



August 10, 1996

כה' מנחם אב תשנ"ו

ראה Shabbat Parshat

Volume XXI Issue 7

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to the following people:



- 8/9 Joshua Rosman, Machon
Eli Nossbaum, Couns. B18
- 8/10 Adina Samter, G16
Rabbi Allen Schwartz, Rabbi
and Ed Staff Director
Aliza Goldofsky, G3
Nachi Friedman, B18
- 8/11 Estee Schiff, Machon
Zalmy Schiowitz, B18
Jonathon Perl, B2
Tamar Warburg, G18
Nava Billet, G9
Zachary Wertheimer, B17
- 8/12 Jason Kollander, B13
Chana Weiner, G12
Jessica Feld, G6
- 8/13 Lauren Genachowski, G7
- 8/14 Chani Martin, waterfront
- 8/15 Daniella Bigajer, Machon
Ilana Rosenberg, Machon
Noah Klein, B6
Alexander Halpern, B3

*Mazal Tov to Jessica
Feld on Her Bat
Mitzvah!*



Upcoming events to look forward to this week:
Rikudiah, this Motzaei Shabbat.
Juggling workshop and **Shtili Play**, this Sunday.

With only a short time left to the camp season, lost items are piling up in the H.C.'s of both campuses. Please be sure to check them to see if anything belongs to you.

ATTENTION ALL STAFF AND MACHON:

This week's lecture will be given by:

Mr. Franklyn Snitow

"The American Jewish Value System: Have Cheeseburgers Become Kosher?"

"Perek on the Pavillion"
given by:

Rabbi Ely Rosensveig
Shabbat afternoon, 5:45

Major Trip Day

Camp Morasha was transformed into a ghost town on Wednesday, as every division piled onto buses for their major trip of the summer. The day-campers headed for the Discovery Science Center. After they tried their hands at becoming little inventors, they horsed around on the carousel and visited the friendly animals in the nearby zoo.

The Nitzis turned into spidermen and women as they climbed skillfully through the giant web at Fun & Games indoor park. There, they also played arcade games and enjoyed a wonderful picnic lunch.

The younger Shtilis monkeyed around at Ring's Homestead where they zipped through the forest on the "Zip", crossed rope bridges, and daringly climbed the infamous "Inclined Log". The older Shtilis were treated to a day at Sports Park, where among other things, they practiced hitting homers in the batting cage, and honed their driving skills on go-carts. They topped off their day with a trip to the mall in Binghamton where they also saw a movie.

The younger Ilanot loved their day in the exciting Dorney Park. There, they made a splash in the three water rides and dared to ride

all three roller coasters. The older Ilanot did a lot more than just golf in Golf Park Plus. They all learned how to get around on go-carts and bumper boats. For a special treat, the Ilanot feasted on delicious hoagies for dinner.

The Alufim/fot left bright and early on Wednesday morning for their two day excursion in Morasha's home state of Pennsylvania. They started out their trip following the trail of the founding fathers of the U.S. exploring historic Philadelphia.

The highlight of their trip came the next day, with a "sooper -dooper" visit to Hershey Park.

Machon, who left in the wee hours of the morning, were the only international travelers of the camp. Their first stop was Niagara Falls, where they got a close up view on the "Maid of the Mist". From there, they crossed the border and had a wonderful time at Canada's Wonderland. The next day, they also enjoyed seeing the various sites that the city of Toronto has to offer.

All in all, every trip was a smashing success. Special thanks to all who helped coordinate and program these memorable days.

TORAH THOUGHTS

by: Rabbi Elly Storch, Ed Staff

In this week's *parsha*, the *Torah* warns us about false prophets. It states that even if the *navi sheker* comes with signs or miracles, we are still prohibited from believing his "prophecies". A question arises from this warning. If *Hashem* didn't want us to listen to these individuals, why would he grant them the ability to perform signs and miracles, that would lend them the illusion of authenticity? The *Ramban* tells us that the reason can be found in our *parsha* (13:4), where *Moshe* tells *Bnei Yisrael* "*Ki M'naaseh Hashem Elokeichem,*" that *Hashem* wants to test *Bnei Yisrael*.

A fundamental question can then be asked. Normally, a teacher tests a student to determine if he knows the information, or he understands the material correctly. But G-d, who is omniscient, already knows the results of the test. What is the purpose, then, of *Hashem* testing *Bnei Yisrael*?

The *Ramban* answers that the purpose of divine tests is not for G-d Himself, but rather for the

testee. *Hashem* wants to actualize potential; he wants to show a person how great he can become. Just as a good boxer can only become greater by defeating other fighters, so too, *Bnei Yisrael* can only achieve true greatness by overcoming their difficult tests.

The *Rambam* suggests a different purpose for divine tests. He feels that their task is to show non-Jews how to act properly. By watching the example set by *Am Yisrael* as they overcome their challenges, non-Jews can learn that the true way is to believe in G-d.

In our lives, in and out of camp, each day we face many tests. While they may not take the form of a *navi sheker*, they still serve an important function in our lives. It is essential that we overcome the challenges with which we are faced. In this way we will realize our full potentials and show non-Jews the extent to which one must believe in G-d.

The Stonecutter

There was once a stonecutter who was dissatisfied with himself and with his position in life.

One day, he passed a wealthy merchant's house and through the open gateway saw many fine possessions and important visitors. "How powerful that merchant must be!" thought the stonecutter. He became very envious and wished that he could be like the merchant. Then he would no longer have to live the life of a mere stonecutter.

To his great surprise, he suddenly became the merchant, enjoying more luxuries and power than he had ever dreamed of, envied and detested by those less wealthy than himself. But soon a high official passed by, carried in a sedan chair, accompanied by attendants, and escorted by soldiers beating gongs. Everyone, no matter how wealthy, had to bow low before the procession. "How powerful that official is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a high official!"

Then he became the high official, carried everywhere in his embroidered sedan chair, feared and hated by the people all around, who had to bow down before him as he passed. It was a hot summer day, and the official felt very uncomfortable in the sticky sedan chair. He looked up at the sun. It shone proudly in the sky, unaffected by his presence. "How powerful the sun is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be the sun!"

Then he became the sun, shining fiercely

down on everyone, scorching the fields, cursed by the farmers and laborers. But a huge black cloud moved between him and the earth, so that his light could no longer shine on everything below. "How powerful that storm cloud is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a cloud!"

Then he became the cloud, flooding the fields and villages, shouted at by everyone. But soon he found that he was being pushed away by some great force and realized that it was the wind. "How powerful it is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be the wind!"

Then he became the wind, blowing tiles off the roofs of houses, uprooting trees, hated and feared by all below him. But after a while, he ran up against something that would not move, no matter how forcefully he blew against it - a huge, towering stone. "How powerful that stone is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a stone!"

Then he became the stone, more powerful than anything else on earth. But as he stood there, he heard the sound of a hammer pounding a chisel into the solid rock and felt himself being changed. "What could be more powerful than I, the stone?" he thought. He looked down and saw far below him the figure of a stonecutter.

Benjamin Hoff

reprinted from: "A 2nd Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul"