



# Shalhevet

**Erev Shabbat Parshat Matot-Masei**

**Friday July 19, 2004**

**27 Ta'amuz 5764**

## *What A Week!*

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## What's New in Camp?

So much excitement! Where do we begin?

Trip Day for Machzor Bet was one of the highlights of this past week. **Alufim and Alufot** traveled to Lake Placid, New York, for the first of their two-day trips. The highlight of the trip was bobsledding, according to the Alufot girls that this reporter spoke with. Other activities included ice skating, rafting, tubing, hiking White-Faced Mountain, viewing an Aerial Show which was "really cool" and touring the Olympic Center.



The **Ilanot Boys** were also privileged to an overnight trip, this one of a different 'nature.' This group of campers visited Ring Homestead where they enjoyed swimming, volleyball, basketball and a ropes course, after which they camped out in Leantoos (small huts) under a starry sky. The next day featured a trip to the Galleria Mall and a viewing of Spiderman 2, a favorite among the Ilanot Boys.

Their female counterparts, the **Ilanot Girls**, also enjoyed a viewing of Spiderman 2 after spending the morning playing mini-golf, laser tag, rock-climbing and eating ice cream at Skate Estate. They ended the day in Vestal Park where they ate dinner and enjoyed the great outdoors.

Our youngest campers, the **Day Camp**, also had a blast on their trip, which included a visit to Fun and Games as well as some delicious ice cream to top off the day.

1-2-3-4, we want **Color War!** Well, Machzor Aleph, Ilanot and Alufim/fot all enjoyed their own One-Day Color War this past week. According to Alex Stromer of G-15, color war is great because it "takes a lot of energy, effort and enthusiasm." Atara Staiman (G-14) maintains that it is also a great way to "meet a lot of new people". All of the different divisions participated in a variety of different activities including sports competitions, dances, cheers, shield presentations, baking, and the Machzor Bet campers even had the opportunity to take part in an

apache relay. Highlights for the girls of G-10 were pin dodgeball, swimming and shiriah. Win or lose, a fun time was most definitely had by all.

All around camp our campers are enjoying their daily activities as well as those special ones that come around once in a while. The **Nitzi Girls** participated in an overnight as did the **Older Shtili Girls** who were joined by **Yachad**. Between the hiking, boating, story-telling and sleeping under the stars, the girls had a blast! Shayna Wagner of G-6 reports that sleeping outside, without a tent was the best part of the overnight.



The **Nitzi Boys** have been *shteiging* away in the beis medrash on boys campus where they learn with the **BMP** guys three nights a week for their own version of night *seder*. The only question is, who is enjoying it more, the BMP guys or the Nitzis?

**Yachad** has been making the most of camp by participating in all kinds of exciting activities around camp. Every Yachad camper has been able to go horseback riding and they have thoroughly enjoyed it. They are so pleased that the beautiful view of their girls bunk has been restored and love all the visitors that stop by to hang out. Tutoring with Alufot is underway and hopefully the program on boys' campus will get started very soon. Be sure to stop by the bunks and introduce yourself if you haven't already!

The **Machon-BBYO** program began on Wednesday with a trip by our machoniks to the B'nai Brith Youth Organization Camp. The program included discussion groups with Machoniks, BMP/MMP members, BBYO campers and members of the Morasha and BBYO staff. Together, the groups played "Jewish Futures" a game designed to generate discussions on the views that Judaism has on the world. The game prompted discussions about what is truly important and what should be important. Overall, the program was a success and we are looking forward to Machon-BBYO Part II.

Based on this week's *parsha* where we learn

about the *mitzvah* of *tevilat keylim*, Senior Day Camp and Nitzi Girls had an opportunity to perform this *mitzvah*, which was a first for many of them. We learn about this *mitzvah* from the actions of *b'nei yisrael* after the war with *Midyan*; they *koshered* and were *tovel* the dishes that they won during the war. While the dishes that our campers dipped in the lake were not spoils of war, they will enhance our eating experience at camp. The girls went down to the lake and "made a *bracha* and dipped them in the lake," according to Rebecca Melman of Senior Girls. Chevi Jacobson and her friends "made sure there were no stickers" on any of the pans, frying utensils or serving pieces. Special thanks to the waterfront staff for their help in making this *mitzvah* possible.

Wednesday night's **Carnival** was the highlight of the week for the campers and staff alike. The twenty booths which were brought in from a professional entertainment company, included a basketball shoot, ring toss, darts, skee-ball and a dunker where campers had the opportunity to dunk Dr. Stan Goldstein, among others. The booths though, were just the beginning. Everyone enjoyed the joust activity where campers pretended to be American Gladiators as they tried to knock their opponents to the ground. Another favorite was Adrenaline Rush, a race through a giant obstacle course. The 90 foot slide which adorned boys campus was a thriller for all! When they weren't busy playing and climbing, campers could help themselves to carnival foods or they could redeem their prize tickets for prizes including glow in the dark basketballs, Morasha paraphernalia, board games and so much more!! What an evening!



### What's New In the Real World ?

President Bush defended his decision to invade Iraq as he conceded that investigators did not find any weapons of mass destruction that Iraq was thought to possess.

The US government plans to open a "national

bank" to better grow the only embryonic stem cells eligible for government-funded research. Embryonic stem cells are master cells that form during the early days after conception and can turn into any tissue on the body. Many scientists hope to be able to grow replacement tissues to treat diabetes, spinal cord injuries and other diseases.

