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ב' אלול תשנ"ו

*Shabbat Parshat* שופטים

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# In Appreciation

As we look back upon our 33rd season, we are grateful to so many people who worked hard and creatively to make it wonderful and pleasant, with many new and innovative programs. Our counselors have listened to our problems, made us laugh and helped us in many ways. The sports staff was helpful in refereeing many of our games, and in teaching us many new skills, among them Step Aerobics to keep us in shape. Our waiters made sure we got plenty to eat, extra dessert, and cherry, lemon and watermelon ices. Our music staff inspired us to sing our hearts out. Special kudos to all those who, together with our music department, made our *Shabbat zemirot* memorable and exciting as they helped enhance the spirit at every *seudah*.

Our wonderful drama staff brought us joy, music, laughter and serious issues to think about. The productions were enhanced by beautiful sets and lovely costuming. Our waterfront taught many of us life-saving skills to enhance our lives. This season we once again swam to stay fit, thanks to our lap lanes on girls' waterfront. Next season we hope to expand them to boys' waterfront. Our infirmary staff provided us with much care and TLC. Many thanks to the nurses, doctors and infirmary staff for making our stay in the infirmary short and most pleasant. Our appreciation for nature and the great outdoors was enhanced by our *chaverim* from the nature staff. Our thanks to the maintenance and housekeeping crew for beautifying and maintaining the high standard of cleanliness and beauty in camp.

Thanks to the canteen staff for making our summer sweet; to the Day Camp for allowing us to *shep nachas*; to our mother's helpers for their care; to the office staff for our news, mail, packages, phone messages, and information with a smile; to the Kollel for learning Torah and for their *siyumim*; and to Machon for filling in at every level in camp even at the very last minute, and always with a smile.

Thanks to Camp America for their care and help during the season; to our baker, chefs, and kitchen staff for the excellent cuisine we enjoyed this summer causing us all to go on diets before Yom Tov this fall; to our Division Heads who supervised the counseling staff, caring and programming creatively for their divisions. Thanks to our Camp Mothers for their care and concern both in the dining room as well as on campus. Those trips to the hospital, *kibbud* and many of the supplies we need could not have been possible without the efforts and zeal of our maintenance and driving staff. Thanks to the night guard for our security; to the woodshop and Arts and Crafts staff for beautifying camp and helping us bring home momentos of camp; to the dancing staff for enhancing our spirit and finally, thanks to our educational and library staff for the *Torah* thoughts and example they have set for us. We enjoyed reading about all these events in the Shalhevet- our weekly news forum.

With Gratitude,

*Abie, Satch, Aviva, Zush, Jeff and Shmuel,  
Ruchie and Mattie, Rabbi Alan, Barbara and  
Lewis, and Richie.*

# Closing Message From Our Rabbi...

This year's theme at Camp Morasha concentrated around the 3000th anniversary of ירושלים. Since the time of the construction of the first *Beit Hamikdash* all Jews turned to ירושלים for their hopes, dreams and aspirations. ירושלים's destiny for good or bad was one and the same with that of the Jews.

There are so many different images that our holiest city conjures. Among the ones we stressed at camp was that of אחוה. This is encapsulated by the verse in Tehillim,

”ירושלים הבנויה כעיר ירושלים -”שחוברת לה יחדו has been a unifying factor for our people for three millenia.

*Malbim*, in his commentary to שמואל ב', says that *Dovid Hamelech* purposely chose ירושלים as the capital of his kingdom because of its proximity to the tribe of *Binyamin*. *Dovid's* first capital

was *Chevron*, in the south of *Yehuda's* borders. *Dovid* wanted to unite his kingdom with the previous one, originally led by *Shaul*, and then by his son, *Ish Boshet*. From the very start, ירושלים was a unifying force for us and it continues to be so.

On *Shabbat Nachamu*, I read a poem about *Moshiach's* arrival that must be taken very seriously. More than anything, *Moshiach* is waiting for us to unify ourselves. More than anything, *Moshiach* is waiting for *Ahavat Chinam*, the exact opposite of what caused our last *galut*. Let us all start the coming year with the message of the poem in our hearts.

