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The AREIVIM Times

SUMMER 2016, ISSUE 3 | PARSHAS BALAK

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Week 3 - The Place to Be!

I can't imagine a better place to have been this past week other than Camp Areivim! So much was going on - special activities, leagues, trips - it was simply awesome!

Monday began the week with Super Splash Bros and Super Splash Bros. was a super hit! It was the card game of War amped up to a splash competition! Each round of War played resulted in the winning player splashing a (small) cup of water into his opponents face! Beginning with the counselors "testing the waters" campers surrounded the cafeteria stage in anticipation of becoming the next contestant. 12 contestants were chosen by Rabbi Bennett and Rabbi Greenfield and, as pairs, competed in 3 exciting rounds of War. "I was chosen as a competitor and had a great time playing! It was so exciting with everyone watching!" said one 7th grader.

But that wasn't the end of it! Not at all! After the 6 matches were played, the 6 winners competed in part 2 of Super Splash Bros. - a 3 Point Competition! 3 "baskets" were arranged in the lunchroom, each with a different amount of points attached to it. In the end, it was a 3-way tie!!! Which took us to the Speed Shot challenge as the 3 winners faced off in a 3-point speed shot challenge! It was a great competition but, in the end, congrats to Ezra Katz!!!

Leagues were incredibly intense as teams continue to vie for the top seed of their division. With Playoffs and Championships coming up next week, teams are putting in their all to take that coveted 1st seed! Read more about

Leagues in Rabbi Greenfield's League Updates.

Tuesday was another special activity day for the Senior Division. When asked about the new special activities added to the Senior Program, one 5th grader responded, "I love the activities! Sometimes I get picked and even if I don't, it's so much fun watching and cheering on the boys that participate. It's always exciting to hear what activity we'll be doing because we never know beforehand."

Tuesday's activity was the anticipated Minute-To-Win-It! What a fun time we had! Tuesday's Minute-To-Win-It (MTWI) was the inaugural MTWI of this summer season, but there will be many more to come! Campers were chosen to compete in a cup stacking competition. They needed to stack and de-stack a pyramid of 36 cups in under a minute! It was VERY hard, but campers did a great job at it! Not to worry, we'll try again soon!

Wednesday, the Senior Division trekked out to Brooklyn and took over Marine Park!



Week 3 - The Place to Be!

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Arriving at Wheels of Fun, campers were divided into groups and onto the track they went! Some were in 4 or 6 person trollies, while other opted for single or double wheeled contraptions. Campers started with a competitive scavenger hunt but then evolved into free riding for all. Campers switched from one vehicle to another and, together with their counselors, had so much fun and made a big Kiddush Hashem! In fact, Oliver, the manager at the facility, related to Rabbi Bennett that Camp Areivim was the best behaved group he's ever had! Amazing! After returning to Camp with ices awaiting them, campers got to take a refreshing dip in the pool before heading home for the day.

Thursday was another fantastic day in Camp! Rabbi Bennett wasn't kidding when he said he would bring MTWI back and brought it back on Thursday! And, in fact, we had a big winner. Congratula-

tions to Chaim Shalom Mermelstein! But that was just the beginning of an amazing day! Leagues were incredible with the 4th and 5th Grade Division playing baseball as Rabbi Hersh and Rabbi Bennett umped!

Following a packed day, the MIT Division stayed late for an amazing late night in camp! A delicious barbeque was provided replete with hot dogs and hamburgers and full use of the fields exclusively to the MIT's! "I had a great time at the late night for the MITs," commented one 8th grader, "I hope we do it again this summer!"

The highlight of the evening was definitely the MIT versus staff volleyball game! It was a close game, but the Green Monster could not be conquered and the staff pulled away with the win.

Friday was a gorgeous day replete with

Erev Shabbos cholent and kugel and our special Shabbos Program and raffles. Rabbi Bennett and Rabbi Greenfield broke out a spontaneous kumzits with their guitars following Shacharis. Chappin arein before the 3 weeks, it was a fitting way to bring in Shabbos Kodesh. **Be sure to check out our weekly email. There is a special surprise attached to the email!**

HAKARAS HATOV

A reminder that our 1st trip ends next week. Please show your hakaras hatov to our staff who have really gone above and beyond and have given your children an amazing summer experience. A suggested tip schedule is included with this week's newsletter.

- Rabbi Yossi Bennett

League Updates

You can put it on the board.....YES! I can't believe it but we are already half way through Season 1 of Areivim Leagues 2016! It's been a blur of excitement, geshmake and of course achdus! So let's jump right into it.

The competition in the 4th and 5th grade conference has been nothing short of amazing. Our campers along with their incredible counselors have really raised the bar this year! The excitement, chanting and smiles all around have been such a pleasure to watch. Keep it up! There was an amazing game of football between the Rocky roads and Salted Caramels. It was tied going into the last minute of play when Akiva Applebaum caught a Touchdown pass to win the game! The Salted Caramel's Menashe Morgenstern had 2 incredible sacks pushing the opposing quarterback back to the 1 yard line!! At our Rink the Mocha Fudge and Cookies and Cream played an intense game of Hockey. J.J. Rabinowitz of the Cookies and Cream had just scored an amazing goal when he walked to the face off Gavriel Jacobowitz of the Mocha Fudge went over to him and gave him a big high five. What achdus!!

