

Shalhevet

Friday August 8, 2008/ 8 Av, 5768 Parshat Devarim Volume 35, Issue 6



CAMP MORASHA

274 High Lake Road
Lakewood, PA 18439

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Mincha: 6:20 PM

Candle Lighting: 6:52 PM

Shabbat Ends: 7:59PM

We think it's very fitting that the 2008 Summer Olympic games are beginning tonight, August 8. After a week spent at Morasha uniting with our fellow Jews and the community at large (and further uniting with each other), we can now enjoy the world's coming together for its appreciation of each country's top athletes. Of course, it also doesn't hurt that in Morasha the countdown to our own Olympics has begun.

But first let's recount this very important sixth (Can you believe it's the sixth week of camp already?!) week in camp, a week where we tamped down some of our high spirits — there was no music blasting from the pool area, no free swim, no outrageous carnivals or Color Wars — to focus during the nine days on a tremendous amount of *chesed* that took the form of a Jump-a-thon, a Bake Sale and a Blood Drive. There were also the countless random acts of kindness campers and staff do for and with each other on a daily basis, and with the hope of possibly bringing *mashiach* a bit sooner, we'd like to recount some of the caring acts we showed and received this week.



Of course, this *still* is camp, so we still had an awesome time. Some highlights: the Yankee game, of course; the first ever Flag Football Invitational on Tuesday night; Brinner; Project Runway. . . . The list goes on and on. Let's take a closer look:

ping the wood himself early in the mornings.

This rabbi shows us that there is no task we should be unwilling to do to make someone else's life easier. In a world that tells us we owe ourselves everything, this story is a powerful lesson that we owe others more.

As we go into Tisha B'Av, let's make sure the feelings of togetherness we experience in camp spill over to all other areas of our lives so that we strengthen our relationships with our families, other members of *B'nai Yisrael* and the world at large.

Thoughts for Tisha B'Av

Achdut is the theme of this week's *Shalhevet*, because, of course, many say the reason the Second Temple was destroyed was because of *sinat chinam*, baseless hatred, that *B'nai Yisrael* felt for each other.

This summer we've been focusing on the opposite of hatred: *hakarat ha-tov*, which is a feeling of gratefulness we should have for everyone and everything, starting with Hashem, our parents and families, and continuing with each other, the world and even ourselves. This

week's gratitude was for the latter two — nature and our health.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of England, says that the essence of a Jewish life is responsibility. He says that someone else's physical needs are our spiritual obligation, and he tells the story of a *shtetl* rabbi who would not light a fire in his own home unless the poor of his town had wood first. The rabbi's congregants were shocked to find him chon-

ing the wood himself early in the mornings.

This rabbi shows us that there is no task we should be unwilling to do to make someone else's life easier. In a world that tells us we owe ourselves everything, this story is a powerful lesson that we owe others more.

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Gratitude is an Attitude

The *Shalhevet* erred last week in recounting the gratitude theme of the week. Last week was gratitude for our parents, without whom we all wouldn't be here — not on earth, but in camp, of course. We also want to thank them belatedly for making the trek up to camp on Visiting Day and for showering us with all the goodies they brought. So THIS week is gratitude for Nature and our health, but the truth is there was so much gratitude being displayed in camp this week, in so many areas, it's hard to know where to start recounting it. Perhaps with the younger Shtili girls who marched to Gotch's office on Thursday carrying water balloons and shouting, "Let's get Gotch! Let's get Gotch!" They no doubt wanted to show their gratefulness to him by making sure he stayed wet and cool in the hot summer sun. We can also turn to Thursday night's Staff Appreciation Party, an event that allowed the camp to show its gratitude to the group that makes Morasha run as smoothly and as fun-ly as it does. The night began with an inspiring *shiur* by Rabbi Willig and ended with pizza and ice cream. We also want to mention Morasha's annual Chai Lifeline Jump-a-Thon and Blood Drive. What better way to show our gratitude for our lives than by trying, as Rabbi Sacks tells us to do, to improve others'. *Yasher kochachem* to all those who participated in the many amazing programs just mentioned and about to be discussed.

Nitzi Girls

Enjoyed making sundaes out of sand this week in arts and crafts, and the baseball game was awesome! Rock climbing continues to be a hit, with the girls trying ever more difficult walls. Pretty soon they'll be ziplining upside down to DJ's. Brinner was fun, but the cinnamon buns rock as a favorite food. Nitzis played soccer this week in sports and thought the Jump-a-Thon was a blast! Rabbi Slifkin's *shiur* was also really interesting: did you know a *tzvi* is not a deer, but a gazelle, an animal that is plentiful in Israel? Wednesday night was hot canteen, and Thursday night was army night. We loved the water balloon fight, and has anyone seen Gal? Maybe with the jelly beans and marshmallows.



