

Library

# Shalhevet

Friday, July 20, 2001  
29 Tamuz 5761  
Erev Shabbat Parshat Matot-Masei

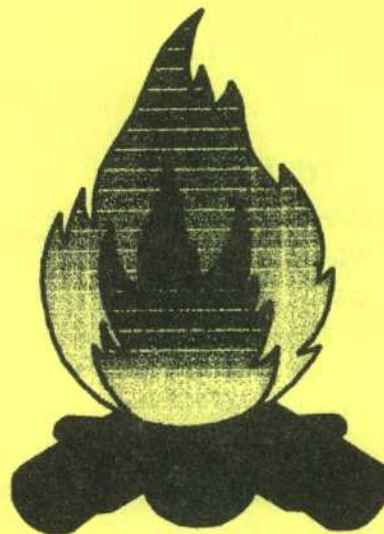
**Shiriah and Machzor Alef Colorwar 2001:  
We are in Lake Como,**



**but our hearts are in Israel**

## **Inside:**

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## **This Week in Camp. . .**

. . .As expected, Day Camp won Shiriah this year. The girls' team took second place.

This year's Shiriah focused on solidarity with Israel. It featured Israeli songs, included Israeli judges, and began with a camp-wide singing of Hatikva.

This year's Shiriah also marked the first time in many years that an original composition was included. That song was *Gam Ki Ailech*, written by our own ATC - Ariel Tzvi Cohen.

. . .The Nitzis put on an incredible performance of *Free to Be You and Me*, the first play this season at Camp Morasha.

. . .In Machzor Alef's one-day color war, the blue team (dvash) beat the white team (chalav).

. . .All divisions enjoyed trips this week!

### **Yachad Update**

This week, Yachad learned about *tzedaka*. They learned about Rambam's levels of charity, and made "*tzedaka* ladders." They also made *tzedaka* boxes out of Pringles cans, which will be distributed throughout the camp. When you see those *tzedaka* boxes, be sure to put in a coin or two.

### **New Counselor in B-16**

*By Shimmy Goldstein, B-16*

On Monday, July 9, we got a new counselor. His name is Ilan Dimant. He seems to be a nice counselor. He was born in Eretz Yisrael. After camp he is signing up for tzahal. Before becoming the counselor for bunk 16 he worked in the Day Camp. He lives in Yerushalayim. When he was in school in Eretz Yisrael he heard shots. Luckily he did not get hit by one. He is very tall so he can reach things that other counselors can't.

### **Older Ilanot Overnight**

*By Noah Turk, B-11*

This week the Older Ilanot boys went on their overnight. Nadav took them on a two and a half hour hike through the woods without flashlights for part of the way. When they got to the overnight site, they had to cook the food. They didn't get to bed until very late, and were woken up at 4:00 a.m. Then they had to pack up camp and walk back to boys' campus half asleep. This experience made an impact on the boys about what camping really is.

### **Nitzi Trip Day**

*By Sarit Klugerman, G-7*

On Wednesday, the Nitzis had a trip to Carousel Park and saw a movie, "Cats and Dogs." They were supposed to go to K-Mart, but didn't go in the end. The Nitzis had a really fun time, and Carousel Park was the best!

## Library Corner

The Morasha read-a-thon is in full swing, and right now B-16 is in the lead, with over 2000 pages read. The top readers are Eitan Shimko, Jacob Bernstein, Marshal Grobois, and Max Plaut.

Check out the new audiotapes available for borrowing at the library, including lectures by Rabbi N. Weinberg, Rabbi Y. Frand, and Rabbi B. Wein. The library also has a shelf full of new arrivals, including Paysach Krohn's *Maggid* books, the Tolkien trilogy, Junie B. Jones, *Kids Speak* 1-4, and the ever-popular *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket.

Don't miss the used *sefarim* sale in the library, which will take place on Tisha B'Av.

## This Week in Sports

By Oscar Madison

The Yankees finished up one of their most exciting weeks of the season. After returning from their All-Star break losing three out of four, they began to feel the wrath of their boss, George Steinbrenner. Joe Torre then held a closed-door meeting to correct their sluggish play. As usual, the Yanks responded, reeling off three straight, including two extra inning wins against the Phillies.

The Mets finally had a good week. They came back from All-Star break, taking five out of six, including two consecutive shutouts against Lipner's Blue Jays. The Mets still are ten games out of a wild card spot.

Back next week with results of the British Open.

Two weeks ago, *Shalhevet* published a story called "Achieving God's Perfection." We have discovered that the author of the story is Rabbi Paysach Krohn. The story appears in his book, *Echoes of the Maggid*.

## This Week in the World

**A 10-year-old Florida girl won a \$10,000 savings bond for blowing a bubble bigger than her head.** Anna Hanson of Cape Coral, Florida, used four pieces of bubble gum to blow the winning 13-inch bubble in a contest last Saturday sponsored by the Dubble Bubble gum company.

On May 26, tens of thousands of kids 12 and under competed at Wal-Marts throughout the United States. The six biggest bubble blowers were selected for the finals.

