



Shalhevet

Erev Shabbat Parshat Balak

Friday July 2, 2004

13 Ta'amuz 5764

***Off to a Great
Start!***

Inside:

What's New in Camp

What's New in the Real World

What's New in Israel

What's New in Sports

Theme Thoughts

Spotlight on the New Beit Midrash Programs

Parsha Pointers

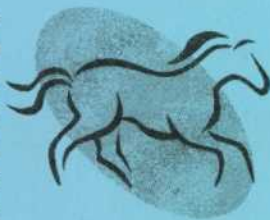
Roving Reporter

Brain Teasers

As you've most likely noticed over the this past week, every area of camp has something new and exciting to boast about. So here's a look at :

What's new in camp this year?

Perhaps the most exciting addition to the daily schedule is **horseback riding**. Headed up by Art Jones, this new activity can be found out by the former overnight sight. Art and his staff will be teaching the fundamentals of riding including steering, stopping, and riding. The riders will first ride in a circle and once both the horses and the campers feel at home, they will begin to ride on a track where one horse follows the other. For those of you who are nervous, Art assures me that all the horses are aged horses and know how to follow. Staff is always welcome to stop by and try this new activity.



New to the **music** department this year is Rebecca Teplow, a talented woman with a beautiful singing voice. The music staff has been busy this past week working with the campuses to prepare for shirah. This year, shirah's theme is *chazak ameinu*. Each campus will perform 2 traditional songs and one Israeli song followed by a finale where everyone in the room will sing a song relating to the theme. If the actual performances are as good as the practices, we are all in for a real treat.

The **library** is open and will be starting book clubs that will meet twice throughout the summer to discuss predetermined books. Over the winter, the library has made some wonderful new acquisitions including many new seforim and judaica books, current novels, childrens' selections and an audio tape library with tapes of shiurim from Rabbi Yissochar Frand and Rabbi Akiva Tatz, among others. Stop by the library any time to pick up a copy of the *Spiderwick Chronicles*, *The Guinness Book of World Records*, *Chicken Soup for the Horse Lover's Soul* or writings of Rav Soleveitchik.

This year's **mishlach** from *Eretz Yisrael* contains 21 young men and women who are here to open the lines of communication between Americans and Israelis, foster understanding and "break down walls". They will be giving *sichot* on *Shab-*



bos, providing an "Israel Minute" after davening, announcing Israeli news and playing Israeli music over the loudspeakers, maintaining an Israeli bulletin board in the dining room, setting up "military games" night activities and are planning an "Israel Day Event" involving the whole camp.

The staff of Boys' and Girls' **sports** are eagerly anticipating the Wayne County Athletic Association tournaments for basketball and tennis. Judah Rhine will be coordinating this event where campers in Shtilim through Alufim/fot can compete against campers from all the other camps in Wayne County. Boys' campus boasts the addition of two new basketball courts while girls campus has acquired a trampoline which will be up and running in the next few days. For the boys who couldn't get enough sports, there will be night leagues in addition to the daytime ones. Alufot girls can look forward to Friday afternoon tennis tournaments.

Paddleboats are one exciting addition to the **water-fronts** on both campuses. Boys WF has already inaugurated their new ski dock which, in addition to the fixed motor boat, will enable more campers to participate in this thrilling activity. Boys WF will also be running a new lifeguarding course for alufim, machon and staff.



Girls' WF welcomes a new head of WF for July, Lisa Baratz.

Starting this week, campers had the opportunity to make candles, as per the first day of creation, when light and darkness were created. This is one of many upcoming projects taking place in **Arts and Crafts and Woodshop** relating to the theme of the summer. On girls' campus, each bunk has already made a bunk flag and the Machzor Bet girls will be learning how to crochet. No need to run to Walmart for a fold-up chair, Machzor Bet boys will have the opportunity to make their own chairs in boys' woodshop this summer!

The **drama** department is excited about the two plays that will be performed by the campers this summer, *Oliver* (Machzor Aleph) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Machzor Bet).

With a host of new young, talented staff and curricula prepared by the Azrieli School of Jewish Education of Yeshiva University, the **educational staff** is raring to go! *Shiurim* this summer will focus on the

theme, *sheshet yemai b'raishit* and *pikuach nefesh* for older ilanot and alufim/fot. Did you know that 4 current Ed staff members were here in Morasha as Nitzanim? Can you guess which ones? Ask your *shiur* teacher if he or she was a Nitzil!

Perhaps, the addition that we feel the most is the presence of two new **chefs**, Ira Tannenbaum and Moshe Eichner. The **kitchen** staff, headed up by David Blumenthal and Michael Scharf welcome feedback about the new food selections. The energetic waitering staff who brings you the mouthwatering creations of our new chefs is headed up by Judah Rhine, Dining Room Supervisor.



