



ROSH HASHANA EDITION!

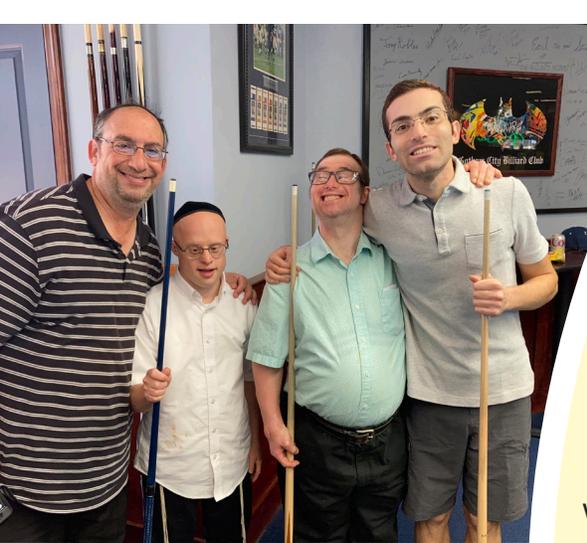
פרשת נצבים
September 23, 2022

This week in review!

The Chevra have been preparing for Rosh Hashanah for the past few weeks. A few weeks ago we went to a Shofar workshop. We have been putting the Shofars built by our own hands from that very class in good use. Every morning before the group leaves to **Rabbi Gross**, the staff, namely **Nachum** and some of the guys lead us with the daily shofar blowing. The guys have been practicing their shofar blowing skills! We then gave each other brachos that everyone should be blessed with a sweet new year. It's really nice to see!

On Wednesday the Chevra went on our annual apple picking trip to Alstade Farms in Chester, New Jersey. Upon arriving at the farm, there was a nice picnic area. We sat down and ate our lunch that we packed with us prior to leaving. After our filling lunch, we each got our own bucket and headed out to the apple fields at the farm and hand-picked our own juicy delicious apples. There were so many choices of different kinds of apples to choose from. It ranged from rows of yellow, red, multi-color, Macintosh, Gala, Golden Delicious and more. Our biggest problem was deciding which variety of apples to fill our buckets with! As it is every year it was amazing to see all the rows of apple trees that seem to never end. Some of us literally picked an apple right off from the tree, made a bracha and ate it all up (don't worry of course we asked permission and it was granted). The apples were delicious! Even though we can buy apples at our local grocery there is nothing like a crispy freshly picked apple right off the tree. Afterwards, the group went on a hayride which took us all around the farm. We really enjoyed the scenic views





with a bump or two along the way. To top it all off, the weather was gorgeous which added to this festive Rosh Hashanah trip.

Back at the Chevra, in our kitchen we baked delicious honey cookies with **Anat**. Once the cookies were finished baking, none of us could withstand the aroma coming from the ovens and so we ate them that day for our snack.

We also baked our own round challahs in honor of Rosh Hashanah. After we finished making the dough, we each rolled it out, shaped it into a round challah and then it was sent off to the oven. While the challahs were in the oven, everyone was saying that they can't wait to try a piece of the challah. For this one though we kept our composure and the challahs were brought home. Hope that everyone enjoys it!

Last week, the group headed back to the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music for our weekly music class. Our new music therapist this year is **Jake Rosenberg**. Jake has many years of experience and we are looking forward to a successful year of music. Jake has many different songs that he is introducing to the group and he added some additional musical instruments for the guys to use during the music class. They are really enjoying the class.

As you already know, during Covid the Chevra was mainly davening with our minyan here at Otsar. Recently, the Chevra started heading back to the community shul to daven mincha with a minyan, such as at Landau's in Flatbush and Shomer Shabbos in Boro Park. We will also IY'H will begin to soon daven Shachris at the Landua's shul on Monday's and Thursday's in the near future. We are really excited about this and will update you when it begins.