כתיבה וחתימה טובה!

-*Rabbi Allen Schwartz*

# T'was the Night of the Geulah

T'was the night of the *geulah*  
and in every *shteibel*,  
sounds of Torah could be heard,  
coming from each and every *yeidel*.

This one in English,  
some in Hebrew. some in Yiddish,  
Some saying *Pshat*,  
and some saying a *Chiddush*.

And up in *Shamayim*,  
The *Aibishter* decreed,  
"The time has now come,  
for my children to be freed"

"Rise the *Mashiach*,  
from your heavenly berth,  
and get into your chariot,  
and head down to Earth."

The *Mashiach* got dressed,  
and with heart full of glee,  
went down to the earth, and entered,  
the first *shteibel* he did see.

"I'm the *Mashiach*,  
Hashem has heard your plea,  
your *geulah* has come,  
it is time to go free!"

They all stopped their learning,  
for this was quite a surprise.  
And they looked at him carefully,  
with piercing sharp eyes.

"He's not the *Mashiach*!"  
Said one with a grin.  
"Just look at his hat,  
with those pinches and brim."

"That's right!" cried another  
with a grimace and a frown,  
"Who ever heard of *Mashiach*,  
with a brim that is down?"

"Well" thought the *Mashiach*,  
"If that is the rule,  
I'll turn my brim up,  
before going to the next *shul*."

So he walked right on over,  
to the next *shul* in the town.  
Confident to be accepted,  
because his brim was no longer down.

"I'm the *Mashiach*!" he cried,  
as he began to enter.  
But the Jews wanted to know,  
if he was left, right, or center.

"Your clothes are so black!"  
they cried out in fright  
"You can't be *Mashiach* -  
you're much too far right!"

"If you want to be *Mashiach*,  
you must be properly outfitted."  
So they replaced his black hat,  
with a *kippa* that was knitted.

Wearing his new *Kippa*  
*Mashiach* went out and he said,  
"No difference to me  
what I wear on my head."

So he went to the next shul,  
for his mission was dear.  
But he was getting a bit frustrated,  
with the *Yidden* down here.

"I'm the *Mashiach*", he cried,  
And they all stopped to stare.  
And a complete eerie stillness,  
filled up the air.

"You're the *Mashiach*?!  
Just imagine that.  
Whoever heard of *Mashiach*,  
without a Black hat?!"

"But I do have a hat!"  
the *Mashiach* then said.  
So he pulled it right out,  
and plunked it down on his head.

Then the shul started laughing,  
and one said "Where's your *Kop*?  
You can't have a *Mashiach*,  
with a brim that is up!"

"If you want to be *Mashiach*,  
and be accepted in this town,  
put some pinches in that hat,  
and turn that brim down!"

*Mashiach* walked out and said,  
"I guess my time hasn't come,  
I'll just have to return,  
to where I came from."

So he went to his chariot,  
but as he began to enter,  
all sorts of Jews appeared,  
from the left, right, and center.

"Please wait, do not leave,  
it's all their fault", they said,  
and they pointed to each other,  
and to what was on each other's head.

*Mashiach* just looked sad,  
and said "You don't understand."  
and then he started up his chariot  
to get out of this land.

"Yes, it's very wonderful,  
that all of you learn Torah.  
But you seem to have forgotten,  
A crucial part of your *Mesorah*."

"What does he mean?  
What is he talking about?"  
And they all look bewildered  
and began to shout.

*Mashiach* looked back and answered,  
"The first place to start,  
is to close up your mouths,  
and open up your heart."

"To each of you, certain *Yidden*,  
seem too frum or too frei,  
but all *Yidden* are beloved,  
in the *Aibishter's* eye."

And on his way up he shouted,  
"If you want me to come,  
try working a little harder,  
on some *Ahavas Chinam*!"