



NINE  
DAYS  
BEGIN  
TODAY

volume XII, number 2  
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 פרשת מטות-מסעי'  
 ראש חדש מנחם אב



# of the Week

## NINE DAYS OF AV BEGIN TODAY

Today, Rosh Chodesh Av, begins the saddest period of the Jewish calendar year, the Nine Days. The Mishna tells us that once Av begins, joy is to be lessened. Our activities take a more serious nature. We do not listen to music, do laundry, swim for pleasure, or eat meat (unless we are fortunate enough to attend a Siyum).

The Nine Days lead up to Tisha B'Av, a solemn day of fasting and mourning over the destruction of the Beit Hamikdash.

We pray that this be the last year in which we have to observe these days in sadness. May the Beit Hamikdash be rebuilt in the very near future.

# # # #

### BOACHEM L'SHALOM

SHALHEVET WELCOMES MR. ZVI REICH, CAMP DIRECTOR, BACK FROM HIS BRIEF TRIP TO ERETZ YISROEL. MR. REICH ACCOMPANIED THE MORASHA ISRAEL MECHANIKS AND ARRANGED THAT THEIR STAY WOULD RUN SMOOTHLY. ALL REPORTS WERE EXCELLENT !!

# # # # #

### RETURN OF THE POLAR BEARS

Last seen two years ago, the "polar bears" have returned to Lake Morasha. At 6:30 Tuesday morning 80 girls, Nitzanim, Shtilim, and even some ilanot! went for a 20 minute swim. Then walking like bears and chanting Uga Uga Polar Bear they went to the dining room for hot chocolate. This was the beginning of girls' waterfront fun day.

# # # #

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Oneg Shabbat Lecture: Tonight, 10PM, Pargod:  
The Russian Experience, Rabbi Zvi Grumet  
Motzei Shabbat: 10 PM, GYM: Basketball,  
Machon vs. Kollel  
Mon. and Wed. Supper: Siyumim  
Thursday: Intercamp Games with Raleigh.

## SHIRIAH AND TRIP DAY ADD UP TO AN EXCITING WEEK

By Sheva Berezin, G 10

It has been an exciting and eventful week including both Shiriah on Wednesday night and Trip Day yesterday.

On trip day all of the divisions except for Day Camp and Machon went to the mall at Binghamton, and made their purchases. Everyone saw the science-fictional movie Back to the Future, and we also went bowling. An extra special treat that followed was a dip in the JCC's pool. It had been a wonderful day for all, and we look forward to the next trip day.

The excitement mounted as the moment of Shiriah arrived. The winning girls sang the snappy Achas Shoalti, the Miami Boys' Choir Ana B'koach, and Aubrey Sharfman's own musical invention to the words of Achenu.

The competing boys sang Ashrenu, the zippy song Rachaim, and Ki Atanu. Machon sang three beautiful songs together with campers from Bnai Brith who had joined us for Shiriah.

Our Day Campers, who win each and every year, sang Eretz Yisroel Sheli and Kol Yisroel.

The race had never been so close. Good luck next year, boys !

# # # #

### SOMETHING NEW! ADDED ON THE MORASHA MENU

Coordinated by Larry Schwed of the Ed Staff, something new has been added on the Morasha menu.

Daily menus distributed on lunch tables will periodically include Shealot Hayom, Questions of the Day, one for Machzor Aleph and one for Bet. The questions will be on the Parsha, Dinim, or T'nach, and will require some thought. The first boy and girl to relay the right answer to the faculty member who submitted the question (also listed on the menu) will receive an Ice Juicee on Friday in the Canteen. Winners will also be listed in SHALHEVET.

