


# Shalhevet

Friday, July 13, 2001  
22 Tamuz 5761  
Erev Shabbat Parshat Pinchas


## The three weeks begin...

On Shiva Asar B'Tamuz, the Day Camp Senior Boys and Girls wrote letters of thanks to Israeli soldiers, which will be mailed out next week. Here are some of them.

Dear Israeli I + makes me feel  
 so that you are having a war  
 from our side we love your people  
 like we love our own we hope you lock  
 we hope God bless you




5x7 172  
 22x



Ammy Dratch

Dear Israeli Soldier,  
 I really think that what you are  
 doing is nice. I hope you are  
 I if you never protected Israel we  
 would not have it.  
 So don't feel lonely.

From,  
 Esther Faga  
 Age 8



Esty Schwartz

Dear Israeli Soldiers,  
 Thank all of you for all  
 that all of you are  
 doing for our country  
 from Betzalel who is  
 in the U.S.A. age 7 from New York City

Betzalel Cohn

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## This Week in Camp

### ***Machon Meets BBYO!***

A summer tour bus filled with American teens has been attacked in Israel. A terrorist group promises more attacks on tourists. You are in charge of an Israel youth tour, and need to decide if it will take place this summer. What do you do?

This was the question that over 200 Machon and B'nai B'rith youth discussed this past Tuesday at the annual BBYO-Morasha Exchange Day at the B'nai B'rith Perlman Camp. It proved to be an eye-opening educational experience for everyone involved, especially since the scenario was not far from the truth: Both Morasha and NFTY are not running tours to Israel this summer as a result of the recent events in Israel.

Overall, the majority of groups agreed that given the choice, either as a board member or as a participant, they would go ahead with a tour. Some groups recommended that parents be made more aware of the risks. One group suggested hiring additional security personnel. But most said that despite the possible dangers, they would go.

"It's showing the American government that there are still people who support Israel," said Ari Baruch, a Machonik. "And it helps Israel, because it supports them with tourism. If you live in fear, then you're letting them win."

Rabbi Yitz Rosenblum from Ed Staff also pointed out that our reasons for going to Israel "should not just be for financial support. It should also be for moral support."

The experience was also extremely rewarding because it provided a chance for the Machoniks to discuss Judaism with the BBYO youth, who are far less observant. Some of the questions explored included: When do you feel Jewish? When have you felt God's presence in your life? What is a typical Shabbat for you?

Elana Gottlieb, a member of the Ed Staff who attended for the first time, enjoyed the event tremendously. She related that the interaction between the two groups provided a glimpse into some unique perspectives. It was interesting, she said, when one B'nai B'rith member told the Machon youth how lucky they were, because they received a Jewish education and experienced Shabbat simply because they were born into it.

That, said Elana, is something we very often take for granted.

### **Have you noticed?**

We have new *birchonim* holders in the dining room, thanks to Moshe Rosenberg (Machon). We are also grateful to Eli Rosenberg (Ilanot), who made the two new *hamotzi* meal signs.

## This Week in the World

The United States backed Israel's demands for the United Nations to turn over a videotape that shows the possible kidnappers of three Israeli soldiers last October on the Lebanon border.

The UN refused to do so, claiming that it would compromise UN neutrality in southern Lebanon and could jeopardize the security of its peacekeepers.

- *The Jerusalem Post*

## This Week in Sports

By Oscar Madison

The All-Star game became a tribute to Cal Ripken. The game started with Alex Rodriguez moving Cal Ripken over to shortstop to play his last All-Star game where his career began. Later in his first at bat, Cal homered, giving the AL a lead they would never relinquish. For his efforts, Ripken was honored with the All Star MVP. Other heroes for the AL were Derek Jeter and Magglio Ordonez, who each had solo H.R.'s helping the AL win 4-1.

In tennis, Goran Ivanisevic became the first wild card to win in Wimbledon. For the ladies, Venus Williams defended her Wimbledon crown.

### Mazel tov to:

Elliot and Cindy Forgash on the birth of their *bechor*, Yitzchak Shmuel

### Todah Rabbah to:

Zahava Block and Binyamina Baitner, for helping with last week's Shalhevet

## Ask A Rabbi

### This week's question:

What is the proper way for one to make tea on Shabbat?

### Answer:

The issue of preparing tea on Shabbat is the *melacha* of *bishul*, making something for eating or drinking using heat (i.e. boiling, frying, roasting, etc.) So when preparing tea, we must be careful to avoid this *issur d'orayta*.

