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SHALHEVET

AUGUST 10-11, 2018 / PARSHAT RE'EH

A Week to Remember!

What another fantastic week here at Morasha! On Sunday, we were thrilled to welcome close to 100 boys and girls to Morasha Mania for three days. Between pool parties, tubing, sports, art and Maccabia races, they had a blast, and we can't wait to welcome them back next summer as Nitzis.

The highlight of our week was Trip Day, with each division embarking on a special excursion out of camp. The Alufim/Fot enjoyed their road trip, flying to Universal Studios in Orlando! From there, they made their way back up the coast, stopping in South Carolina, Virginia and Washington, D.C. for biking, Marine training, and more! The Manhighim/Got traveled to New York City on a whirlwind two-day trip, which included a boat ride, scavenger hunt, dinner at Mendy's, Blue Man Group show, and an unforgettable night sleeping in an arcade. Meanwhile, the Ilanot headed to Lake George for some rafting and action-packed fun.

The Nitzanim and Shtilim boys and girls, as well as Yachad, had an awesome time on their trips! They spent time at Kalahari Adventures ropes course, Camelbeach waterpark, and Skyzone, and also enjoyed ice cream, pizza, and a movie in the afternoon.



On Thursday, we gathered in the Mercazia to watch our annual camp play, "School of Rock." From the singing and dancing, to the scenery and costumes, it was a rockin' production and just another opportunity to let our talented campers shine. Later on Thursday night, staff enjoyed Cafe Night, as well as a special farewell tribute to honor our beloved longtime staff members, Paula and Ira Spodek, who are retiring after serving our camp for an incredible 30 years. We'll miss you!

Friday, we had an amazing Israel-themed day led by our dedicated Mishlachah. We explored Israeli culture through food and song, followed by a camp-wide Tekes in the Mercazia. We are looking forward to our last Shabbos of Summer 2018 and can't wait for the final week of camp! Did someone say Color War?! Shabbat Shalom!

Looking Back at Summer 2018: Closing Interview with Director Jeremy Jozsef

What made Morasha 2018 so awesome? While I often get the credit, I work with an incredible team of staff members. It's our staff who work on the front lines that create the magical atmosphere in Morasha. The kudos goes to them.

If you had to describe Morasha in one word, what would it be? Home.



Is there a place in camp that you have yet to visit/experience? Believe it or not, I've never been on the paintball course! I helped design it, but haven't entered the course since its creation in 2012. G-d willing, next summer will be the summer! Junior Staff vs. Senior Staff?

Can you describe a personal highlight of this summer? I'd say the surprise party for MDB takes the cake. Empowering the campers themselves to create such a special moment is priceless.

If you could spend more time outside your office, where would you go?

I'd love to spend more time interacting with all the campers on a daily basis. So, it would simply be to go to each campus, connect with campers, and just see how their day, week, or summer is going.

How did the new Dining Hall/Canteen help enhance the summer?

To have a facility that the entire camp can sing in, dance in, connect to one another in -- that's just an awesome improvement for the camp. And it certainly doesn't hurt that it's air conditioned!

Can we get any sneak peeks into what's in store for 2019?

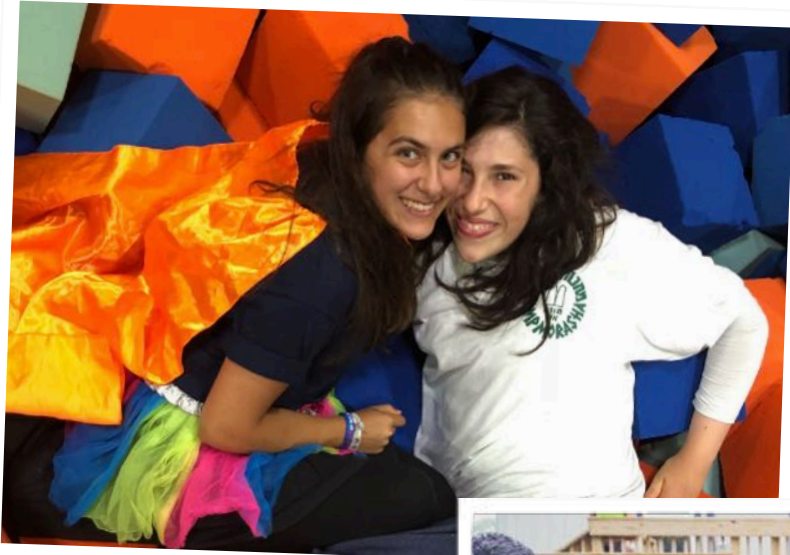
You'll have to wait and see for that one... but let's just say we hope it's going to go swimmingly :)

Parting words as summer 2018 comes to an end? It's that summer never ends. We might have to leave Morasha, but Morasha doesn't leave us. We view everyone as part of the Morasha family -- and family sticks together year round.

FIM/FOT ROAD TRIP!



TRIP DAY!



SCHOOL OF ROCK!





Parshat Re'eh: When Less is More

Sometimes You CAN Have Too Much of a Good Thing

by Dr. Deena R. Zimmerman, Camp Doctor

This week's parsha includes one of a number of commandments that appear only in the book of Devarim. This commandment is a prohibition to add to or subtract from the mitzvot. In translation, the verse in our parsha reads "All that I have commanded you, you shall observe to do it, do not add to it and do not subtract from it (Devarim 13:1). This commandment is striking because it actually appears twice in Devarim. The other time was back in Parshat Va'etchanan, "Do not add on what I have commanded you and do not subtract from it to observe the commandments of Hashem your God which I am commanding you (Devarim 4:2). Why do these commandments show up only in Devarim and why does it appear twice?

One explanation of why it appears only in Devarim, as I heard from Rav Gideon Binyamin of Yeshivat Shaalvim, can be learned from the context. The verse preceding the first mention states " Now Israel, listen to the edicts (chukim) and laws (mishpatim) which I am teaching you to do so you shall live, and come into and inherit the land which Hashem your God is giving to you. Bnei Yisrael are about to enter a new reality, living according to the laws of nature in the Land of Israel. They might have felt that in these new surroundings, the mitzvot need adjustment. Certain commandments that "felt right" in the miraculous surrounding of the desert may no longer be needed and others might need some adding on to. Therefore, the Torah comes to tell us that the Torah will continue to be observed the way it was commanded, no more and no less.

By why do we need to be reminded of this twice? The difference between the two references is lost in the translation, but in Hebrew, the first is in the plural and the second is in the singular. Thus, it is possible that the first is to Bnei Yisrael as group. The circumstances of the entire nation is changing and they need to be warned not to change their practice. The second is speaking to the individual. With the feeling of power that comes with living in an independent country, can come the sense that the individual is entitled to tweak the mitzvot to the new reality. Therefore, as hinted by the fact that this verse precedes the rules against listening to false prophets who try to change commandments, the Torah has to tell individuals that they do not have the authority to make such adjustments. Only an authorized rabbinical body can modify the tradition, and even then only with good reason. Our job is to invest our energy into keeping the mitzvot as they are meant to be kept, no less and also no more.