



July 11, 1997

ו' תמוז תשנ"ז

חקת Shabbat Parshat

Volume XXII Issue 2



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Joshua Alter B2
Alyssa Rottenstreich G3
Zev Wruble B17
David Herring B12
Ariella Mermelstein G20
Aliza Dear G3
Jonathan Arbisfeld B4
Lara Ostreicher G12
Shonnie Schwartz G13
Ilana Sussman G11
Yael Bitton Machon
Michael Gibber B11
Gabriella Tabicinic G5

*Mazel Tov On Your
Bat Mitzvah
Nina Sherman G5*

Audiotapes by Rabbi
Frاند, Rabbi Wein,
and Rabbi Reisman
are available at the
library.

Arutz Sheva also
available on a daily
basis.

Friday night speaker
Dr. Moshe Sokolow
10:00-Pargod
Hope to see you there!

Shabbat Times:
**Latest
Candlelighting:**
7:17 PM
**Kabbalat
Shabbat:**
7:00 PM

TORAH THOUGHTS

The הלכות of the פרשה אדומה are introduced in פרשת חקת with the words "זאת חקת התורה". In other places where the Torah uses the terminology "זאת חקת", it is followed by the specific mitzvah that is being introduced. For example, in שמות יב:מג, it says "זאת חקת הפסח". Why then does it say here "זאת חקת התורה" instead of more specifically, "זאת חקת הפרה אדומה"?

To answer this question we must first understand the reason for the mitzvah of פרשה אדומה. The Midrash tells us that Shlomo figured out the reason for every mitzvah in the Torah. Yet, he could not ascertain the reason for פרשה אדומה. Why then are we commanded to perform a mitzvah for which there appears to be no logical reason?

Rabbi Soloveitchik explains that the purpose of פרשה אדומה is to teach us complete submission to Hashem. We do not need a reason for פרשה אדומה. Instead, we perform it simply because Hashem commanded us to do it.

Rabbi Soloveitchik continues to explain that while this idea is most easily seen in the פרשה אדומה, it actually applies to the entire Torah. Mitzvot should never be performed because we understand them or because the reasons behind them seem logical to us. Instead, we perform all mitzvot for the same reason that we perform the פרשה אדומה - simply because we were commanded to do so by Hashem. Thus, the פסוק says "זאת חקת הפרה אדומה" to teach that the lesson of the פרשה אדומה should be applied to the entire Torah.

Rabbi Elly Storch

אהבת רעים - Midah of the Week

Implicit to the attitude of *Ahavas Yisroel* is an *Ayin Tova* - a natural "kind eye" towards an imperfect fellow Jew. The *Ayin Tova* is able to accommodate criticism with forbearance, admonition with love. The famous prayer of the *Noam Elimelech* "תן בלבנו שנראה כל אחד מעלת חסרונם" - "Influence our hearts so that each of us sees our friends positive attributes and not their faults" - reflects a scope of *Ahavas Yisroel* that sees the virtues of a Jew as organic, inherent in the goodness of his soul, while his shortcomings are but incidental trappings alien to his nature. Thus we are to focus our feelings on the Jewish core essence, not on the incidental - on that which is intrinsic and not on that which is circumstantial. The challenge of viewing another's imperfection generously is the subtle test of the quality of one's *Ahavas Yisroel*.

STAFF CLOSEUP

Noreen Wachs has returned to Morasha after many years. In the early days of Camp Morasha, Noreen worked as a junior counselor and senior counselor. Now Noreen is the new librarian and is amazed with the wonderful collection of books Rabbi Orlian built up over many years. Noreen remembers a much smaller scale library that was situated in a trailer.

During the rest of the year, Noreen lives on the Upper West Side with her husband Joel. They have two children - Tamar who is 17 and Hillel who is 14. Noreen works as a librarian at the Ramaz Upper School and brings seventeen years of library experience with her to Morasha. As camp librarian, Noreen hopes to be of service in supporting the educational goals of the camp. She also has full use of the various fringe benefits of the job, such as taking reference books out of the library and not getting into any trouble.

So far, Noreen has been delighted at the friendliness, the professionalism and helpfulness of the staff. She is not delighted, however, with the noise level of library but, like any veteran librarian, manages to keep it under control. She is definitely enjoying her job at Morasha.

Blood Drive

Attention: Counselors, Machon, Senior staff, Camp
America and Kolliel

Friday, July 18, 1997

9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

At the Mercazia

Must be 17 years or older and weigh at least 105 pounds

Attention all staff: Perek in the Pavillion
Shabbos afternoon 5:30 P.M.
Rabbi Yitzchak Rosenblum

Golf Comes To Morasha

by Tali Schwed + Ayelet Katz

This week the Tisha B'Av site was transformed into a picturesque driving range with a shimmering lake to the right and a bright blue sky above. Ready to play golf, we arrived. Having never played golf before, we hadn't the slightest idea what to do with the club. Luckily, Dan came to the rescue. He came up to us and said, "Hi! I'm Dan and I'm a golf pro." Then we got down to business. We each took a club and Dan taught us how to hold it and the stance. You bend at the waist and "don't be shy to stick out your fanny," as Dan put it.

We each got a turn to practice hitting. We would take a huge swing looking high in the air for the ball just to find that it had fallen two feet away from us or we had missed the ball completely.

We may not be as good as Tiger Woods, or even as good as "Dan the Pro", but we are well on our way. Thanks to Aviva and Suri: We had a great time. See you at the U.S. Open.

Friday Softball

The Ed Staff put up a valiant effort this past Friday to maintain their unbeaten streak of 8 games. But, alas, the Kollal stood in their way in a highly competitive contest. The game was close until the second inning when the Kollal opened the floodgates with 47 base hits (or so it seemed). The final score found the Kollal up by a touchdown: 11 - 5. Rumor has it that the Ed Staff has guaranteed victory for next week with the price of defeat being a week with no classes.

Day Camp News

Senior Day Camp girls think day camp is a lot of fun and a great place to be. Chani Jacobson enjoys swimming! Ally Simon likes her counselors and new friends! Sara Klein loves playing on the swing set! Ariella Pearl likes making bracelets out of yarn! Chava Grossberg's favorite activities are arts + crafts and woodshop! Day camp is awesome.

Machon Baseball

by the Commissioner

Many a night has been spent in the boys Machon bunks with the sounds of "Homerun Ruth" or "Cobb caught stealing" or "I can't believe you messed up the score sheet!!!" (The latter being the loudest of the three.) The Machoniks aren't crazy, they are just participating in the first ever Machon Strat-O-Matic baseball league. Playing the popular cardgame with Hall of Fame players, the Machoniks are playing a dream season of baseball without any strikes. There are three teams. There are the Richman Locomotives, Osband/Greenbaum Lumberjacks and Davis/Gibber Flavm. Each night, games are played into the wee hours of the morning, much to the chagrin of Machoniks trying to sleep. Each game's statistics are recorded by a scorekeeper who writes the stats down at his own risk. The games can get quite intense. Team managers have been known to throw chairs and hockey sticks after various games. The draft was held the first night of camp. The consensus around the bunk after the draft was that the Flavm would be horrible. However, the Flavm jumped to first place right out of the gate. An early season surge by the Locomotives have put them in second place with the Lumberjack's trying to get out of the woods of last place. Early season MVP candidates are Harry Heilman and "Shoeless" Joe Jackson (who was reinstated to baseball by the commissioner). Seats are free and spectators are encouraged to come (as long as they keep quiet).