Speaking of post Covid news, the Chevra was so excited when we were given the official word that masks were no longer required to be worn on the van and at the program! Immediately, in a dramatic fashion the Chevra took off their masks and threw it in the garbage! It took a few days for us to become comfortable without the mask on



if you could believe it. We all felt that we were missing a piece of our clothing without the mask attached to our face. May we continue to only share in good health and happiness!

After the Chevra finished eating lunch this Tuesday, **Chaim Gans** was given the floor and prepared a beautiful D'var Torah in honor of his mother's Yahrzeit. Chaim spoke with us about how the Chofetz Chaim was patient and wasn't quick to judge another person as well as being very careful not to speak Lashon Hara. Chaim then tied it all in beautifully by mentioning that his mother had many of the good traits just like the Chofetz Chaim had. After Chaim finished speaking about his mother, he gave cookies out to all of us, so we can make a bracha in honor of his mother. May Chaim's mother's Neshama have an Aliyah!

Interesting news:

We had our zoom session with **Mr. Kadoch** as we do every Wednesday together with **Reb Ekster**. During the zoom, the Chevra was really in for a surprise. Mayer asked the group a question "Can you guys guess who I met up with here in Eretz Yisroel?" To our surprise, Mr. Kadoch shared a picture of himself together with **Yidi Furst!** The group could not believe their eyes when they saw this picture. We were all so excited to see Yidi all the way in Eretz Yisroel and then to top it off, he was able to meet up with Mayer. When Yidi eventually returned to the Chevra after his trip the first thing he told everyone was that he saw Meyer in Eretz Yisroel! We learned that Yidi and Mr. Kadoch when around Geula and had a falafel lunch! Who will Mr. Kadoch see next?!

Mechy shared with all of us that Queen Elizabeth recently passed away and it's a very sad time. Mechy told us all that she was good to the Jewish people and it's a big loss. Thank you Mechy for standing up and sharing this important news with us!

Have a great Shabbos and a K'siva V'chasima Tova!

Mr. Kerper



Thoughts from Parshas Ki Savo:

The Parsha begins with the commandment of Bikkurim. The farmer is to take his first ripened fruits to the Bais Hamikdash & present them to the Kohen. The Midrash teaches us that it was in the merit of the bringing of the first fruits that the world was created. What is so significant about Bikkurim? Man was placed in the world with the mission of recognizing his creator. The problem is that we are conquering space, closing deals, creating products & erecting buildings. It comes to a point that we think we are G-d like. The purpose of Bikkurim is to show that everything is from Hashem. [Source- A Minute Vort- vol. 2- Rabbi Eli Scheller- Menucha pub.-

718-232-0856]

Shabbat Shalom!

Rabbi Gross

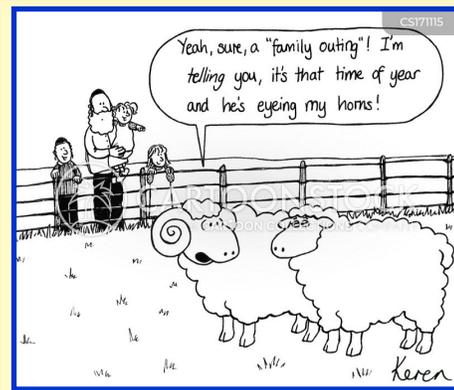
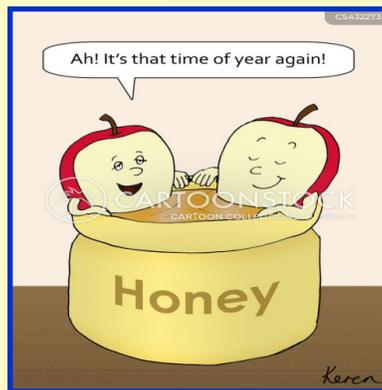
A few jokes for you...

Q. Why do bees have sticky hair?

A. Because they use honeycomb!

Q. What type of bow can never be tied?

A. A Rainbow!



Cheura Goes Apple Picking!



Chevera Goes Apple Picking!

