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 פרשת בלק

DID YOU
HEAR?

NEWS

OF THE

WEEK

IS IT
TRUE?

MORASHA 'NEWS' FOR '87

IN TORAH

Swimming in the sea of Torah now begins early in the AM on Boys' Campus. A new program of learning before davening has been instituted by Yitzchok Mehlman and David Schwartz of the Waterfront Staff. Chazara can take place at the lake. Why not jump in?

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On Girls' Campus Tefilat Minchah now has assumed added significance at Morasha. Girls, led by staff, join together to daven Mincha daily after lunch in front of the HC. Everyone is encouraged to join.

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A ceremony to put up the Mezuzot on the new Nitzanim Bunks was held this week. With the Mezuzah in place, the campers are surely set for a safe and meaningful summer.

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IN MADA

Several new facilities have been added to Morasha this year. Two new bunks have been built for Nitzis, a sports shack has been added, new hockey courts have been instituted for both boys and girls, and a new baseball field has been readied for Girls' Campus.

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A new telephone system has been installed throughout the camp. "Now, everyone is more accessible to each other and we should all be able to communicate beautifully," commented Rabbi A. Wahrhaftig, Assistant Camp Director.

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IN STAFF

New Division Heads are already high on the swing of things. Judy Pianko and Yigal Aaron (Nitzies) and Danny Reich and Naomi Newman (Ilanot) are making much use of their clipboards.

Michelle Sarasohn is back from the waterfront to head the Shtilim, Rabbi Zimmerman went from Ed Staff to Canteen, and his wife Deena came back to the waterfront.

MARY POPPINS TO OPEN MORASHA PLAYHOUSE

Shtilim will open this season's playhouse productions with Mary Poppins to be presented Sunday and Monday nights in the new gym.

Directed by Ricki Zibbitt, Morasha Dramatics Head, the presentation will star Lisi Benovitz (G 6) as Mary Poppins.

Cast in other major parts are Randi Sorscher (G 5), Jonathan Nathan (B 14), David Sanders (B 6), Aliza Glanz (G 3), and Titzie Shapiro (B 5).

With such an opener, we look forward to another great season.

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MACHON AND YACHAD JOIN TOGETHER FOR REWARDING EXPERIENCE AT MORASHA

"It was a very special learning experience for everyone," summed up Chana Zweiter, Director of Yachad, in reference to the Machon-Yachad joint program last Sunday and Monday at Morasha.

Yachad, a project of MCSI and the Orthodox Union, is a program for Special Children which provides them with social and religious activities and opportunities to interact with young adults of their age. Mrs. Zweiter and Rabbi Stuart Zweiter are former members of the Morasha Ed Staff.

"We all learned from each other. The program showed us the potential of our teenagers in giving and doing," she added.

Steve Richter, head of Machon, and a committee of Machoniks coordinated a program of learning, sports, arts and crafts, and a bonfire for both groups participating. "There's a lot more sameness than we think. The chesed of our Machoniks made us all proud," summarized Steve.

Yasher Koach to Zvi Reich, Camp Morasha Director, for hosting the Yachadniks on their overnight stay at the camp guesthouse.

TORAH THOUGHTS

OUR FACULTY WRITES....

ON PARSHAT BALAK

By Rabbi Eli Lerner

We find in this week's Parsha the famous story of Balak's unsuccessful attempt to have Bnei Yisroel cursed by Bilaam. On the way to meet Balak, Bilaam and his donkey are confronted by a sword bearing angel. Three times the donkey attempts to avoid the angel, and three times it is beaten by Bilaam, who is unaware of the danger. Finally, the donkey opens its mouth and talks to Bilaam, complaining of the beatings. Only then does Bilaam notice the angel.

Why did Hashem choose to perform such a miracle? Why was a "talking donkey" crucial to the rest of the story of Bilaam?

The Meshech Chochma explains that Hashem was concerned with people's reactions to Bilaam's blessings of B'nei Yisrael. They might think that the blessings were not prophetic, but rather the result of a large bribe offered by the Jews. Hashem wished to show that if He can put words in a donkey's mouth, He certainly can put words in the mouth of a human. Everyone would realize that the blessings pronounced by Bilaam were not simply the words of a mortal, but truly Dvar Hashem.

According to the Mishnah, the miracle of the "donkey's mouth" was planned yet from the time of Creation, evidence of the tremendous care and concern that Hashem constantly exhibits towards His people, Am Yisroel.

As we approach the period of Bein Ha-Mitsarim, may this be a source of comfort and hope to K'lal Yisroel.

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FROM THIS WEEK'S PEREK

Ateret Z'kanim B'nei Banim, V'Tiferet Banim Avotam....

The crown of the elders is their children, and the glory of the children is their parents.....

D'VAR TORAH ON PARSHAT BALAK

By a YP Kollel Member

From the story of Baal Peor found at the end of Parshat Balak, Rav Chaim Shmulevitz Zatzal derives an important lesson for every Jew.

To understand this story we must answer certain questions: Why in Devorim 4: 2-3 is the prohibition of adding or diminishing from the commandments followed by the mention of Baal-Peor? And more importantly, it is brought down in the Talmud that whoever worshipped Baal-peor in the most disgusting manner was highly praised by the priests. So, why were the Jews attracted to this type of idol worship?