### What's New in Israel?

A United States Federal Court in Rhode Island has handed down a \$116 million verdict against the PLO and the Palestinian Authority in favor of the parents and children of Yaron and Efrat Unger. The Ungers were murdered in a drive-by shooting in 1996 near Beit Shemesh.

Over 400 new *olim* (immigrants) arrived in Israel yesterday from North America on a flight sponsored by the *Nefesh B'Nefesh* organization. This is the third consecutive year that they have sponsored a mass homecoming and each year the numbers increase. They plan to bring a total of 1500 *olim* to Israel this year.

### What's New in Sports?

Shaquille O'Neal, the Lakers' center who didn't come through for them in the NBA finals this past spring has been traded to the Miami Heat for forwards Brian Grant and Lomar Odom, guard Caron Butler and a future draft pick.

The Yankees headed into the All-Star break with the best record in baseball at 55-31. The Mets lost 2 out of 3 in last weekend's series with the Marlins leaving them 2 games behind Florida in the standings.

The American League will have home field advantage in this year's world series as determined by their 9-4 win in Tuesday's All-Star Game, including a 6 run first inning against Roger Clemens. Alfonso Soriano of the Texas Rangers was the MVP.

### Weather Update

(As of Wednesday Afternoon, July 17)

Shabbos:	Thunderstorms possible, high 73°
Sunday:	Showers, high of 75°
Monday:	Thunderstorm possible, high 78°

# Theme Thoughts

Welcome to Week 4!

On the fourth day of creation, the bodies that provide the world with light came into being. Hashem created the sun, moon and stars to illuminate the world (*Breishit* 1:14-19).



If you ask anyone why there is a sun, the answer you would most likely hear would be "So we can see." The Torah tells us otherwise. *Pasuk* 14 states that light was created "to separate between the day and the night and to serve as signs for festivals and for days and years." While the sun plays a crucial role for all human beings, it plays a special role for us as Jews. Its setting indicates the beginning of *Shabbos* and *yom tov*, its rising the dawn of a new day. The timing for *tefilot* are also determined by the rising and setting of the sun.

The moon has a very central role in Judaism as well. The first *mitzvah* that the Jewish people were commanded upon being taken out of Egypt was "*Hachodesh hazeh lachem rosh chodashim* — This month is for you, the first of the months." It was at this time that the Jewish people were commanded about the sanctification of the new month based on the lunar cycle. The first sighting of the moon represents the first day of each month in the Jewish calendar.

One might wonder why this was the first *mitzvah* given to the Jewish people.

The answer may be that *Hashem* was trying to teach us an important lesson. Even though he created this world, he put it in our hands so that we can control our own destiny. It is for this reason that he put us in control of the timing of the months and by extension when the *chagim* would fall out.

The *mishnah* tells us that each person must believe that the world was created solely for them — *bishvili nivrah ha'olam*. It doesn't mean that its your world, but rather it shows us the importance of our connection to the world. If one feels a connection to the world, he or she will make it a better place. This is not to make us haughty, but to make us feel a sense of responsibility and to recognize that the world will only be as great as we make it.

The stars have an important lesson for us as well. The light that is seen from the stars can be thousands of light years away. The star you see now may not even exist anymore in its original location. This can teach us a valuable lesson. One should not think that everything he does begins and ends with him. Rather, one must understand that all of his actions can have repercussions that can extend light years into the future.



It is with the lessons of the sun, moon and stars we go into the fourth week of camp. May we remember our responsibility to ourselves and the world around us in the coming week.

# The Bear Facts

As the first month begins to draw to a close, Camp Morasha has had a very unique request for an August camper, a 5 year old, 225 pound American Black Bear with a missing lower jaw. Here is his story.

With the exception of the past few days, it has been a dry spring and summer. The forest doesn't contain many berries or juicy leaves. As a result, Barry the Bear has had to look elsewhere for food, according to Jim Barton, Jr. According to Jim, the bear left his wooded home and visited ours, here at Camp Morasha, because we were able to provide him with a "free meal".

Barry made various appearances all over camp throughout this past weekend, most of the time with his nose in garbage can. As a result, the warden of the Pennsylvania Game Commission was called in. The warden, Officer Frank Duley and his deputy, Deputy Mark Kellem arrived on the scene at camp at around 8 o'clock Sunday night to find the bear eating dinner in the back of the garbage truck. The warden saw this as an opportunity to tranquilize the bear and was successful in doing so. He then, accompanied by Jim Jr. proceeded to the Mercazia where they found the bear taking a nap.

It was at this point in time that Barry the Bear was identified based on a tag he wore from a previous capture which had taken place in Camp Lohikan, just near Morasha, where he was also turning over garbage cans and disturbing the peace.

The warden then loaded Barry into a bear trap can and brought him down for all to see.

Barry was then taken to another game land located about 2 hours from camp by car where he was released so that he may go about his normal lifestyle.

Barry is a member of the *Ursus americanus* species. The black bear is approximately 4 to 7 feet from nose to tail. It has small eyes, rounded ears, a long snout, a large body, a short tail, and shaggy hair. Bears see in color and have good vision close-up. Their distance vision (over two hundred yards) has not been tested. They have an extremely keen sense of smell and can run

up to 30 miles per hour, uphill, downhill or on level ground.

What to do if you see one of Barry's friends:

- Stay calm
- If you can do so undetected, leave the area
- If the bear is aware of you but distant, quietly walk slowly away from it
- If the bear is very close to you, avoid sudden movements and eye contact, talk in a low, strong voice and slowly wave your arms as you back away slowly
- Don't run or climb a tree

Remember these important pointers, you never know when they might come in handy. As for Barry, he'll have to be placed on the waiting list.

