

SHALHEVET

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3 Av 5762

Erev Shabbat Parshat Devarim

Wow!
What a Week!

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Wow! What a Week!

It was a whirlwind of a week here at Camp Morasha! From face painting to bandana wearing ... ice skating to roller coaster riding ... meeting new friends to reading with old friends – it was a week that few will forget!

Even amidst all this excitement, we take time to remember our tragic loss of the *Beit Hamikdash* and the long *gallut* we have suffered as a result. Wednesday, *Rosh Chodesh Av*, marked the beginning of the 9 days. Especially this year, with all its tragedy on both sides of the ocean, we have to use this time to think about the destruction of Yerushalaim and how we can better ourselves in order to bring about its restoration.

L'Shana Habaa B'Camp Morasha B'Yeruhalaim (bowling and color warring and all)!!!

What's New in Camp Morasha?

Machzor Aleph Carnival By Alisa Schnitzer and Sarit Klugerman, G11

The carnival was a success. The booths were perfect, especially the decorating. We really liked G9's Sponge Bob, G11's Amazing Maze, Yachad's Taste Test, G5's String Thing, B1's Touchdown Football and G10's Candygram.

We could see that everyone (including the Day Camp) had a great time. We could also see that most people can tell the difference between Coke and Pepsi. There were a lot of candygrams (a letter that you send to someone with a candy attached) sent. And, the food was so yummy. Thanks to everyone that helped put the carnival together.

Machzor Aleph Color War By Ariel Shay, G1

Interviewer: What do you think of color war?
Ariella: I'm having lots of fun!

Shoshana: It's the best thing ever!
I: If you could change anything about it, what would you do?
A: I'd make it longer.
S: I'd add another team.
I: What was your favorite part?
A: The presentations.
S: The softball game.
I: Did you show good sportsmanship?
A: I tried.
S: I wanted to make everyone feel good.
I: Do you think your team worked together?
A: Sort of.
S: Yes.
I: Were there any problems?
A: Because everyone is so into color war, it caused some fights.
S: I have a lot of friends on the other team and sometimes during color war we forget about our friendships.
I: Do you have anything to add?
A: Go Blue! B-L, B-L-U, B-L-U-E! Blue!
S: Go White! We'll fight tonight! White will win and blue will lose! White is the team the judges should choose!

Younger Ilanot Trip Day By David Kukin, Avi Chaneles and Ari Pruzansky, B9

On Monday morning the Younger Ilanot went to Dorney Park. After a beautiful *davening*, we got onto the busses and we were off. The bus ride was long but, it definitely paid off. Some of the rides we went on were, *Steel Force* (a 200 foot drop), *Thunderhawk*, *Laser*, *Talan*, *Wild Mouse* and the *Log Flume* (an 80 foot drop.)

While we were on these rides, most of the girls were enjoying, *Camp Snoopy*. At Dorney we met up with Neshar and Seneca Lake. At the end of the action packed day, we had another long, but exciting, bus ride back to camp.

Fim/Fot and Fab Four Flank Philly By Sam "Shmelka" Adelsberg, B15 and Adam "2024" Hanover, B14

On Monday, July 8th, the Alufim/fot were delighted to be woken at 4 am. After a meaningful *davening*, we enjoyed an excellent array of

pancakes as well as a diverse selection of cereals. The busses then departed for historic Philadelphia. After a smooth bus ride that involved a break down and being pulled to the side of the road by some locals, we arrived at the majestic Philadelphia Zoo. We saw frolicking pandas, round green monkeys, and a fish named Walter. We even stopped at the local aquarium where a few of us were chosen to feed the dolphins. "They were so hospitable," said Josh Gopin who was lucky enough to swim with them.

From there, we hit the mall. It was big. It was fun. Then we arrived at the extravagantly luxurious Wyndham Hotel. We ate dinner. It was rather tasty. "The banana cake was underrated," raved Eytan Fox, "I give it two thumbs up." Mike and Roy then took us DIRECTLY to The Falls, which contained an assortment of arcades, rides, mini-golf, go-carts, and other fun stuff. "Personally, I loved the bumper boats," exclaimed Seth Anziska, resident fishing expert. "It wasn't as serene as the Morasha lake, which is far superior to any other body of water, but it served its purpose." We then returned to the hotel for some sleep. Sammy Sosa hits the ball really far.

