

LIBRARY

Shalhevet

Friday, July 6, 2001
15 Tamuz 5761
Erev Shabbat Parshat Balak



What a Week!



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This Week in Camp

Girls' Campus

Younger Shtili Overnight

By Erika Zauderer and Elana Dram, G-3

On Tuesday, July 3, Younger Shtili girls went on an overnight. We hiked for two hours through the woods to the overnight site, and Nadav and Karen showed us the path. When we got there, Nadav showed us how to build our tent. After that, the counselors and Machon made us our barbeque while the Shtilim were gathering wood for the fire, putting lanterns around, and lighting the torches. Then we gathered around the fire and ate.

After that, Nadav made us a treasure hunt and Leah Schwalb, Valerie Goldblatt, and Rachel Rosen won the treasure: salsa and tortilla chips. After that, the music staff came and we sang songs around the fire. We baked potatoes and roasted marshmallow fluff. Some girls stayed with Nadav, and he told them a ghost story. Then we went to sleep and Nadav and Karen woke us up at 4:00 a.m. to eat breakfast. They made us tea and two kinds of cereal: Trix and Corn Pops. Then we had to take down our tents. We walked back through Kollal to our bunks. We had a great time, but we're very tired!

Nitzi Fashion Show

By Sarit Klugerman, G-7

On Monday night, July 2, the Nitzi girls had a fashion show in the dining room. It was really good. Everybody had nice stuff. Some girls wore pajamas, some girls wore Hawaiian clothes, and some girls wore fancy and cool clothes. It was really fun and they had really cool music.

Boys' Campus

American Soccer Star at Morasha

By Dovid Waintraub, Machon

This week a great American soccer star, Darryl Gee, joined the Morasha staff for four days. Darryl was an Olympic soccer player who was on the 1980 American Olympic soccer team that boycotted the Olympics when Russia invaded Yugoslavia. President Carter gave gold medals to all the soccer players on the 1980 team. Darryl then played in the American Soccer League for the New York Cyclones. He has been retired for ten years and has created many soccer camps in his spare time.

Yair Zimberg of bunk B12, who previously said he hated organized soccer and thought soccer was for "European geeks," has gained a newfound respect for the sport. "I think soccer is pretty cool now!" he says. Darryl Gee has also impacted many other campers. David Liechtung, also of B12, proclaims, "Darryl Gee is a great athlete and role model."

YACHAD IS HERE!

This past Tuesday, 11 girls and 10 boys from Yachad joined Camp Morasha. The Yachad kids are from places including California, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Silver Spring, and Israel. They will be joining Morasha campers in their activities.

Yachad is excited to be back, and the new Yachad campers are excited to meet everyone. They want to tell everyone that when you see them walking in camp, say hello. And when they are in your activities, help them to participate with you.

Last week, Shalhevet inadvertently omitted mentioning one other staff baby who was born this past year. We are pleased to welcome Kayla Rus Wienerkur, born May 29, to our Morasha family. Mazel tov to the Wienerkurs!

This Week's Parsha: Balak

Light Candles: 7:17

Shabbat Ends: 8:25

Weather Forecast: (As of Wednesday):

Friday: Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 40s.

Saturday: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 50s.

Sunday: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 50s.

Reminder: This Sunday is Shiva Asar B'Tammuz. The fast begins 3:24 a.m. and ends at 8:20 p.m. Here's hoping that the fast day is a *fast* day.

Quoted at Camp:

"It's raining, and I'm not happy."

Chavie Rosenberg, Program Director

Heard on boys campus:

"I can't wait until the Nine Days, so Rabbi Hochbaum will stop playing this annoying music."

Heard at Day Camp:

"Who's your favorite Morah?"

"Morah - Sha!"

This Week in the World

Scooters are dangerous

A new study this week reported that most scooter injuries were broken bones, followed by cuts and sprains.

