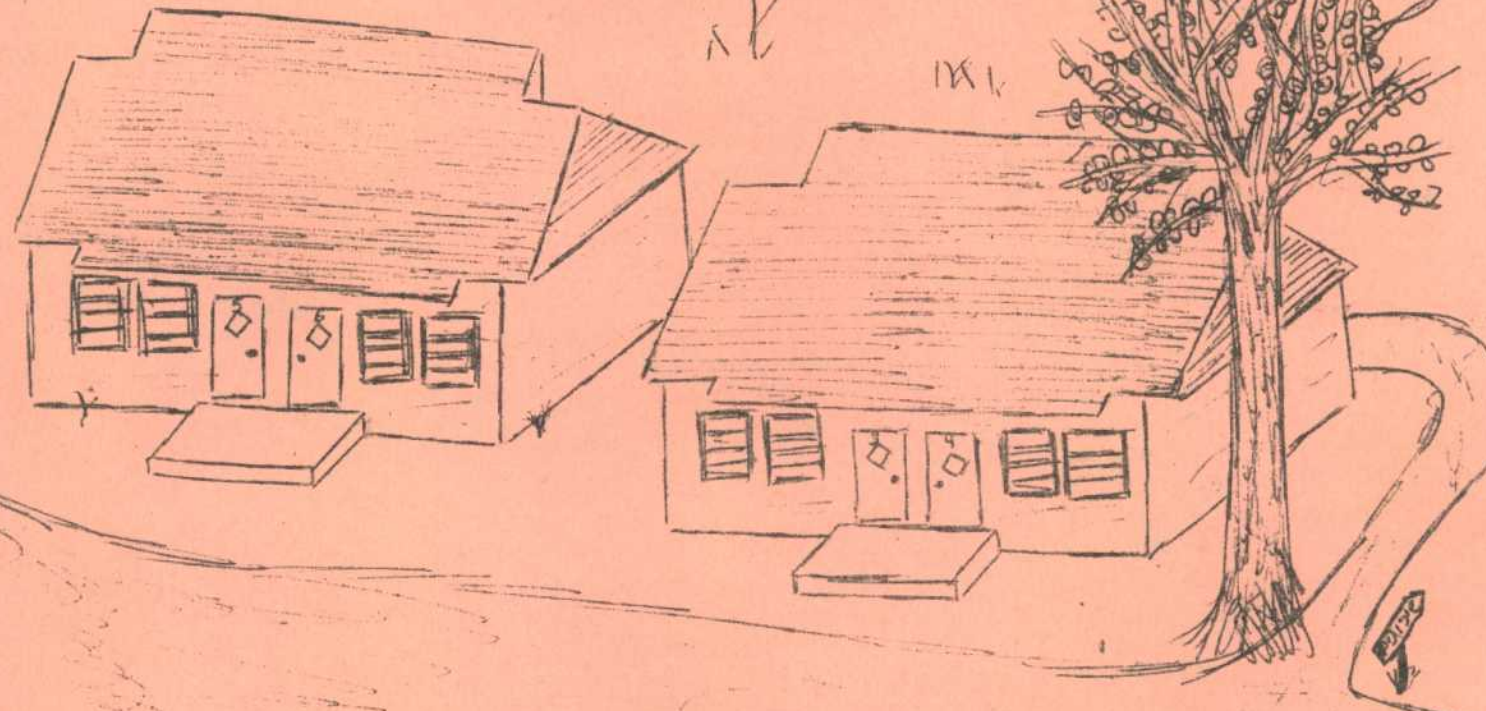


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# שְׁכֵלֶהֶת

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Shalhet



# NEWS of the WEEK

## EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX DEDICATED YESTERDAY; ENTIRE CAMP GRATEFUL TO DR. BONDI

By Zvi Reich, Director

The dedication of the Bondi Educational Center, which was completed last year was dedicated on Thurs., July 30. Many members of the Board of Directors attended the dedication which was in honor of Dr. Edith Bondi, who with her late husband, Arnold, were founding members of the Board of Camp Morasha. It was largely due to Dr. Bondi's generosity that we were able to achieve this milestone in our development.

Although Dr. Bondi has for many years lived far away from this area, first in California and now in Texas, her interest in Morasha has not flagged. Her contributions in the past have enabled us to establish the music room, media center in the gym which enables us to tape and rebroadcast all the wonderful programs that we have there, to acquire the pianos in the gym and Music Room, and many other things that we enjoy at Morasha and which have contributed to our success and the good reputation we enjoy today.