Shtilim Girls

Would you lick the floor? Share a toothbrush? Wash your hair in the toilet? [Ed. Note: Wait.. are parents reading this?] Ask Gotch on a date? Drink oil? If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, you're ready to be a Shtili. The Shtili girls rounded out an awesome week with a Fear Factor-like coed night activity on Thursday night that everyone except Jenni Levin was up for. Only remaining question: Did Gotch say yes to anyone? It's hard to think past Thursday night, but other fun things did happen this past week: most notably Abby Yudin, a younger Shtili girl, won the Girls' Campus Talent Show [Look, she really can sing! We swear!], and the division looks forward to seeing her in the play on Monday! YSG also want to give Janet Weiss an enormous thank you for the awesome baking night activity. The girls had a yummy and fun time. Of course, the week wouldn't be complete without the Shtili hopscotch court, now extended to the Yachad bunks but somewhat smudged by Thursday night because of the water fight Shtili girls did not have when they were supposed to be at . . . Never mind.

Older Shtili girls Alex Feder and Anna Cappell wanted to share this:

This week was a blast! Our great Division Head, Jenni, planned many fun activities. Sunday night we enjoyed showing our talents at the talent show! Monday night we had a scavenger hunt; we ran around camp looking for people [Canteen Head Ed. Note: Is that why those counselors were holed up in the canteen storeroom eating all night?] We sang songs, danced around our waiters and ran to boooys campus! Tuesday night we loved our co-ed night trip to the Scranton Yankee game, even though we spent most of the time chatting. Does anyone know who won? Wednesday night we had fun cooking for Shabbat. We made double-decker brownies, apple crisp and cauliflower popcorn [Ed. Note: I'm sitting at their table on Shabbat.] Thursday night we had a blast at Will They Do It? and then enjoyed hot canteen. Hmmm. We're also looking forward to a nice, relaxing Shabbat!

Ilanot Girls

We know boys don't think girls do anything in triple but buy shoes, but this week the Ilanot girls went into

TRIPLE overtime in baseball leagues, with the C team finally claiming the win!



Ilanot Girls

The *Shalhevet* couldn't get this in in time last week because we only found out about it Friday night, but the Ilanot girls last Shabbat enjoyed home-cooked food from their Division Head, Aileen Mehlman. Last week. ON HER DAY OFF, [it's worth repeating] ON HER DAY OFF, she went home and cooked for her division the following items: cauliflower popcorn, carrot kugel, and an apple-cranberry cobbler. The Ilanot girls enjoyed Aileen's delicious food, but they appreciated her efforts and caring even more [and Aileen didn't even know then what this week's *Shalhevet* theme was going to be!]. After such a memorable Shabbat came a memorable Saturday night activity; the fun never ends for the Ilanot girls. There was a counselor vs. camper basketball game that even included the Division Heads! The counselors won, but a good time was had by all, especially because the game was followed by an ice cream party. Sunday night was Counselor Extreme Make-over. Because someone may actually be reading this, we can't say what people looked like in the end, but the transformations were mind-boggling. Monday night was bowling and Walmart, always a favorite, and Tuesday night, the girls enjoyed freshly-popped popcorn and a drive-in, or rather, sit-in movie on girls campus. Wednesday and Thursday nights were taken up with the hugely successful Project Runway, with the girls first designing and then modeling their creations in a fashion show. Eliana Ogorek sported the winning group's cowel-necked, draped design. Next stop: Paris.

Manhigot

The hike at Sam Point's Preserve that included ice caves and blueberry picking was a real highlight this week and a great way for the Manhigot to appreciate Nature. The girls really enjoyed the outing. Everyone also had a blast jumping for the Chai Lifeline Jump-a-Thon and found the Counselor Switch a lot of fun. Everyone loved the tie-dying night activity and, of course, the minor league baseball game. The Got are looking forward to *High School Musical*, but before they Bop to the Top, they'd like you to read all about the amazing bake sale they had so much fun putting together. It's all retold in "Take a Look at This!"

Alufot

After enjoying a hike through the dense and wild forest, the Alufot emerged from their trek parched and famished and headed straight for the nearest watering holes: Lake Como Pizza and D.J.'s. Doesn't every trail in camp end either there or at Wal-mart? The Counselor Switch — a popular event this week — had everyone on their toes — and at sports on time. Miriam Cohen wants the activity scheduled more times during the summer. The Alufot also enjoyed Machzor Bet's outing to the baseball game, although of course, they're most looking forward to their final adventure of the summer: the Fim/Fot road trip! Kudos to the Alufot girl who took \$100 of her own Bat Mitzvah money and donated it to the Chai Lifeline Jump-a-Thon.



