



Shalhevet

Erev Shabbat Parshat Masei

Friday August 5, 2005

29 Ta'amuz 5765

***It Just Keeps
Getting Better!***

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What's New in Camp?

From **tzahal nights** to **overnights**, when do Shay and Hadas and their fellow mishlachat members find time to sleep? The Nitzi Boys, Younger Ilanot Girls and Nitzi Girls all had an opportunity to experience tzahal night this past week. Special thanks to Shay and Hadas for all of their efforts and hard work.

A jet boat ride, ropes course, caverns, amusement parks, water rides, Broadway shows . . . Camp Morasha campers experienced all of the above and much, much more during this week's trips. Here's a round-up of **Trip Day #2** at Camp Morasha.

Machzor Aleph Boys headed to Middletown where they visited **Ring Homestead**, an outdoor park with events like a rope's course, rock-climbing, activities called the centipede, tire traverse and dangle doo, among others. The boys worked hard and had a blast, as Rami Polinsky of B-2 shared, "It rocked!"



While their male counterparts were sweating and climbing, the **Machzor Aleph Girls** traveled in the other direction to **Camelbeach Waterpark** where they enjoyed rides like the Checkered Flag Challenge, the Titan Waterslide and the Kahuna Lagoon Wave Pool. The wave pool was a big hit with the girls of G-4 who named it their favorite. Camelbeach has 22 waterslides, the most in any park in Pennsylvania. I wonder if anyone had a chance to ride them all!



Younger Ilanot Boys and Girls made the trip to **Lake George** where they went to Great Escape, an amusement park, ice-skating, a cruise along the 32 mile long lake, and rafting down the Hudson River. The boys of B-11 couldn't agree on what the best part was, citing things like ice skating, the hotel beds and showers, the roller coasters, among other attractions.



Older Ilanot Boys and Girls had a tasty trip,

whose highlight was **Hershey Park**. They also visited Kreider Dairy Farm, the largest dairy farm east of the Mississippi, underground caverns in Indian Echo Cavern, City Island where they played mini-golf and went paddle boating and a Harrisburg Senators baseball game.



The Alufim/fot trip started out as it always has in the past, with a trip to Great Adventure. However, where the Fims and Fot would spend day #2 was unknown by all, except of course the bus drivers. The reason for the secrecy soon became clear as the Alufim arrived in Shimon's Pizza in Queens on Thursday for an early lunch. They then traveled to Shea Stadium for an afternoon Mets game. Their day on the town continued with a visit to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, dinner at Kosher Delight in Manhattan after which they took in a Broadway show. Wow! What a trip and what an amazing surprise.



Not to be outdone by the Alufim/fot, Machon crossed the border into Canada. After jet boating in Niagra Falls, the group continued on to Toronto where they played Whirleyball, checked out the Playdium, an indoor playroom filled with virtual games, and ate at the world famous Marky's. They then took a ferry ride to Centre Island where they went bicycling. Day two featured fun in the name of Canada's Wonderland and enjoyment and education at the Ontario Science Center.



The best thing about trips like these, is that we all have something to look forward to for next summer!

Stayed tuned for a full report of Israel Day, Part I and an interview with Master Chef Ira Tannenbaum in next week's Shalhevet.

What's New In the Real World ?

Shuttle Discovery astronauts spent much time on Monday replacing a washing-machine-size spinning wheel called a gyroscope that steers the international space station. While Stephen Robin-

son and Soichi Noguchi were floating in space, twisting and turning the 660-pound gyroscope to get it to fit, scientists on Earth were working on a plan to fix shuttle damage. Shuttle cameras showed two pieces of insulation, each about an inch long, hanging from the spacecraft's belly.

On Wednesday, spacewalker Stephen Robinson gently plucked two strips of protruding heat shielding from the bottom of the space shuttle, completing the first in-flight shuttle repair with ease. Cameras operating from the shuttle's sensor boom and from Robinson's helmet provided spectacular views of his historic journey, as he first swooped out from Discovery's side on the end of a 55-foot crane and then curled beneath the orbiter to find and remove the two "gap fillers." The two gap fillers, which could have led to potentially hazardous hot spots on Discovery's underside during reentry, had seemed to be the last outstanding concern blocking officials from clearing the shuttle for its scheduled landing on Monday.

What's New in Israel?

The anti-disengagement movement scored a minor victor Wednesday night when the Israel police permitted thousands of anti-disengagement activists to continue their march toward Eshkol Park, 6 miles away from Ofakim in the direction of Gush Katif. The police had earlier promised to prevent protestors from advancing past a checkpoint it created about 1 mile outside the Negev town of Ofakim.

A blockade imposed by police and the IDF on Gaza has failed to deter thousands of *yeshiva* students from trying to break in over the past several weeks. Hundreds have succeeded. Those who have, gather at Kfar Darom's *shul* to learn *Torah* throughout the day and into the night. One veteran Kfar Darom resident pointed out that the majority of the approximately 120 *yeshiva* students and rabbis sitting and learning in the *shul* are not locals.

What's New in Sports?

