

Shalhevet

Friday, August 8, 2003
10 Av 5763
Erev Shabbat Nachamu
Parshat Ve'etchanan

נחמו נחמו
עמי



Savit Klugerman

This Week in Camp

Rain, rain, go away...

We may not have been swimming as much, but we sure got wet as we were treated to a very stormy, soggy, and muddy *shavua shechal bo*. Despite the miserable weather and mournful mood of the Nine Days, there were signs of hope and promise...if you knew where to look.

On Tuesday evening, following a lengthy storm, there was a huge rainbow in the sky. It was only out for a few minutes, but it was spectacular. Did you see it? Did you remember which bracha to say on it? (If not, see the bottom of page 3, so you can be better prepared next time!)

And on Sunday, while all of Lake Como experienced a major blackout, we at Camp Morasha discovered the true power of תורה ואור: In the Bondis, where shiurim were taking place, there was light.

Judgment at Nuremburg: A Play for the Nine Days

Morasha's staff presented *Judgment at Nuremburg* as the camp's annual Nine Days presentation. The play, a reenactment of the April 1947 Nuremburg Trial in Germany asked the complex question: Can ordinary people - even extraordinary people - be punished for crimes against society when under orders by their superiors to commit those crimes?

The production was set in the "round" in the Mercazia, and was presented by 17 staff members. Older Shtilim girls and Machzor Bet sat in virtual silence for nearly two hours as the Mercazia was converted into a courtroom, with judges, witnesses,

defendants and audience. The extraordinary performance raised many thought-provoking questions that were discussed for several hours after the production.

Thanks to Michael, Shannon, Emily, Danny, Gabi and the performers (especially Rabbi Jon Kroll) for an outstanding evening in camp.

The Reptile Show

By Eric Fruchter, B-6

The Shtili reptile show was amazing. There were so many types of reptiles there. Some of these animals were so amazing, you would not believe it!

First there was this very big snapping turtle named Chezki. It was about 129 years old! Next there was a huge snake which was about six feet long! Then there was a wolf spider that looked like a tarantula. There was a 4 ½ foot alligator which almost bit off someone's finger. Then last but not least, they saved the best for last: it was a rabbit! Everybody had fun.

Results of "Dan L'Kaf Zechut" Contest!

Unfortunately, no entries were received for this summer's "Dan L'Kaf Zechut" essay contest. Instead, Shalhevet has compiled a list of **Possible Reasons Nobody Submitted Any Entries to the Dan L'Kaf Zechut Contest.**

1. It could be that someone wrote a story, but mistakenly submitted it in the wrong box.
2. Maybe someone wrote a story, but it got soaked in the rain.
3. Perhaps someone meant to write a story, but couldn't locate a pen, pencil, and/or

paper.

4. Possibly someone enjoyed the Brain Teasers so much that day that he/she didn't even notice that there was a contest.

5. Maybe camp has been so exciting and fun, that somebody might not have had the time or energy to write a story.

This Week in Morasha Sports

Shtili Girls Play Pin Dodge Ball

By Melissa Appel, G-2

On August 4th it was raining, so the Shtili girls played pin dodge ball instead of gaga. The rules are like dodge ball, but there are six pins like in bowling, and you try to knock down the pins. The first team that knocks down the pins wins the game.

We played older vs. younger Shtilim. Bunk 6 was unbeatable and Bunk 2 was against them. Bunk 2 was down to their last person, Tal Meiri, and their last pin. Even though she got out, it was a very exciting game!

Then it rained the next day again, and Bunk 2 was the first in the Pargod, so they got to choose who to play against. They chose Bunk 6 again, and this time Bunk 2 beat them! It was a very exciting game!

Older Shtili Girls' Leagues

By Melanie Gersten, G-4

Here's an update on what happened in the Older Shtili girls' leagues this week.

Wednesday, July 30: Team A vs. Team C in basketball. Team C won 5-4. Team B vs. Team D in Newcomb; Team B won 15-10.

Thursday, August 1: Team B vs. Team C in basketball. Team C won 4-3. Team A vs.

Team D in newcomb; D won 15-1.

Sunday, August 3: Team C vs. Team D in basketball. C won 3-2. Team A vs. Team B in newcomb; B won 15-0.

Congratulations to Hillel Dimbert, who caught Day Camp's first fish, a sunfish!

This Week in the World But How Many Ants Came?

The largest picnic ever was held over the weekend in Bryant Park in New York City. That's according to the folks at the Guinness Book of World Records. A crowd of 1,320 people gathered for the picnic.

Sports Roundup

By Oscar Madison

The Yanks, behind strong pitching, maintained their 3 ½ game lead over the Red Sox. The Yanks also traded the recently acquired Armando Benitez for former Yank Jeff Nelson.

The Mets' sorry season saw a number of positive signs as they won two in a row. Mike Piazza took batting practice and is expected to return next week.

Pre-season football began as the Jets traveled to Japan to play the Super Bowl Champion Bucs. The Bucs hammered the Jets 30-14 to the delight of the Japanese fans.

The bracha for seeing a rainbow is..

ברוך אתה ה' אלוקינו מלך העולם
זוכר הברית ונאמן בבריתו וקים במאמרו

This Week in the Parsha: ואתחנן

By R. Yehuda Kessock

This week's parsha, Va'eschanan, is a loaded one, as it contains the passages of both the Ten Commandments and that of the first paragraph of Shema. However, it also contains another very important mitzvah, namely that of Bal Tosif and Bal Tigra, the prohibitions against adding and detracting from the Torah.