In the 6th 7th & 8th the leagues are second to none. The competition has been at its highest with exciting nail biters and incredible athletic achievements. In a riveting game of volleyball between the Mountain Creeks and the Catskills the match went down to the wire. Yitzzy Mishler and Avigdor Benhaim kept exchanging highlight reel spikes. Benzion Spira and Yisrael Wolf kept the volleys going for the Mountain Creeks, while Doobi Kaluszynier and Eliezer Applebaum kept it going for the Catskills. The football game between the Poconos and the Dorney Parks at our turf field was one of the best games we've had all year! The score went back and forth with Dovid Gordon as quarterback Nachi Sklar catching everything that came his way. Menachem Finkel put his team up with two picks for TDs. But just when you thought it was over Yechiel GUberman returned an interception for a touchdown and with one minute remaining Moshe Kamin threw a strike to Ari Baum for the game tying touchdown!!

It's hard to imagine how it can get better from here but we can't wait!!!

Have an amazing Shabbos!!!

Rabbi Tsvi Greenfield

Something to Say at the Tish

Rabbi Tzvi Finkel

After trying twice unsuccessfully to curse Klal Yisroel, Bilaam prepares a third time hoping for better results. The posuk says "וישא בלעם את עיניו וירא את ישראל שוכן לשבטיו ותהי עליו רוח אלוקים" Bilaam saw the way Klal Yisroel was camped and, instead of cursing them, gives a beautiful Bracha. We start off davening every morning with the words of Bilaam למה טובו אוהליך יעקב משכנותיך ישראל.

What exactly did Bilaam see that inspired him to give this Bracha?

Rashi explains that there were two things he noticed. Firstly, he saw how each Shevet was living on their own and that the doors of the tents were not facing each other, thereby preventing people from seeing into the tent of their neighbor. The beauty of not being able to see into someone else's tent brings out the level of kedushah and tzniyus Bnei Yisroel were holding on. Bilaam thought that such a nation is worthy of blessing. It is a beautiful thing when everyone is able to live with their own shevet; that everyone is comfortable with their own family, their tradition and their Derech in Avodas Hashem. No one is looking over their shoulder to see how others do things because they are embarrassed of who they are and what they stand for. Automatically, when one is comfortable with himself, he does not need to look into his neighbor's tent. He is not interested in seeing what his latest purchase was, what type of car he is driving, etc. because he doesn't feel the need to imitate. This is what Bilaam was referring to when he said למה טובו אוהליך ישראל - how beautiful are the tents of Yaakov.

Parsha Questions: Parshas Balak

1. Why did Moav consult specifically with Midian regarding their strategy against the Jews?

22:4 - Since Moshe grew up in Midian, the Moavim thought the Midianim might know wherein lay Moshe's power.

2. What was Balak's status before becoming Moav's king?

22:4 - He was a prince of Midian.

3. Why did Hashem grant prophecy to the evil Bilaam?

22:5 - So the other nations couldn't say, "If we had had prophets, we also would have become righteous."

4. Why did Balak think Bilaam's curse would work?

22:6 - Because Bilaam's curse had helped Sichon defeat Moav.

5. When did Bilaam receive his nevu'os?

22:8 - Only at night.

6. Hashem asked Bilaam, "Who are these men with you?" What did Bilaam deduce from this question?

22:9 - He mistakenly reasoned that Hashem isn't all-knowing.

7. How do we know Bilaam hated the Jews more than Balak did?

22:11 - Balak wanted only to drive the Jews from the land. Bilaam sought to exterminate them completely.

8. What is evidence of Bilaam's arrogance?

22:13 - He implied that Hashem wouldn't let him go with the Moabite princes due to their lesser dignity.

9. In what way was the malach that opposed Bilaam a malach of mercy?

22:22 - It mercifully tried to stop Bilaam from sinning and destroying himself.

10. How did Bilaam die?

22:23 - He was killed with a sword.

11. Why did the malach kill Bilaam's donkey?

22:33 - So that people shouldn't see it and say, "Here's the donkey that silenced Bilaam." Hashem is concerned with human dignity.

12. Bilaam compared his meeting with a malach to someone else's meeting with a malach. Who was the other person and what was the comparison?

22:34 - Avraham. Bilaam said, "Hashem told me to go but later sent a malach to stop me. The same thing happened to Avraham: Hashem told Avraham to sacrifice Yitzchak but later canceled the command through a malach."

13. Bilaam told Balak to build seven altars. Why specifically seven?

23:4 - Corresponding to the seven altars built by the Avos. Bilaam said to Hashem, "The Jewish People's ancestors built seven altars, but I alone have built altars equal to all of them."

14. Who in Jewish history seemed fit for a curse, but got a blessing instead?

23:8 - Yaakov, when Yitzchak blessed him.

15. Why are the Jewish People compared to lions?

23:24 - They rise each morning and "strengthen" themselves to do mitzvos.

16. On Bilaam's third attempt to curse the Jews, he changed his strategy. What was different?

24:1 - He began mentioning B'nei Yisroel's sins, hoping thus to be able to curse them.

17. What were Bilaam's three main characteristics?

24:2 - An evil eye, pride and greed.

18. What did Bilaam see that made him decide not to curse the Jews?

24:2 - He saw each shevet dwelling without intermingling. He saw the tents arranged so no one could see into his neighbor's tent.

19. What phrase in Bilaam's self-description can be translated in two opposite ways, both of which come out meaning the same thing?

24:3 - "Shatum ha'ayin." It means either "the poked-out eye," implying blindness in one eye; or it means "the open eye", which means vision but implies blindness in the other eye.

20. Bilaam told Balak that the Jews' Hashem hates what?

24:14 - Immorality.



I AM ALBERTA



ALPHA