The next morning it was off to Great Adventure. The day was full of surprises — Edgardo Alfonso, Feith Klaks, and DMX were all at the park and Michael "I love the Indians" Gottesman overcame his fear of rollercoasters. However, we refused to get tattoos because we felt it was inappropriate on the eve of the nine days. The day concluded with many watching as certain people paid \$25 for a 29 second bungee experience.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Dave, Gabs, and all the rest of the staff for making the trip so successful. It was a shame that we didn't actually enter Philadelphia on the Philadelphia trip. Hopefully next year, we will be taking the trip to *Yerushalaim ir Hakodesh*.

Machon/BBYO Day

By Ari Schlusel, Machon Boys

During the Morasha/BBYO joint program campers of different denominations exchange ideas and outlooks on Judaism, as well many other aspects of their lives, and many campers are

exposed to Jewish ideals completely unfamiliar to them.

Many of the BBYO kids who grew up in small communities across America had expected all Orthodox Jews to be completely ignorant of the so-called "real world." One guy asked if I knew who led Zeppelin was and another girls asked if we had ever taken a science class. When they saw the Abercrombie t-shirts and understood our familiarity with American culture, many were taken by surprise. They were inspired by our Orthodox beliefs and by our true commitment to halacha. Many Morasha campers have grown up in sheltered Orthodox environments and have never had their beliefs challenged. Being bombarded by pointed questions have inspired many of us to explore certain philosophical or practical issues that we couldn't answer. Several of the BBYO kids have had to endure tremendous struggles to establish Judaism as an integral part of their lives and after hearing their amazing stories, we gained a great respect for them and learned not to take things for granted.

After several minutes of mingling at the Pavilion, Rabbi Dratch gave an inspiring speech about Jewish ethnicity and culture and Rabbi Kroll outlined the plans for the day. We were divided into discussion groups — made up of a facilitator and participants from both camps. The topics included, Jewish community, prayer, sexual ethics, Judaism in the home and Shabbos. The outlooks that were presented spanned the spectrum. When the discussions were over we were given a few hours to spend together. Many people gathered to sing and dance — the experience was unbelievable, all dancing together with so much enthusiasm! After mincha and a great barbecue, we went to the Mercaziah to close the program. BBYO sang and danced for us and we, led by the amazing Michael Berl, presented our Shiriah songs. Finally, we watched an emotional slide show about the recent violence in Israel and we ended by singing, *Yerushalaim Shel Zahav*.

On Tuesday, we all made new bonds and wonderful friends. Connecting with Jews from other denominations helped to inculcate a mutual love for all Jews into the hearts of everyone who was involved — *Am Yisrael Chai!*

Bookworms Swarm Camp!!!

Library Corner

Anonymous Author

Twas the summer of ought two and the heat was mighty in the hills of the Poconos near the lake called Como. But in the shade of the library called Strick there was a pleasant breeze and cool running water and there was a marm named Rock to tend to the critters of the forest.

ISO, if you're lookin' for a creepy story to share round the campfire with the younguns, the *Sifriah* has the *Goosebumps* series. And if those kids need to settle down for a while with a book, you can get *Jokes and Riddles* and *Guinness Believe it or Not*. And for those of you who get their kicks out of the misfortune of others, you can be introduced to *Harry Potter* and *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

Some of you might be God fearin' types who go to services on Saturday to hear the Rabbi preach and for you Rock has *divrei Torah* on the *parsha* and *hilchos Shabbat*. She's got more *gemaras* than you could shake a stick at, *mishnayot* and even stuff on the history of the great Jewish people of ours.

For those of you who like to keep up with the doin's in the big city, there's the Daily Gazette and even that newfangled stuff that comes off the Internet — the Arutz Sheva news from Israel.

So mosey on over to the Morasha Library for a good old time. And if you don't see what you want, don't fret none. Just walk right on up to Rock and you just ask her for some help and she'll do what she can fer ya.

Starbooks' Inaugural Meeting By Sara Lamm Dratch

Opinions were flying last *Motzei Shabbat* as the staff held its first meeting of the "starbooks" book review club.

Ruchie Winkler moderated the discussion about the book, *A Fine Balance*, by Rohinton Mistry, a scathing indictment of the caste system in India in the 1970s. New insights

into the characters, events and issues were enjoyed by everyone (even those who hadn't read the book!).

The food was great (special thanks to the fruit-cutting Cohn's)! The next book to be discussed is *Fall on Your Knees*, by Anne McDonald — Date and location TBA.

Whats New in the Big Wide World?

Readers in China are snapping up the fifth Harry Potter book. There's just one problem: It's fake. The 198-page book, "Harry Potter and Leopard Walk Up to Dragon," was written by an anonymous Chinese author but has the name and biography of British author J.K. Rowling on its cover. Rowling is aware of the fake and is taking this issue very seriously."