These prohibitions are found in 2:7, yet the very next pasuk seems to be discussing a separate, totally unrelated idea. The next pasuk states, "Your eyes have seen what Hashem did with Baal-peor, for every man that followed Baal-peor, Hashem, your God, destroyed him from your midst." The juxtaposition between these two pesukim seems strange. What is their connection?

In order to understand the nature of this connection, an analysis of both the prohibition of Bal tosif and Bal tigra, and the idea of Baal-peor must be done first.

The Gemara in Sanhedrin relates the following account: "It happened that Savta ben Ales performed a disgusting act in front of Baal-peor. The idol's attendants praised him, saying, 'No one has ever worshiped so consummately.'" Rabbi Chaim Shmulevitz explains that Baal-peor represents a tearing down of all moral and religious restrictions and prohibitions. This is because the worship of Baal-peor was an expression of degrading and humiliating one's gods. The worshipers of Baal-peor rebelled against the recognition of any system of values or order whatsoever. Chaos itself was indeed their god. The more Savta showed his disrespect for Peor, the more praiseworthy he became.

So too is the case with the prohibitions of Bal tosif and Bal tigra. When one adds or subtracts from the Torah, he is not simply doing an isolated act of prohibition, but is rather rejecting the objective system of Torah, and replacing it with his/her own subjective one. One who devises his own mitzvot demonstrates that the Torah has for him no Divinely mandated restraints. Once one has adopted that mindset, there is nothing stopping him from rejecting the entire system. This is the connection between Baal-peor and the prohibitions of Bal tosif and Bal tigra, both result in a complete destruction of Torah.

This Week's Parsha:

Ve'etchanan

Light Candles: 6:53

Shabbat Ends: 8:00

Weather Forecast (as of Wednesday, August 6):

Friday: Partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs 75 to 80. Chance of rain 40 percent.

Friday night: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. Chance of rain 40 percent.

Saturday: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s.

Sunday: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s and highs 75 to 80.

Ever wonder about those people at Camp Morasha that nobody knows about? The ones who work behind the scenes to make the camp run smoothly? Join us as we meet these unsung heroes of our camp, the people who perform

Obscure

Jobs at Camp Morasha

Meet Darla and Karen, the Housekeepers!

Every day, Darla Lewis and Karen Hazen boldly go where no woman has gone before: To the bathrooms in the boys' bunks, where they make sure that everything is clean. It's the type of job that requires a certain amount of bravery, but Darla and Karen are happy to do it, and happy to be here at Camp Morasha.

"I just enjoy being here," says Karen, "because everyone is so wonderful." (They say that they especially like Shari Fox and the Richters.)

In addition to cleaning each of the boys' bathrooms twice a day, Darla and Karen clean up the gym, the sports shack, the boys' HC, the Yachad bunk, the boys' waterfront, and the Bondis. Undoubtedly, tidying up so much of Camp Morasha can be a challenge.

"There's always one Bondi that is filled with chewed-up styrofoam cups," notes Darla.

Still, they don't complain about their work. In fact, they say that boys' campus, on the whole, is much cleaner than it was last year.

"The garbage outside is not as bad," says Karen. "And 90% of the bathrooms are well-cleaned."

Who is the cleanest? "Nitzi bunks 16-17 have the nicest, cleanest bathroom all the time," Darla replies.

"I think they deserve an award," adds Karen.

Darla lives in Starrucca, near Lakewood. She has three children, ages 16, 17, and 18. She works in Morasha with Karen from April to October, and during the rest of the year she does housekeeping in Mount Tone.

Karen lives in Lakewood and has four children and three grandchildren. During the year, she babysits her youngest grandchild, 18 months old, so that her daughter can work.

Overall, they are happy to do their jobs and work on boys' campus.

"We have occasional messes," says Karen, "but look, they're boys. Boys will be boys."

A Time for Sadness...

This past week, Older Shtili girls were asked to write about life before Churban Bayit Sheni. Here are the ones that were selected for publication in Shalhevet:

Why? (Before)

By Alex Stromer, G-5

Everyone is being
mean to each other
As if no one has any feelings,
just hatred.
All I hear is
"I hate you" or
"You're the stupidest
person I know."
I hate it.
I just wish
someone
could be nice
to each other.
I just hope this
isn't happening.
I just want
it to
stop!

Why? (After)

Tears run down
my face
While the holiest
place is being
destroyed.
Why us?
Please help Hashem!
We see all the debris
flying like pieces
of newspaper.
We are full of
despair and sorrow.
I can't take it anymore.
We hear and feel the floor rumbling and
moving.
It's falling apart.
We are scared!
Help, Hashem! Help!

Before the Beit Hamikdash Was Destroyed

By Leora Lax, G-5

In 200 BC,
Horrible stuff was happening.
No one helped anyone,
So no one was having any fun.
Everyone was mean to their fellow Jew,
Everyone was getting killed so that's why
there were so few.
If only they had listened to Hashem,
then the Beit Hamikdash wouldn't have
been destroyed by the Roman men.
Everyone stole, everyone killed, everyone
said Lashon Hara
Because no one listened to the Torah.
I bet you would think if you were in their
shoes,
You wouldn't be bad Jews.
But since there still is no Beit Hamikdash in
our generation
People are still like them throughout the
nation.

Jerusalem

By Ariel Shapiro, G-6

Jerusalem
becoming bad
people are evil
there is no good
Killing, lying, stealing, jealousy, hatred
Our Beit Hamikdash will be destroyed
There are only a few rabbis remaining
No need for shuls, rabbis, and any yeshivot
There is no more love or kindness, only
hatred