Meanwhile, Seen on Boys' Campus:

Nitzanim

Nitzi boys went Gaga in the Boys Shul on Sunday night and then rocked the Scranton Yankee game. A fun Brinner was followed the next night by a game of Panic, but counselors and campers alike loved tie-dying their clothes during Thursday's night activity. The boys have been tearing up the hockey and basketball courts and then feeding their appetites with their baking creations. This week's: awesome cupcakes!

Shtilim

YSB started off the week with Zvi and Penina switching divisions. The craziness continued with a race to DJ's, which the girls won. The SB also visited the Kollel this week and spoke with Rabbi Willig. An awesome paint war was followed by an awesome Capture the Flag, and of course an ESPN Top 10 of the Week was the Scranton Yankee game. B-6 counselor Shai walked away with a Shabbos walk after a coed night activity with YSG. Update on the outcome in next week's *Shalhevet*. Probably the best part of the week, though, was watching fellow campers share toothbrushes, lick the floor, and wash hair in a toilet [We know we wrote these contests already, but they bear repeating] in a rousing game of Will They Do It?

OSB started off the week with a B-squared (Bunk vs. Bunk) night activity that included Ga-ga, Mi-Knee Hockey, and Spin Around Bat competitions, the last game culled from a camper's list of Top Ten Things Parents Won't Let Me Do in My Basement. The OSB are 8 games into hockey and basketball leagues, and last Friday captured the championship in a 6th and 7th grade Hockey Invitational with Moshava and Seneca. Max Baruch and Jason Strauss coached and Joe Baruch received the MVP award and trophy. Campers and counselors enjoyed the campers' creativity in the night activity, Panic. Favorite skits were the bunks' JC's and Color War Break-out.

Ilanot

Yaakov Kolb [No, we didn't forget to delete from last week; his team won again] led his team to win the Flag Football Championship, while Shloime Goldberg led his team to win the volleyball championship. The 3-on-3 basketball tournament on Thursday night was a blast, and everyone enjoyed the bowling trip where all the Ilanot except Avery Goldstein learned the real rules for the game. After Nachi Kaufman was lost for a week, he returned to find his bed had turned "bunk," but the Ilanot have no idea how that happened. The Ilanot want to express their gratitude to their waiter who finally brought them waffles!



Manhigim

Was the Machzor Aleph vs. Machzor Bet water fight on an official schedule? It needs to be. The Manhigim enjoyed the Scranton Yankee game and found it much more relaxing than the Flag Football Invitational that Morasha hosted for Seneca, Lavi and Neshet the previous night. The Gim also enjoyed the *shiur* by Rabbi Slifkin and want to understand more about what the Torah has to say about animal behavior.



Alufim

If the Alufim had trouble staying awake during Shiria, that certainly wasn't the case Saturday night, when they played sports all night, through the night. Shavuot in August was a huge success (Morasha wants to float the idea of Chanukah in September instead of all the regular *chagim*. Vote results for that in next week's *Shalhevet*.) and the intense all-nighter was perfect prep for an extreme Flag Football game on Tuesday night that Morasha won (Vote results on that in next week's *Shalhevet*). The Alufim are getting ready to take their act on the road; they can't wait to hit Florida!

Yachad

AB can now enjoy the pool along with the rest of his Yachad buddies, and everyone — girls and boys — enjoyed their day at Camp Lavi with Upper Shachal. The division hosted Morasha's Yachad group, who participated in three activities: arts and crafts, learning (about the nine days) and sports. After, the Morasha kids and the Lavi kids ate lunch together. The day was great and one Yachad looks forward to each year. On Friday, Yachad headed to Lavi for more special treatment. This week's nature appreciation was led by Ariel Cohen who taught Yachad about the beauty of Israel and then gave the Yachad kids a taste of the country in the form of falafel. Thanks, Ariel!



TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

Manhigot Bake Sale!

Friday, 3:15-4:00 PM: Hope you stocked up before the fast!

In keeping with the focus on *chesed* this week, the Manhigot organized a Bake Sale. Janet Weiss and her dedicated staff deserve a huge shout-out for creating the baked goods, which the Manhigot decorated and packaged beautifully and artistically. The girls decided they want the money from the sale to go to the Zev Wolf Fund, which is an organization devoted to finding the cure to a rare form of brain cancer that Zev Wolf from the Five Towns contracted. Many of the girls know Zev and feel touched by his tragedy personally. They want to do whatever they can to help him.

We hope you got your goodies. They were:

Rice krispy treats	chocolate chip cookie lollypops	blondies	brownies	sugar cookies
Coffee cakes	marble cakes	oreo cakes	brownie bites	