Protective gear doesn't prevent many of the injuries, said the report, but kids should still wear it, especially helmets. About 10 million scooters have been sold in the United States.

— *The Washington Post*

Israel Raids Lebanon

On Monday, July 2, Israeli warplanes raided a Syrian army anti-aircraft position in Lebanon. Israel attacked in order to retaliate for an attack on Friday by Hezbollah, which wounded two Israeli soldiers.

This Week in Sports

By Oscar Madison

This week was another good one for the New York Yankees. They went on a season long six-game winning streak, which is ongoing, as this article went to print. This catapulted the Yankees into first place for the first time in a month.

The Mets lost another series to the Atlanta Braves, further confirming the obvious: a season without the playoffs.

In all-star balloting, the Mets' (blonde) Mike Piazza was voted to the All-Star team. No Yanks were voted on. The Mariners had the most players voted on, led by the leading vote setter, Ichiro Suzuki.

In Wimbledon, Pete Sampras was ousted, therefore ending his five-year reign as Wimbledon champion. In the womens' bracket, Jennifer Capriati continued her quest to win three straight Grand-Slam titles.

Next week we will have both All-Star baseball results and the winners of Wimbledon.

Story of the Week
Achieving God's Perfection

(received via e-mail)

In Brooklyn, New York, Chush is a school that caters to learning-disabled children. Some children remain in Chush for their entire school career, while others can be mainstreamed into conventional schools.

At a Chush fund raising dinner, the father of a Chush child delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he cried out, "Where is the perfection in my son Shaya? Everything that God does is done with perfection. But my child cannot understand things as other children do. My child cannot remember facts and figures as other children do. Where is God's perfection?"

The audience was shocked by the question, pained by the father's anguish, and stilled by the piercing query.

"I believe," the father answered, "that when God brings a child like this into the world, the perfection that He seeks is in the way people react to this child." He then told the following story about his son Shaya:

One afternoon Shaya and his father walked past a park where some boys Shaya knew were playing baseball. Shaya asked, "Do you think they will let me play?" Shaya's father knew that his son was not at all athletic and that most boys would not want him on their team. But Shaya's father understood that if his son was chosen to play it would give him a comfortable sense of belonging.

Shaya's father approached one of the boys in the field and asked if Shaya could play. The boy looked around for guidance from his teammates.

Getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said, "We are losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him up to bat in the ninth inning."

Shaya's father was ecstatic as Shaya smiled broadly. Shaya was told to put on a glove and go out to play short center field. In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shaya's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shaya's team scored again and now with two outs and the bases loaded with the potential winning run on base, Shaya was scheduled to be up. Would the team actually let Shaya bat at this juncture and

give away their chance to win the game?

Surprisingly, Shaya was given the bat. Everyone knew that it was all but impossible because Shaya didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, let alone hit with it. However, as Shaya stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shaya should at least be able to make contact. The first pitch came in and Shaya swung clumsily and missed.

One of Shaya's teammates came up to Shaya and together they held the bat and faced the pitcher waiting for the next pitch. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly toward Shaya. As the pitch came in, Shaya and his teammate swung the bat and together they hit a slow ground ball to the pitcher. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could easily have thrown the ball to the first baseman.

Shaya would have been out and that would have ended the game. Instead, the pitcher took the ball and threw it on a high arc to right field, far beyond reach of the first baseman. Everyone started yelling, "Shaya, run to first. Run to first!" Never in his life had Shaya run to first. He scampered down the baseline wide-eyed and startled.

By the time he reached first base, the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman who would tag out Shaya, who was still running. But the right fielder understood what the pitcher's intentions were, so he threw the ball high and far over the third baseman's head.

Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second." Shaya ran towards second base as the runners ahead of him deliriously circled the bases towards home. As Shaya reached second base, the opposing short stop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base and shouted, "Run to third."

As Shaya rounded third, the boys from both teams ran behind him screaming, "Shaya run home!"