The entire camp has much for which to be grateful to Dr. Bondi and we wish her well. May she enjoy health, happiness, and longevity, and much Nachat from her talented children Ardith and Eugene.

.....From the dedication address of Rabbi Blech.. "We of Camp Morasha take this opportunity to thank the Bondi family for their philanthropic kindness. Let us all, in the spirit of HAKORAT HATOV, evermore recall this occasion as our 18th CHAI year of existence was privileged to witness the dedication of MISHKENEY M'AT suitable for the proper honor due to the study of Torah."

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS VISIT MORASHA

On behalf of the entire camp, SHALHEVET extends a very cordial welcome to the members of the Camp Morasha Board of Directors who are spending this Shabbat with us. We thank them for their accomplishments and wish them Hatzlacha in their future endeavors on our behalf.

## THE NINE DAYS TO BEGIN ON SHABBAT

The Nine Days, the period from Rosh Chodesh Av until Tisha B'Av, will begin tomorrow. These are the saddest days in the Jewish calendar, and we mark them in a special way.

From the beginning of the month of Av, simcha is diminished. All forms of rejoicing are suspended.

These Nine Days have been replete with tragedy and misfortune throughout Jewish history and we relate to our people and those tragedies by observing the Nine Days through their prohibitions.

# # # #

## TRIBUTE PAID TO DR. SAM AT TASTEFUL CEREMONY

By Judy Witty, D.H.

In a moving ceremony last Tuesday, campers and staff said Farewell to a much loved person in Camp Morasha, Dr. Sam Ritter, affectionately known as Dr. Sam.

At the ceremony Doc was presented with an enormous card, designed and drawn up by the head of Boys' A & C, Allan Mayer, and a cake made out of tunafish and vegetables. The Tunafish Men, a masterpiece conforming to the dietary restrictions of The Raiders, was designed and decorated by Joey Bodner, our salad chef.

A tribute composed by Judy Witty, under the guidance of Joe Berlin, was delivered to Dr. Ritter. Special thanks were extended to Serel, the doctor's wife, for unselfishly sharing her husband with the camp.

Dr. Sam was described as a specialist whose specialty is radiating a very genuine warmth through your natural desire to make people enjoy what they're doing, to help them, and indeed to unceremoniously lead people in having a good time.

Morasha is privileged to welcome Dr. Fred Rosner as the camp physician for the month of August.



# Torah Thoughts

DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO D.J.'S?

PARSHAT MAASEI

By Rabbi Yosef Rabinowitz

By Zvi Sobolofsky, H.S. Kolliel

I went to D.J.'s the other day. Turned right as I left the parking lot, drove slowly over Machon Road, and turned right onto 247 for another half-mile. Made a left at the intersection and there, on the left side of the road it stood, a small, nondescript shack but OH! what wonders it had to offer!

No doubt you're wondering why I bother to detail for you precisely how I travelled to D.J.'s, where I turned, which roads I took. Your amazement would be in order were I merely telling you a story, but I have done much more than that. I've given you directions telling you how to go so that you can follow me.

The Torah is not a story book, and so when the Torah tells us all the details of the Jews' march through the desert, where they stopped, and how they travelled, it's not just telling us a story - it's giving us directions. The key direction, according to the Baal Haturim and others, is Al Pi Hashem, to travel as G-d says. When the Jewish people complained about food and water, when they replaced G-d's eyes and ears with the human eyes and ears of the spies, they floundered and wandered. But when Am Yisroel listened to Hashem, trusted in Him, followed Him, then no nation could stand in their way. They entered Eretz Yisroel, but only Al Pi Hashem, by the word of G-d.

We can follow our fathers into Eretz Yisroel, but in order to do so we must look at the maps they've left us, at the directions they've given. We may think that it's easy to get there, as easy as a trip to D.J.'s, but there are many potholes along the way. For the 1911 years since the destruction of the Beit Hamikdash, we've hit these potholes. We can do better. Let us renew our efforts to retrace our fathers' steps, let us renew our faith and trust in Hashem and march forth to Eretz Yisroel. A small land, but OH! what wonders it has to offer.