Rafael Palmeiro of the Baltimore Orioles became the first high profile player to test positive for steroids under baseball's new testing policy. He re-

ceived a 10 game suspension as result of the positive test. The House Government Reform Committee which heard Palmeiro's testimony in March that he had never used steroids, has opened an investigation into whether Palmeiro may have lied under oath. Palmeiro has pledged to cooperate with the inquiry and repeated his assertion, first made during a conference call with reporters on Monday, that he did not know how the illegal substance got into his system.

Barry Bonds doesn't expect to play again this season because of his injured right knee, putting his quest for the career home run record on hold.

Shaq signed a 100 million dollar, five year deal with the Miami Heat. The deal ensures Shaquille O'Neal plenty of added financial security while allowing the team salary flexibility to pursue other players.

Weather Update

(as of Wednesday evening, July 27)

- Shabbos: Less humid with plenty of sunshine, high of 78°
Sunday: A blend of sunshine and clouds, high of 81°
Monday: Sunny with thunderstorms possible in the afternoon, high of 80°

Mazel Tov!

Avi Fajtelewicz (Younger Ilanot), the son of Beth Fajtelewicz (camp nurse), brother of Yaakov Fajtelewicz (Counselor) and Shani Fajtelewicz (Machon) will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Thursday, August 11, the sixth of Av at the Boys' Shul at the 8:30 AM minyan. He will also lain the entire parsha and haftorah starting at 11 AM at the Pavillon on Shabbos Parshas Devarim.

All are invited to share in our simcha.

Parsha Pointers

This Week's Parsha: Masei
Candle Lighting: 7:56 PM
Motzai Shabbos: 9:03 PM
Sof Z'man K'riat Shema: 9:34 AM (Gr"a)
Sof Z'man Tefilah: 10:45 AM (Gr"a)

RABBI YEHUDA BALSAM

One of the most important rules we are told almost from the moment that we begin learning *Chumash* is that the *Torah* does not waste words. Indeed, we find numerous times that *Chaza"l* learn *halachot* from the fact that the *Torah* included an extra word, an extra letter, or wrote something in an irregular fashion. In the beginning of *Mesechet Pesachim*, the *gemara* actually lists *p'sukim* where the *Torah* stated something in a roundabout way instead of a direct fashion and counts the extra letters that the *Torah* 'wasted' in order to show us the value of a particular lesson.

Thus it is extremely striking that at the beginning of this week's *parsha*, the *Torah* begins by listing every single place that the *B'nei Yisrael* traveled during their forty year sojourn in the desert. This tale is told over the course of forty nine *p'sukim*, and contains little content other than the names of places. Why would the *Torah* spend so much ink to tell us a story that: a) we already would have known had we been reading the *Chumash* carefully until this point, and b) seems to have little or no value on its own. Furthermore, the second *pasuk* in the *parsha* tells us that Moshe wrote down these places at the behest of *Hashem*. If the entire *Torah* was dictated by *Hashem* to the letter, why would it be necessary to remind us

that this particular portion was written upon special request?

It seems obvious that when the *Torah* tells us that Moshe wrote down the order of traveling "*al pi Hashem*" it is giving us special instructions not to disregard the lesson that is being taught in these forty nine *p'sukim*. What then is the message? I heard in the name of Harav Aharon Lichtenstein that the *Torah* is teaching us a lesson in what *Hashem* deems valuable. We may think that since *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* is the infinite creator of the entire universe He cares little for the daily grind in the life of a Jew. Perhaps he pays attention to some major events that change the course of history but certainly not to the small everyday occurrences. *Parshat Masei* teaches us that this is not so. Every small encampment and every episode of travel that the Jewish people experienced is deemed worthy of inclusion in *Hashem's* holy *Torah*. Even the mundane trips that seemingly lacked any productivity are recorded for eternity to be studied by the entire world. This is because, said Rav Aharon, every step a Jew takes in his life is deemed precious to *Hashem*.

As we approach the nine days and our minds stray to thoughts of *teshuvah*, let us remember that any and every step we take in our service of *Hashem* has infinite repercussions. No *mitzvah* is too small and no step toward *kedushah* can be deemed insignificant. Indeed, if we all take the time to make 'minor' improvements in our daily lives, perhaps the next time we read *Parshat Masei*, it will be in *Yerushalayim Habnuyah*.

Theme Thoughts

This week was the week of *birchot hanehenin*. Between *Brachot Twister*, *Mishkan Graham* crackers, trivia and contests in the dining room, and the new *brachot* decorations in the dining room, the *brachot* theme is in full swing for Machzor Aleph. Machzor Bet has learned about *hakarat hatov* as a corresponding part of the theme!

This past Friday morning marked the beginning, with a video of course, of the *birchot hamitzva* week in camp. This week will focus on the purpose of saying *brachot* on *mitzvot*, as well as awareness as to what the *brachot* are for certain *mitzvot*. In order to introduce those *brachot*, there will be every activity from making *hadlakat neirot* signs for the dining room, to baking and learning the *brachah* for *hafrashat challah*, to much, much, more! Stay tuned!

- IEP