For a week, a steady downpour of rain in Texas has not let up. The heavy rain has flooded much of central Texas, affecting 48,000 people. Many were forced to flee their homes for safety on dry land.

Quantity wins out over quality. Sammy Sosa wows the crowd with seven homers of 500 feet or more, but Jason Giambi wins the Home Run Derby with 25 homers, seven coming in the final round.

Two Canadian otters living at a sanctuary in Scotland have been placed under 24-hour protection from local otters who want to beat them up. The problem? The Canadian otters have "foreign accents."

Local otters have been spotted close to the sanctuary, apparently confused by the strange accents of their Canadian cousins.

Weekend Weather Forcast

(as of Wednesday, July 10):

Friday: Mostly sunny with highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s

Saturday: Mostly sunny with highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s

Sunday: Thunder showers with highs in the high 70s and lows in the high 50s

Something to Think About ...

Moshiach's Hat

(author unknown)

Twas the night of the *geulah*,
And in every single *shtiebel*
Sounds of the Torah
could be heard
Coming from every kind
of *yeedel*
This one in English
Some in Hebrew, some
in Yiddish.
Some saying *p'shat*
And some saying a *chidush*.
And up in *shamayim*
The *Aibishter* decreed:
"The time has come
for my children to be
freed."
"Rouse the *moshiach*
From his heavenly berth.
Have him get a chariot,
and head down to earth."
The *moshiach* got
dressed
And with a heart full of
glee,
went down to earth and
entered
The first *shtiebel* he did
see.
"I am the *moshiach*!
Hashem has heard your
plea!
Your *geulah* has come!
It's time to go free!"
They all stopped their
learning;
this was quite a surprise.
And they looked at him
carefully,
with piercing sharp eyes.
"He's not the *moshiach*!"
Said one with a grin,
"Just look at his hat,
at the pinches and brim!"
"That's right!" cried another,
with a grimace and
frown,
"Whoever heard of
moshiach

with a brim that's turned
down?"
"Well," thought
moshiach,
"If this is the rule,
I'll turn my brim up
before I go to the next
shul."
So he walked right on
over
to the next *shul* in town.
Sure to be accepted,
since his brim was no
longer down.
"I'm the *moshiach*!" he
cried,
as he began to enter,
but the Jews wanted to
know first
if he was left, right, or
center.
"Your clothes are so
black!"
They cried out in fright.
You can't be *moshiach*,
you're much too far right!
If you want to be
moshiach,
you must be properly
outfitted."
So they replaced his
black hat
with a *kippah* that was
knitted.
Wearing his new *kippah*,
moshiach went out and
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 frus-
trated
with the *Yidden* down
here.
"I'm the *moshiach*" he
cried.
They all stopped to stare,
And a complete eerie
stillness
filled up the air.
"You're the *moshiach*?!
just imagine that,
Whoever heard of a
moshiach –
without a black hat!"
"But I do have a hat!"
the *moshiach* then said.
So he pulled it right out
and plunked it down on
his head.
The *shul* started laugh-
ing,
And one said: "where's
your *kop*?"
You can't have a
moshiach
with a brim that's turned
up!"
"If you want to be
moshiach
and be accepted in this
town,
put some pinches in your
hat
and turn that brim down!"
Moshiach walked out and

"I guess that 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 ap-
peared
from 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.
Moshiach looked sad
and said, "you don't un-
derstand."
Then he started up his
chariot
to get out of this land.
"Yes, it's very wonderful
that you all learn Torah,
But you seem to have
forgotten
a crucial part of the
mesorah."
"What does he mean?"
"What's he talking
about?"
They all looked bewil-
dered,
and all began to shout.
Moshiach looked back
and answered,
"The first place to start,
is to shut up your mouths
and open up your hearts.
To each of you, certain
yidden
seem to *frum* or too *frei*,
but all *yidden* are be-
loved
in the *Aibishter's* eye."
And on his way up he
shouted:
"If you want me to come,
try working harder
on some *Ahavat*
Chinam!"

What do you think?

- Do you ever assume things about people, or treat them in a certain way, because of their appearance?
- Do you sometimes place too much emphasis on how you look, instead of working on improving your character?
- If there is a problem, do you first look to blame others, or do you look within yourself to try to solve it?
- How can you, personally, work on creating an environment of *ahavat chinam* (causeless love) that will eventually bring *moshiach*?