In this week's Parsha the Torah discusses the laws of the Orei Miklat, the cities of refuge. These cities belonged to the Leveim and provided refuge for an unintentional murderer who was being pursued by a relative of the victim. The murderer had to stay there until the death of the Kohain Godol. There seem to be two strange Halachot regarding these cities. Why did these cities belong to the Leveim? What is the significance of the murderer going free after the Kohain Godol dies?

To understand these Halachot we must understand the purpose of the Kohanim and the Leveim. The Posuk in Malachi 2:6 says: "B'sholom...V'rabim hashiv ma'von." The Kohain was supposed to be a peaceful man helping others to turn away from sin. The Mishneh in Pirkei Avot describes the students of Aharon Hakohain as "loving peace, pursuing peace, loving people, and bringing them to Torah. We see that the function of the Kohanim and also the Leveim who assisted them was to create goodwill and bring love amongst the Jewish people.

Understanding the task of the Kohanim we can understand these two Halachot regarding the Orei Miklat. On the one hand this murderer is a Choteh. His carelessness led to another person's death. A person who was really worried about other people, never would have allowed such an incident to take place. Thus it is partially the fault of the Kohanim as their task of creating Ahavas Yisroel failed. Therefore, the Kohain Godol, the representative of the Kohanim, is also held responsible. So only after the Kohain Godol dies, and a new Kohain Godol comes and tries to instill into K'lall Yisroel this Ahavas Yisroel that was lacking, can this murderer go free. On the other hand this murderer has to be protected from being killed by the victim's relatives. For this, it is the task of the Leviim to assist him, and prevent more hatred and bloodshed amongst the Jewish people.



# Shalhevet Features

## STAFFER OF THE ISSUE

\*\*\*\*RABBI BENJAMIN BLECH\*\*\*\*

By Rita Siff

When Moshiach ben David approaches Camp Morasha, there is no doubt in anyone's mind that the first one to greet him will be our Educational Director, Rabbi Benjamin Blech.

Rabbi Blech, an Assistant Professor of Talmud in the James Striker School of Y.U. and the spiritual leader of the Young Israel of Oceanside, is enjoying his seventh summer at Camp Morasha.

Besides having had an article printed in four editions of the Reader's Digest- Spanish, Canadian, American, and African, he is the Vice-President of the International League for the Repatriation of Russian Jews. 'Jews must be activists, because we must actively work in order to bring Moshiach.'

Rabbi Blech, in addition to developing theme booklets and producing Tisha B'Av pageants in camp, is responsible for all facets of the educational program.

The Torah Ruach atmosphere is what impresses him most about Morasha. However, I do look forward to the Messianic time when all campers will appreciate Sheurim and the kinds of things they're learning that they can't get the rest of the year.

The most interesting and exciting part of his job at Morasha is to watch the kids grow from year to year and realize how much a part the camp staff plays in their development.

Besides his Morasha family, Rabbi Blech and his wife, Elaine, an interior decorator, are proud of their own children, Tamar, who will be entering Columbia Law School, Yael and Jordana in SDP, and Ari, Nitzi.

'Don't give up!' - this may be the year that Moshiach finally comes, are Rabbi Blech's concluding words to our readers.

## MEET OUR DIVISION HEADS....

JUDY WITTY, ILANOT

By Shari Chesner

Judy Witty, Ilanot Division Head, is in Camp Morasha this summer for the first time, although she has had much camping experience.

A native of Toronto, Judy has served in camps in Wisconsin and Ontario. A graduate of the Bais Yaakov High School in Ontario, she has also attended Michlala, Seneca College for nursing in Toronto. A registered nurse, Judy has worked in Beth Israel Hospital in N.Y. and is now studying for a B.S. in nursing at the joint Stern College- Beth Israel program.

What she likes most about Morasha is the "challenge". When asked what challenge?, she replied, 'Did you ever try to be an Ilanot Girls' Division Head?' Judy feels that Camp Morasha offers a great opportunity for campers and staff to enhance their development in specialty areas.

Judy, through this interview, would like to thank her roommates and the head counselor public for their support, understanding, and encouragement through success and failure.

In closing," said Judy, 'I'd like to hope that all the campers will make a special effort to improve their Midot Bain Adom L - Chavero so that we may one day change the words of our favorite song to "We HAVE Moshiach now."

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MAZEL TOV UNCLE HAROLD!!!!