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MAZEL TOV TO THE ROCHMARGERS ON JODY'S BAT HITZVA

# Torah Thoughts



## PARSHAT MATTOT

By Eliakim Koenigsberg, YP Kollel

Parshat Mattot tells of the request of the tribes of Reuven and Gad for land on the east bank of the Jordan, and the consequent arrangement Moshe worked out whereby the tribes would merit receiving the land they wanted if they contributed to the war effort on the East Bank. Interestingly enough, though the tribe of Menashe is not mentioned as a party in the agreement until the Torah actually enumerates the territories which Moshe gave to the two and a half tribes. Why does the Torah exclude Menashe from the opening verses of the chapter and only later does the tribe suddenly appear?

Moreover, in Parshat Devarim, when the Torah recounts this giving of areas on the East Bank, it mentions the cities Menashe acquired in the middle of its reviewing the lands Reuven and Gad received. How can we account for this seemingly choppy reiteration of the story?

The Netziv explains that Moshe realized that without proper teaching, the tribes of Gad and Reuven would inevitably lose their strong grip on Torah after being exposed to the rigors of life on the East Bank. He, therefore, saw fit to plant the roots of Torah, the scholars of Menashe, amongst Gad and Reuven in order to enable the tribes to continue to grow in their understanding of Torah and mitzvot.

In Parshat Mattot, the Torah mentioned Menashe only after the deal was completed when Moshe decided to prepare to satisfy the religious and spiritual needs of the tribes. Menashe was brought into the arrangement only when Moshe asked the tribe to help support Torah on the East Bank. As enumerated in Parshat Devarim, Moshe began to issue territories but could not continue until he had successfully convinced half of the tribe of Menashe to join Gad and Reuven. Only after Moshe had ensured Jewish survival on the East Bank by strengthening Torah there, could he complete the dividing of the land.

Today, as the number of assimilated Jews seems to grow geometrically, we must keep the Netziv's message in mind. Though we often strive for Torah Umada, for the perfect bal-

(Continued in the next column)

## TORAH TALK

By Rabbi Raymond Harari, Ed. Staff

In Parshat Mattot, B'nei Gad and B'nei Reuven submit their request to inherit the land conquered by B'nei Yisroel east of the Jordan River. Moshe Rabenu admonishes them, but despite certain misgivings grants them, and half of Shevet Menashe, permission to settle on the East Bank.

The Midrash, however, informs us that Hashem did not forgive Reuven, Gad, and Menashe for their lack of desire to settle in Eretz Yisroel proper. When Ashur came to destroy the Kingdom of Israel in the time of the first Beit Hamikdash, the first tribes sent into Galut were the tribes of Reuven, Gad, and Menashe. This was their punishment *Midah k'neged Midah*.

As we begin this nine day period of mourning for the destruction of the Beit Hamikdash and the Galut of B'nei Yisroel, we must keep this lesson in mind. Let us rededicate ourselves to the fulfillment of our Tefilot:

קַבְּלֵנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁמֵנוּ כְּשֵׁנוּ אֲנִי

\* \* \* \*

WASHOMER ACHI ONOCHI ???

Rabbi Eliezer Gordon, founder of Telshe Yeshiva, personally checked the weights and measures of the storekeepers in the city of Telshe to ensure that they were exact. Even the non-Jews in the neighboring areas knew about this and insisted on buying only from the stores whose weights were checked by the Rabbi.

Thus, the buyers and sellers all benefited from the rabbi's concern.

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PARSHA (Continued from col. 1)

ance between religious and secular learning, we must not lose sight of the fact that it is Torah which is the more important factor in the balance, because only the study and practice of Torah principles can help keep the Jewish nation strong and vibrant.

Shabbat Shalom.

# עבוד עבר

BASEBALL

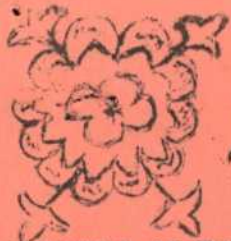
קְדוּר־בִּסִּים



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ר	ג	ק	ת	ס	ר	צ	ע	ד	ח	ק	ו
ת	ו	ע	ב	ו	צ	ק	ה	ר	פ	ל	ב
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- a ball \_\_\_\_\_ א
- a base \_\_\_\_\_ ב
- a bat \_\_\_\_\_ ג
- a short stop \_\_\_\_\_ ד
- a diamond \_\_\_\_\_ ה
- a team \_\_\_\_\_ ו
- an umpire \_\_\_\_\_ ז
- a batter \_\_\_\_\_ ח
- a catcher \_\_\_\_\_ ט
- a runner \_\_\_\_\_ י

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# Shalhevet Features



STAFFERS OF THE ISSUE....

