



Shalhevet

Erev Shabbat Parshat Chukat

Friday July 8, 2005

Rosh Chodesh Ta'amuz 5765

On the Road Again ...

Inside:

What's New in Camp

What's New in the Real World

What's New in Israel

What's New in Sports

Parsha Pointers

Theme Thoughts

The 'Art' of Horseback Riding

Roving Reporter

Brain Teasers

What's New in Camp?

The first week of camp has proved to be action packed and fun filled. After a relaxing and restful Shabbos, the campers and staff were treated to a special treat, a **Shlomo Katz concert**. To quote those in attendance, he was "fabulous", "supberb" and a great time was had by all. He sang the "Ei D'didei" song and had the place rocking.

Not a day passed before the next program began, a campwide celebration of **July 4th**. A BBQ on girls' courts and a fireworks presentation were only the beginning. The main event was a "meaningful, educational and inspirational" program in the Mercazia featuring **Specialist Joe Kashnow**. Specialist Kashnow is an Orthodox Jew and a member of the United States Army. He was injured while serving in Iraq. The program also included two short moving videos and ended with a question and answer session with Specialist Kashnow. Campers asked pointed and pertinent questions and learned a great deal. In the words of Program Director, Judah Ausubel, this program "gave meaning to July 4th, making it more than just BBQs and fireworks."



Lets not forget about the first trip day of the summer. **Machon** got a head start by taking their trip on Tuesday to Middletown and Woodbourne, making it their second trip in as many weeks.

Alufim/fot set out early Tuesday morning for **Lake Placid**, the first of their two, two-day trips. While up north, they visited the ski and skate center, the site of the 'miracle' 1980 Olympic victory by the United States hockey team and had the opportunity to skate on the very rink were that famous victory took place. To top that,



they also were exposed to bobsledding and the luge, one of the highlights of the trip. Perhaps the most challenging part was the hike down the gorge in Ausable Chasm and the rafting that followed. Overall, there was not a dull moment throughout the two days and the campers built memories that are sure to last them a lifetime.



Although their trip did not take them as far, the Shtilim, Ilanot and Yachad boys and girls had a blast as well on their trip to Dorney Park. Between the roller coasters, log flumes and ferris wheels, there was more than enough to keep each and every camper busy for an action packed day. It was well worth the trip!

Our Nitzanim traveled a little less, but enjoyed just as much. They visited to Carousel Park where they enjoyed water slides, bumper boats, arcade games, go karts and ice cream. Just ask, the Nitzi girls and they'll tell you, "we had a blast!" Carousel Park was followed by a trip to the movies to see *Herbie: Fully Loaded*, "a great movie and a lot of fun", according to the Nitzi boys I spoke to.



Trip Day is for everyone, even our youngest campers. The Day Camp visited Fun and Games where they got to enjoy the indoor playground, bumper cars and miniature golf. Lets not forget the best part of the trip, the ice cream! The sticky hands and messy faces tell the whole story!

Morasha participation in Wayne County Tournaments is in full swing. The Older Shtilim Boys played a hard fought extra-inning softball game against Seneca Lake but lost 2-0. Alufot defeated Camp Weequahic in basketball 37-30. They will take on Camp Ponytelle in the next round. The

Younger Ilanot Boys opened their season by defeating Camp Lohikan 38-19. They will play B'nai Brith in the next round. Ya-she Koach and good luck to all.

As the Shalhevet goes to print, the Ilanot boys and girls are enjoying the first One Day Color War of the summer. The theme, Tzahal is being explored in four different ways, one for each team. More details to follow when Color War concludes, in next week's edition.

What's New In the Real World ?

NASA is preparing to slam an 820 pound probe into a comet 83 million miles from Earth and then see what happens. The missile is equipped with a camera and it will crash into the comet *Tempel 1* at about 2 AM on Monday. Scientists hope the information they get from the comet will further their understanding of how the solar system formed.

Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman Supreme Court justice and a key swing vote on a divided court for 24 years, announced her resignation. There are many key issues on the upcoming court docket that will most likely be decided based on who her replacement will be.

Despite the support and rallying of Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Senator Hillary Clinton, the Olympics will not be coming to New York City in 2012. The International Olympic Committee made their decision early Wednesday morning, deciding that the games will be held in London. Paris was long considered the favorite, but lost out to London in a late rally based on the support of England's Prime Minister Tony Blair.

What's New in Israel?

The Israeli government is preparing to move forward with the disengagement process. Building of temporary housing has begun in Nitzan. The Prime Minister spoke during a special Knesset session in which the government updated Knesset members and the media on the details of preparations for the plan's implementation. Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said that the entire defense establishment was prepared to carry out the pullout and that it should be completed within 4 weeks.

A massive prayer is scheduled for Thursday July 14th at the Kotel as an appeal to God to "maintain the integrity of our land". The prayers will be led by former Chief Rabbi Mordechia Eliyahu, among others.

What's New in Sports?

Jason Giambi hit one of four Yankee homers and doubled twice, and Randy Johnson gave New York a much needed long outing on short rest in a 12-3 victory on Tuesday over the sinking Baltimore Orioles. This is the Yankees' fourth win in a row bringing them within 3 1/2 games of the American League East leading Boston Red Sox.

