

פרשת בהר-בחקתי
May 19, 2017

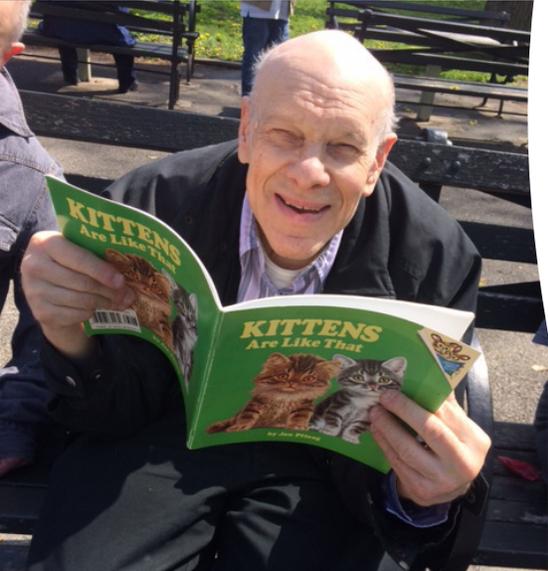
Lag B'Omer Event...

Sunday was the real day of Lag B'Omer. But here at Otsar, the true and fabulous celebration only began on Monday. **Hindy**, with her wondrous ideas, had staff and participants set up the main room with a large simulated bonfire. The bonfire, as **Hindy** explained loudly on the microphone in a story form, represents the light of wisdom **Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai** had illuminating from the eternal fire of the Torah. As Monday early afternoon approached, we welcomed once again **Mr. Levy**, the DJ man with his savvy and massive equipment performing an amazing music mix!! The look-alike flames waved back and forth glowing with light. **Mr. Levy** released powerful and persuasive music that inspired many of us to partake like we never did before. In addition to our usual group and partner dancing, **Yanky** shook the wooden rattles while **Rena** danced at his side. **Harold** jumped right in to a circle of men swinging his hands while enthusiastically letting his feet move to the beat. **Hindy** prepared a "Guess Who" game, which again, with just the right music in the background, all of us participated well. The music was the source of all the greatness that went on during this event which only helped bring out **Hindy's** last fun activity. Staff chose **Lila** and **Chayala** to start raveling two long white fabric pieces until everyone was connected by holding a piece of the fabric. The fabric connection at our day hab symbolized unity, respect and kindness among all people. And friendship begins at Otsar!! We graciously thanked **Hindy** and **Mr. Levy** for a most memorable time!!!

Paperclips...

Counting, counting, and more counting. We already made over 100 packs of paper clips in groups of 100! And we have about 80 left to go as we strengthen





our counting skills! **Francine, Roger, and Chayala** spent Tuesday afternoon transferring our already counted piles into fresh bags and when they finished all 100 of them, they continued making more piles. Francine laid out 20 groups of 5 each and counted to make sure that it was all correct. Roger and Chayala also made sure that there weren't less than 100 in each bag as they don't want any of the girls receiving these Succos charts to be at a loss over Yom Tov if there is less than what they need! **Mrs. Greenfield** from Vishnitz Girls School called to check up on the charts and expressed her immense gratitude for our diligent volunteers. As we watch the pile of completed bags growing, we smile in satisfaction!

Reading Group in the Park...

If you checked the room on Tuesday afternoon where our Tuesday's reading group usually congregates you would have found it empty! Staff took advantage of the gorgeous weather on Tuesday and relocated this phenomenal, discussion provoking group to the park benches around the corner and across the street. After taking turns reading from different books, **Judy P.** took out a book that she brought from her house called Living Emunah. She read two lessons which lead to lively discussions regarding being happy with what life gives you. **Yanky** and **Harold** begged for more and Judy decided to leave it here so we can benefit from it at least once a week! We are looking forward!

In the Kitchen...

We were very busy in the kitchen this week. On Tuesday, we had turkey and brown rice for lunch, so we made some savory zucchini in tomato sauce to go with it. We chopped some onions and threw them in a pot with some oil and had the onions sauté. Then we gathered our zucchini, rolled up our sleeves and got started. We cut off the ends and began to peel. When all the zucchini were peeled we sliced them, not too thick not too thin but just right. We added our zucchini slices to our onions which were starting to become a perfect golden hue. We let all this steam till the zucchini was starting to soften. We then added some tomato sauce, spices, and



some mushrooms for added flavor. In the afternoon we pulled out the mixer and made a classic favorite. Chocolate chip cookies! We turned on the oven to 350. While the oven was preheating, we got started on the cookies. We first mixed in the flour, Splenda, vanilla extract, and all the other ingredients. When the batter was soft and smooth we added lots of chocolate chips. We formed the raw cookie dough into balls and placed them on cookie sheets. We popped the pans into the hot ovens and watched as they baked to delicious perfection. We took them out to cool and served them for snack. They were one of the absolute best cookies we've ever had.

On Wednesday we had lots to do as we had made homemade pizza from scratch, fresh vegetable salad, apple cake and cheese sandwiches for Thursday's lunch. We first started with our pizza dough. We put in flour, yeast, water, a bit of oil and kneaded the dough. We then set it aside to rise. While the dough was rising, we got started on our vegetable salad. We sliced and chopped peppers, tomatoes, and cucumbers. We made sure to set aside some peppers to be used as toppings for the pizza. When the salad was done our pizza dough was ready. We rolled out the dough and placed it on cookie sheets to make pizza squares. We spread marinara sauce and sprinkled lots of shredded mozzarella cheese all over the dough. We then took our chopped peppers, and some mushrooms and topped the pizzas with them for delicious vegetable pizza. We placed them into our very hot ovens. We then quickly peeled apples for the afternoon group to use in the apple cake. By the time we were done peeling the apples the pizza was bubbling and ready to eat. In the afternoon we got out the mixer and made a batter for our apple cake. We then took our peeled apples and cored and slice them. We slowly and gently folded them in and poured the batter into greased pans. While the apple cakes were baking we put together Thursday's lunch of cheese sandwiches and vegetable sticks to take on our trip. We were very busy but very accomplished.