In order to answer these questions we must understand the essence of this type of idol worship. As opposed to all other types of idol worship, the nature of Baal peor was the breaking of all boundaries. There was no manner of respect or honor for this idol and the manner of worship was to disgrace this Avodah Zarah in the worst possible way.

The underlying philosophy here that "anything goes" is very enticing. It gives someone the opportunity to be associated with a religion and not have any restrictions in his conduct. The mistake the Jews made was that this philosophy negates the purpose of the Torah. The Torah lets us live perfect lives within certain boundaries and even when the Torah permits us to break a boundary, we are surrounded by another one.

This explains why the prohibition of adding or diminishing from a Mitzvah is connected to the incident of Baal-peor. Once a person deviates even slightly from a Mitzvah, the Yetzer Hara works even stronger and we are afraid that it will lead this person to eventually break all boundaries written in the Torah.

The message we learn from Baal-peor is that the instructions in the Torah are to be followed exactly. If one deviates just slightly from a Mitzvah, he is susceptible to transgressing many more Mitzvot and would eventually chas v'shalom worship Baal Peor.

עבר עמך



אַרְצוֹת

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| 1. China _____ .א | 6. Israel _____ .ה |
| 2. Greece _____ .ב | 7. Italy _____ .ז |
| 3. India _____ .ג | 8. Belgium _____ .ח |
| 4. Spain _____ .ד | 9. France _____ .ט |
| 5. Brazil _____ .ה | 10. England _____ .י |

Shalhevet Features

THE MAGGID SPEAKS

This season as a regular feature of SHALHEVET, we bring you stories from "The Maggid Speaks- Favorite Stories and Parables of the Maggid of Yerushalayim." All of us can learn from them.....

THE FUTURE IS NOW

It was June of 1942, during the height of World War II. The Nazi general Rommel- whose brilliant strategy earned the name Desert Fox- sought to thrust his armed forces into Egypt. If he could overpower the Allies and cross through Egypt, he could then overrun Palestine fairly easily.

A sense of foreboding prevailed in Palestine. The German forces were stronger than the British. People in Palestine prayed, trembled, and cried with every successive radio broadcast. It was only a few days before Shivah Asar B'Tammuz, and already people were acting as if it were Tishah B'Av.

One afternoon the Ponevezher Rav, R'Yosef Kahaneman (1886-1969), met R' Betzael Zolty (1920-1983), later to become the chief rav in Yerushalayim, and told him that he had just borrowed five hundred pounds and bought land in Bnei Brak on which he would eventually build the Ponevezher Yeshiva.

R' Betzael was astounded. "Today of all days, you spend money to buy land in Eretz Yisroel? Kial Yisroel is in such danger, everything points to a bleak future, how can you even think of building anything now?"

The Ponevezher smiled and told R' Betzael, "Now, more than ever is the time to look towards the future." And then the Ponevezher cited a story found in Yirmeyahu 32.

Although the Jews of that era were going to be destroyed, Hashem told Yirmeyahu to buy some land. The Yirmeyahu proclaimed, "This is what Hashem said, in that future time, Jews will yet purchase homes, fields, and vineyards in this land."

The Ponevezher then said, "You know, R' Betzael, the Talmud in Megillah says that only those prophecies needed as lessons in the future were recorded in Tanach. Thus that lesson of Yirmeyahu- not to forsake the future even when the outlook is bleak- is valid for us today. That is why I bought the land, for we have a future in Eretz Yisroel!"

How right he was! I

SHALHEVET SPOTLIGHTS...

RABBI HESHIE AND SHARON LOEWENSTERN

Anyone thinking of getting out of Sheur by going to the infirmary or not following infirmary advice in Shiur had better think twice this summer.

Two newcomers to the Morasha staff are Rabbi Heshie Loewenstern on the Ed Staff and his wife Sharon, a nurse in the infirmary.

Rabbi Loewenstern had been a member of the Morasha Kollel in 1980. An alumnus of Y.U., RIETS, and Yeshivat Kerem B'Yayneh, he now teaches the seventh and eighth grades at the Rabbi Paysach Raymon Yeshiva in Edison, N.J.

Sharon will be practicing nursing at a nearby hospital. Originally from Chicago, she studied at Michlalah and was graduated from Columbia University School of Nursing.

Two little Loewensterns, Elisha 2½ and Yakir, almost-ly, accompany their parents in camp. Elisha sends a special hello to his neighbor Michele.

Sore throats, sports injuries, and in-grown toe nails have been keeping Sharon and her colleagues on the infirmary staff very busy. Echoes in the Bondis can be distracting to teachers and students, but Heshie and Sharon marvel at the pleasant atmosphere at Morasha: "The people- staff and kids- are a pleasure to be with."

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FIT TO PRINT IN SHALHEVET.....

Shlomo Wadler, a pre-daycamper noticed a counselor walking barefoot. "Look, Ima, he's wearing toes," he observed.

(If you hear any "Quotable Quotes", submit to SHALHEVET through your H.C. All entries can be returned.)

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OOPS...we left out

Nesanel Yehoshua Conn and parents Rabbi Joel and Shulamit among last week's newcomers