There are two opinions regarding how to do this and avoid the Biblical prohibitions. Method one is to transfer hot water from the urn into a cup and *then* put in the tea bag. (Pouring the water from the urn directly onto the tea bag is *bishul*.) Method two, which is preferred by most Ashkenazic poskim, is to transfer the hot water into a cup, and then transfer it into another cup, and then put in the tea bag.

The second method further lowers the temperature of the water, removing any chance of inadvertently doing *melachat bishul*.

-Rabbi Yitz Rosenblum

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

## This Week's Parsha: Pinchas

**Light Candles: 7:14**

**Shabbat Ends: 8:22**

**Weather Forecast:** (As of Wednesday):

Friday: Sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 50s.

Saturday: Sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 50s.

Sunday: Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 50s.

## From Sorrow to Joy in Less than a Week

By Rabbi Allen Schwartz

Two months of the Jewish calendar are defined by either a pursuit or rejection of *simchah* (joy). The Mishna tells us "*mishenichnas Adar marbim b'simcha*" - when Adar arrives, we increase joy and "*mishenichnas Av mimatin b'simcha*" - when Av arrives, we curtail expressions of joy. Yet while we continue in the revelry of Adar even after Purim, the sorrow which punctuates the first nine days of Av abruptly departs on the following day. In fact, that sorrow turns to joy only six days later on Tu B'Av. This day was a festival in the time of the Temple, and remains a day of festivity and joy for us today. In fact, many couples schedule their wedding on this day.

The quick departure from sorrow to joy, from darkness to light, is one that characterizes Jewish experience since biblical times. The Midrash records that Rabbi Akiva maintained his faith in the face of the death of thousands of his students and the tragic loss of life, during the Bar Kochba revolt, which he supported. Rabbi Akiva began again with new students, strengthened by the Jewish resolve from the ashes of a dark past. The death of Sarah, our matriarch, might have dealt a devastating blow to the future of Abraham's great nation, had Rebecca not already been born. When Rabbi Akiva died, we are told that Rabbi Judah the Prince, the redactor of the Mishna, was born. On the heels of every tragedy in Jewish history, God prepares the healing for the tragedy, just as on the heels of every Tisha B'Av is there is Tu B'Av.

This turnover in Av parallels the month of Adar. Haman, the Talmud tells us, was thrilled to kill Jews in the month of Adar because he knew it was an inauspicious month for the Jews, since Moses had died in Adar. Haman did not know, however, that Adar has the potential for turnaround for Jews because Moses was also born in the month of Adar. We always have the capacity for this turnaround which is demonstrated in the Purim story itself with "*vinahafoch hu*" - "and the situation reversed itself." This is not only the theme of Purim, it virtually defines Jewish history itself. Who would have thought, so long ago, that when Rome renamed Israel, Palestine and Jerusalem, Aleia Capitolina, that almost 1900 years later Jews would have their independence and Rome's power would have

been long gone? This imprint of "the situation reversing itself" on Jewish history is what strengthened Reish Lakish, the Talmudic sage, to predict that in the future, Jews would study Torah and pray in the ruins of the Roman theaters and stadiums.

Regarding the summer months, we embark on a most challenging aspect of "the situation reversing itself," based on a fascinating passage in the Zohar. The Zohar relates that when God gave the Torah, He gave six months to the Jews and six months to Satan. The year is divided into quarters, each one made up of three months. We received the two quarters comprised of Tishrei, Cheshvan, Kislev, and Nissan, Iyar and Sivan because Tishrei, Nissan and Iyar all contain biblical holidays and therefore these quarters have special meaning to the Jewish people. Satan received Tevet, Shvat, Adar, and Tammuz, Av and Elul because these quarters are without holidays mentioned in the Torah. Satan's months take place during the winter and summer while ours take place during the fall and spring. Satan's months are tempting to those who wish to avoid responsibility - "It's too hot," "It's too cold," "School's out" . . . are just a few of the excuses we can come up with in his months. It is a special challenge for parents and summer camp leaders to ensure that Satan's temptations are overcome. This challenge is presented by the Zohar.

There is a struggle between Satan and the Jews for control of the months of the year. If Satan wins control of all the months, the world will be destroyed. If we wrest control of all twelve months, the Messiah will come. At the time of the Zohar, we are told that the score was 8-4, in our favor. Elul became ours as a result of our repentance in preparation for the High Holy Days, as well as Adar, as a result of "*vinahafoch hu*" - "the situation reversing itself."

Until now Av and Tammuz have been Satan's months. This is why, the Zohar explains, so many tragedies have occurred in our past during these months. Let's do our part in Camp Morasha so that by the end of the summer, the score is Israel - 10, Satan - 2.

(Abridged from an article that appeared in *Amit Magazine*)