The Mets find themselves 9 games back of first place in their division with a .500 record. They are playing the division leader, Washington Nationals in a three game series that began Monday with a Mets victory, 5-2.

Weather Update

(as of Wednesday evening, July 6)

Shabbos: Cloudy with a chance of rain,
high of 72°
Sunday: Sun and some clouds,
high of 82°

Parsha Pointers

This Week's Parsha: Chukat
Candle Lighting: 8:20 PM
Motzai Shabbos: 9:28 PM
Sof Z'man K'riat Shema: 9:21 AM (Gr"a)
Sof Z'man Tefilah: 10:36 AM (Gr"a)

This week's *parsha* features one of the most perplexing incidents in the entire *Torah*. The Jews have been wandering for 40 years in the desert and they're thirsty. So *Hashem* tells Moshe to speak to the rock and water will come out (*Bamidbar* 20:8). The instruction to "speak" to the rock is in contrast to 40 years earlier, when Moshe followed *Hashem's* instruction to HIT the rock -- and water gushed out (*Sh'mot* 17:6).

This time, Moshe is to speak. Yet he again hits the rock. Nothing happens, so Moshe hits the rock a second time, and water comes out.

Hashem's response: "Since you HIT the rock rather than speaking to it, you will not lead the Jewish people into the Land of Israel" (*Bamidbar* 20:11-12).

We read this story and think: Here's the mighty Moshe, who confronted Pharaoh, arranged the Ten Plagues, split the Red Sea, brought the *Torah* down from *Har Sinai*, and defended the people through trials and tribulations in the desert. Now he makes one little mistake and *Hashem* takes away his dream of entering Israel. The consequence seems inappropriately harsh!

The first step in understanding this incident is to appreciate how the Jewish people were at the critical juncture of transitioning from desert life to Israel. At the rock, *Hashem's* in-

structions to Moshe are carefully chosen to reflect this transition. Forty years earlier, when Moshe was told to HIT the rock, the people had just come out of brutal slavery in Egypt -- and "hitting" was a language they understood. But this time, Moshe was called upon to lead a generation who'd grown up in freedom; a generation which required the softer approach of "speaking."

Notice how in our *parsha*, Moshe hits the rock twice. First, he hit the rock and no water came out. At that moment he had the opportunity to reevaluate his approach and reflect more carefully on *Hashem's* specific instruction to "speak." But Moshe hits the rock again.

The commentators suggest that perhaps symbolically, we can learn about our own need to be flexible in our approach. Moshe's punishment is not harsh; it is simply a consequence of his relationship to the new generation and their needs in entering Israel.

Like Moshe and the rock, our ability to adjust and customize our approach -- while remaining true to *Torah* standards -- will in large part determine how successfully we move ourselves, our children and our nation forward into the "Land of Israel" -- into the next exciting stage of personal and national destiny.

*Adapted from aish.com's Shraga's Weekly
by Rabbi Shraga Simmons,
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Theme Thoughts

This past week, and over this Shabbos, we will be and have been learning about leadership. Machzor Aleph has been exploring the theme through game shows and making short videos. Machzor Bet has learned about leadership through the Ilanot Colorwar, which focused specifically on *Tzaha'l*, a way in which all participating Israelis take a leadership role in the future of their country. Keep your eyes peeled for the upcoming Ilanot project that they themselves planned and will implement over the course of the summer. Hopefully this "camp beautification" initiative will be an important application of the leadership theme.

Additionally, this Shabbos, the BMP and MMP members will explore the themes of leadership with Machzor Bet through an informal program about peer pressure. Special thanks to the *Chinuch* staff for stressing the theme to the campers in the context of *shiurim*.

As the week comes to an end, a quick thought about leadership from IEP: Rabbi Yochanan is quoted in the *Gemara Nedarim* (38a) as saying that *Hashem* only settles His Divine Presence (*shechina*) upon a person who is strong, wealthy, wise, and humble (see Shabbat 92a for a slight, but maybe complementary variation). While wisdom and humility are clearly necessary for a clear understanding of the world and one's place therein, physical strength and wealth seem somewhat secondary and prejudicial in terms of

assessing a person's qualifications.

This apparent puzzle is easily understood if we understand Rabbi Yochanan's statement as referring to a *navi* who plays a leadership role. Rabbi Yochanan is specifically describing Moshe Rabbeinu. In order to be a prophet who led the people and was outspoken whenever and wherever necessary, he had to be independent from public perceptions. In other words, a leader cannot depend financially, physically, emotionally, or psychologically on anyone else. Rather he or she must be able to give without needing public validation or aggrandizement.

While these characteristics are mentioned by Rabbi Yochanan specifically in the context of what it takes to be a *navi*, their shared goals of creating a person who does not need his or her ego or any other element to be fed by the masses applies to all leadership situations, both public and private. Freedom from the need to impress others or to depend intellectually, financially, or otherwise on others allows one to focus on true, absolute values. We hope that such focus on unadulterated values is characteristic of all of our leaders, both public and lay

Have a good Shabbos,
IEP