Last weekend, those finalists were sent to Port Richey, Florida. They were allowed to chew as many pieces of gum as they wanted and each one had five minutes to blow a bubble.

After the contest, the Dubble Bubble company flew all six finalists to Toronto, Canada, for a tour of the gum factory and a day at an amusement park. The company also donated \$5,000 to the Children's Miracle Network in Anna's name.

- *The Washington Post*

For the latest news from Israel, see the bulletin boards in the Dining Room, HC's, or outside the Library

## This Week's Parsha: Matot-Masei

**Light Candles:** 7:10

**Shabbat Ends:** 8:17

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

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

Saturday: Sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.

Sunday (Visiting Day!): Sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 60s.

Reminder: The Nine Days begin on Shabbat. How much laundry do you have?



## Ask A Rabbi

**This Week's Question:** Is one allowed to chew gum while davening?

**Answer:** The Gemara derives from "*Lemaan*

*tihye Torat Hashem b'ficha,*" (Shmot 13:9) that whenever you say Hashem's name, nothing else should be in your mouth. So when we say a *bracha*, and even when we do a *mitzva*, (with the exception of when eating is the actual *mitzva*, such as eating matza), we should not have any food in our mouths.

There is also an additional issue of a lack of respect. Malachi 1:8 says "*Hakrivaihu na l'fechatecha.*" The Gemara Menachot explains that this means that we should not do something before God that we wouldn't do before an important official. We wouldn't chew gum on a job interview or in the presence of a person we want to impress. Certainly, then, we should not chew gum when standing before Hashem.

- Rabbi Allen Schwartz

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

## This Week in the Parsha

In this week's *parsha*, *nekama* is ordained by God to be taken against Midyan. I heard Rabbi Oratz explain this in a very sensible and beautiful way: In this context *nekama* means justice rather than vengeance. The concepts are similar, in that both are the idea of making things even. However, as we say in Tehilim - "*Kel nekamot Hashem.*" *Nekama* that is truly just is by definition in God's jurisdiction only. The problem with man's pursuit of revenge is that it includes personal motives rather than true justice alone.

This fits with the explanation of Reb Heschel of Cracow, the Rebbe of the Shach of a *Gemara* (in *Taanit*) which states that any *Talmid Chacham* who does not seek revenge like a snake is not a true *Talmid Chacham*. The snake's curse is that everything he eats has no taste to it other than the taste of dirt. A true *Talmid Chacham* may seek revenge with no personal motive at all, without it being tasty, but only for the sake of heaven.

As a teacher in camp, and a traveler through life, it is painful to see how good people can be at being bad to each other. I have seen firsthand young developing people (children), as well as older people called adults, hurt each other. Often, there is a claim of justice, "he was asking for it," "she can't take a joke," etc. We must never forget that it is God whose essence is truth and justice. Who are we to hurt someone because we consider them uncool? Who are we to ruin someone's summer or even their day because we are threatened by their palpable goodness? Chazal say: Never judge alone, for no one may judge alone except for One. May we be blessed to judge each other only favorably, and in that merit may we be judged favorably by God and see the redemption that we so long for individually and nationally.

Good Shabbos.

-Rabbi Neil Fleischmann

## Behind the Scenes at

# Shiriah

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***What does it take to put together Camp Morasha's ultimate performance of the summer? Lots of hard work.***

**Shiriah is scheduled weeks in advance**, and about ten days before it takes place, various songs are reviewed and selected by the Music Department and interested staff members. This year, says Michael Berl, Director of Fine Arts, the head counselors were heavily involved with this process.

**After the music is selected, the Music Department spends a good three days or so working out harmony for the songs.** When they know it well, they teach the music and harmony to the counselors who will conduct the teams.

**When the counselors know the music, the rehearsal process begins.** All the teams get a schedule with Shiriah rehearsals, which generally take place twice a day for four days. Meanwhile, Michael writes out the music for the band, and a page of cues for the drummer.

**The night before Shiriah, the band spends most of the night practicing all of the musical arrangements.** The following day, the band rehearses with the teams in the Mercaziah.

**And all those wires on the floor of the Mercaziah?** That's a massive job in itself. Before the performance can take place in the Mercaziah, the Technical Department spends more than a day setting up the sound system. Their job is to connect approximately 30 mikes, amplifiers, and all the sound needs of the band. All of the equipment needs to be transported from the Pargod, and after Shiriah is over, it must be taken apart and transported back.

**There's still more to do.** Before Shiriah, Michael makes up the programs (taking care to leave the best songs for last). Abie, Ruchie, Peretz, and Michael choose six judges. On the evening of Shiriah, Steve Bill arrives to record and mix the music for the tape that we receive later on.

**What does it take to make Shiriah?** Lots of hours of hard work, little sleep, and the participation of about 600 people in camp. It's no wonder, then, that the songs at Shiriah remain with us throughout the summer, and that Shiriah is the exciting event that it is.

As Michael puts it, "It's the only evening in camp that virtually everyone wants to go to."