When walking down High Lake Road, you may hear the sounds of Israeli music drifting from the pavilion. That's because Nurit Wexler, the new head of the **dance** department will be focusing on Israeli and Hebrew music, in addition to some "new releases". Rikudiah, which will take place at the end of the summer, will feature a dance for every day of creation, in accordance with the theme of the summer.

Our **nature** department is more than just overnights this summer. Headed by Ariel Cohn, there will be activities aimed at discovering the nature that surrounds us here at camp. Overnights, which will begin with the making and drinking of special Israeli tea, will include tent building, BBQs, Israeli foods, stories and activities.

In **baking** this summer, campers will have the opportunity to make mini wedding cakes. Who will the lucky chassan and kallah be? Campers will also be working more with chocolate and fondant. If you don't know what that is, be sure to stop by the baking department to find out.



I'm sure you were happy to see that the **Rock Climbing** walls were still standing when the buses pulled up this past Sunday. New on both girls and boys campus is establishment of trails in different colors with names for famous trails in Israel.

Fishing is back this summer with Avraham Tanev, chief fisherman. As campers cast their fishing lines into the beautiful lake, they can hope to catch one of three types of fish, bass, pickerel or perch all of which are kosher (they have fins and scales). A new

feature of this summer's fishing program is that when a fish is caught, it can be cooked immediately and be ready for consumption in a few short minutes. So if you have patience for fishing and an appetite for fish, head down to the fishing dock located lakeside on the road to kollel.



Let's not forget about the **Day Camp**. Occupying a new building at the edge of girls' campus, the youngest members of the Morasha family are busy enjoying their brand new toys and playground equipment. Watch out boys and girls campuses, the day camp is already practicing for shiriah to keep up their unbeaten streak.

What's New In the Real World ?

Saddam Hussein and 11 high-profile members of his regime were arraigned Thursday before an Iraqi judge. A top Iraqi official is calling the case the "trial of the century".

The Senate passed legislation that would allow civil law suits against alleged file swappers. No more music and movie downloads!

JK Rowling has silenced the rumors by confirming the title for her new book, "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince".

What's New in Israel?

Israel plans a three-mile deep "security zone" in northern Aza with hundreds of troops patrolling the area in the coming months to prevent Palestinian rocket fire on Israeli towns along the border.

Archeologists have uncovered what is thought to be the Pool of Siloam, a reservoir that dates back 2,000 years to the time of the second *Beit Hamikdash*. One of the walls of the reservoir was also a wall of the ancient *Ir David*, City of David.

Naomi Shemer, Israel's matriarch of Jewish song and the only winner of the Israel Prize in the category of song competition, has passed away at the age of 74. A selection of her songs from Color War Shiriah 2 summers ago.

(continued on page 7)

Theme Thoughts

BY RABBI MARK DRATCH

Theme: Day 2: The *Rakiyah*

Breishit 1:6-8:

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

On the second day of creation, *Hashem* created the *Rakiyah*-- the firmament, or the atmosphere, that separates the earth from the Heavens. The *Yismach Moshe* asks why it is that we don't call the sky *Rakiyah*, after its function (what it does), but instead we call it *Shamayim*, because of what it is made of, *eish* (fire) and *mayim* (water). He answers that we can learn an important lesson from this about life and friends...and camp. This is the important reason: *rakiyah* is all about separation and division and *shamayim* is about

shalom and unity.

Here's how it goes: In explaining the words "*Oseh Shalom Bimromav*," "May He who makes peace in the heavens, make peace for us", the *Midrash* explains that the *shamayim* is composed of two contradictory elements and is a contraction of two words: *eish* (fire) and *mayim* (water). This is how they understood how the sun and stars and lightening could get along with rain. The greatness of God's efforts is in maintaining balance and tolerance between these two opposing elements. The heavenly waters do not extinguish the sun, and the sun does not harm the waters. So, in our prayers, we ask for God's help in creating such tolerance and coexistence in our own lives, with our families and our friends.



So, welcome to Week 2 of Camp Morasha. This week, the lesson from our summer theme is: Some of us may be *eish* (fire) and some of us may be *mayim* (water), but we have the right formula that when combined with respect and understanding creates our own little corner of *shamayim* right here at Morasha!

Do you want to see your artwork grace the cover of the Shalhevet each week? The Shalhevet staff is looking for a picture for the front cover. Submissions are being accepted in the Shalhevet box in the library. Please write your name and bunk number on the back of your 'masterpiece' and submit it by Wednesday. The winning design will be featured on the cover of next week's Shalhevet.