SHALHEVET SPOTLIGHTS.....

**\*\* ESTIE KNOBEL and BETH SCHIOWITZ \*\*\*\***

**OFFICE ASSISTANTS**

For the third consecutive year, the voice you hear over the P.A. system or the hands that run the mimeo machine most likely belong either to Estie Knobel or Beth Schiowitz, Camp Morasha's ready, willing, and able office assistants.

Censoring phone calls, dividing mail, choosing the color decor of SHALHEVET, and chasing important camp people on their beepers are only a few of their responsibilities. Alphabetizing and collating are the most boring aspects of their job. "We try to get Machoniks to do that," they revealed.

Estie came to Morasha 13 years ago as a Nitzie and has come up all through the ranks. Beth started in Alufot and participated in the Geshar Morasha program before Machon. Both were graduated from Central and both attended Machon Gold. Beth is a junior at Stern. Estie graduated in June and will now take a job in computers (if she can find one that pays more than Morasha). Both joined the office staff to be at the center of camp activity and to have a place to use roller skates in the course of routine job requirements.

During three years in the office, our Staffers have enjoyed many exciting experiences. Last year they, together with the Coordinating Committee, added a clandestine sheet to the Color War booklet. Once they had to extinguish a fire in the Xerox machine. Another time they had to answer phone calls from Italy, Israel, and California all at the same time. Fun time comes when they watch movies every afternoon in S.S.'s room (only on off time, of course.)

Advice from Estie and Beth to our readers: "For in camp phone numbers, consult the camp directory, for the time check your watch, for the weather check your radio, and for night activities read your weekly listing. In short, don't call us, we'll call you."

We're indeed fortunate to have Beth and Estie where we need them most!

**MORASHA COUPLE NUMBER 93  
MARK AND SARA LAMM DRATCH**

"It pays to advertise in SHALHEVET", is the conclusion reached by Mark and Sara Lamm Dratch, who after leaving Morasha as individuals, have come back this year as a couple.

Sara is the Assistant Head of the Girls' Waterfront while Mark is engaged in intensive Torah study at the Morasha Kollel.

Mark began his Morasha career in 1977 as a member of the J.S.S. Kollel. In subsequent years he served as the Division Head first of Alufim then Shtilim Boys. "I regressed," chuckled Mark.

Sara came to Morasha at age 2 accompanied by her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Norman Lamm, and her sister and brothers. She rose through the ranks from pre-day camp to Machon to Waterfront. To date she is still aiming for the position she had always secretly (until now) hoped to reach - Head of Boys' Campus. When did Sara start looking for her Bashert? "Soon after I got here, about June 29, 1963." What took her so long? "My gentlemen friends in pre-day camp 1963 were not quite as worldly and mature as they were when Mark came almost 20 years later."

SHALHEVET readers remember that Mark was looking for his Bashert through the Roving Reporter Column of this paper. "My ads paid off," concluded Mark.

Rabbi Mark now holds the challenging position of spiritual leader of the first orthodox synagogue in Boca Raton, Florida. He achieved Semicha from Y.U. and an M.A. in education at Ferkauf. A graduate of Stern, Sara is a Realtor Associate in Boca Raton. "If you want to buy a condo on the ocean or swampland in the Everglades, see me," she advised.

Our couple's advice to Bashert Seekers: Sara encourages us to be aggressive. Mark's guidance is simpler: "Advertise in SHALHEVET (For rates, see the editor or Rabbi Dratch)

Next week: Another couple.