Shaya ran home, stepped on home plate and all 18 boys lifted him on their shoulders and made him the hero, as he had just hit a "grand slam" and won the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "those 18 boys reached their level of God's perfection."

This Week in the Parsha

There is a Yiddish expression that loosely translated states that "A quest for a while sees for a mile." In this week's parsha, the camp of Bnei Yisroel in the desert is visited from a distance by a most unwelcome visitor. Bilam, the prophet of Darkness has come on a mission to curse the Jewish people. He stands on a mountaintop to view their camp and comes up with some remarkable observations and insights about this people in their desert camp.

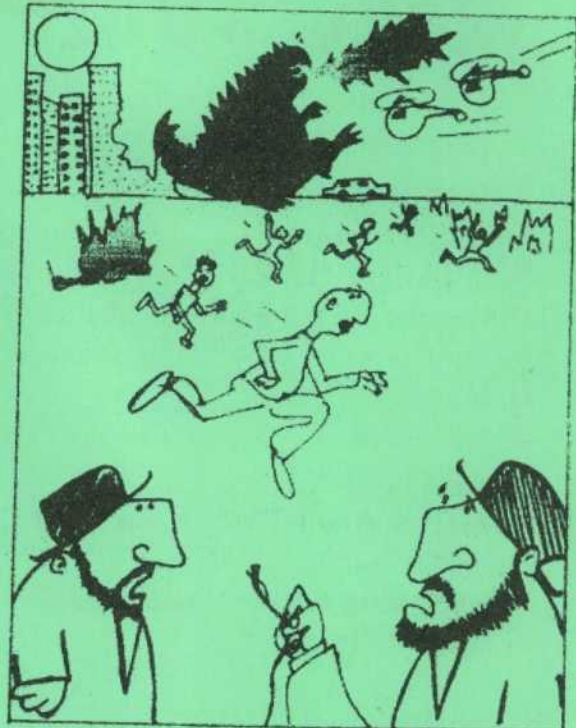
Let us deal with two of Bilam's insights. He says of Bnei Yisroel "Hen am Ivadad yishkon uvagoyim lo yischashov - Behold a nation that dwells alone and is not considered among the nations." The Netziv of Volozin points out that this verse directs our people to guard its superior cultural, social, and religious uniqueness. They should not mingle or identify with the manners, ideals and moral standards of the society around them, for if they are "bagoyim," mixing with the nations, "lo yischashov," they are not considered.

The second statement of Bilam's for us to note is so famous, it has become part of our daily prayer. "Ma tovu ohaleicha Yaakov - how goodly are your tents Yaakov." Rashi comments, citing the Gemara in Bava Basra (60A) that he saw the privacy and modesty of their tents, that the entrances did not face one another. He then realized that this modest behavior made them an encampment worthy to have the Divine Presence rest upon them.

We in Camp Morasha, a camp proudly bearing a name expressing attachment to our Heritage, should surely be able to act in a manner that will make any visitor or observer say: How special and unique this encampment is. How wonderful are their exalted standards and ideals. How sensitive, considerate, private, and modest is this camp. Truly, "ma tovu ohaleicha Yaakov" Camp Morasha! Gut Shabbos.

-Rabbi Pesach Oratz

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OH MY GOSH! THE ERUV IS DOWN!

Ask the Rabbi

This week's question:

What do you do if you notice that the eruv is down on Shabbat?

Answer:

It is best not to tell others that the eruv is down. This might put them in a very difficult situation and anyway, their violation is be'shogeg (unintentional). However, if you are carrying something, DON'T STOP. You must keep carrying it less than six feet, stop, and repeat until you find a makom p'tur, an appropriate and permissible place to set it down. (Ask your rebbe for more explanation about a makom p'tur.) You should discreetly inform someone in a position of authority about the situation. He or she can then instruct a non-Jew to fix the eruv on Shabbat.

-Rabbi Mark Dratch

Campers and staff are invited to submit questions in the Shalhevet box, located in the library.