

פרשת אמור
May 12, 2017

This Week in Review

The Chevra had a major exercise drive this week as we took advantage of the beautiful weather every day. We switched things up each time to keep it interesting and different for everyone. We went to Marine Park, Brooklyn Bridge Park, and on Sunday, we even went to a park in Long Island for a picnic lunch! Sometimes, we just walked the trail or played a nice game of Frisbee and soccer.

The Chevra went to Costco this week where they helped shop for supplies for Otsar. The Chevra enjoyed going through the aisles and picking out what was on our shopping list.

Last week, we celebrated **Shamshon's** birthday. His parents sent him in with a delicious cake and even some chips for snack the next day. Shamshon felt very proud to be the center of attention while everyone sang Happy Birthday and gave him Brachos.

We took a trip down to Toys R Us and purchased a couple of games to add to our increasing skills games collection. These games are great to have because whenever we have a few minutes between activities, everyone can pick something new and exciting to stimulate their minds and socialize while doing something fun.

The Chevra will be joining the Great Lag B'Omer Parade this coming Sunday along with hundreds of other Yidden from all over. There will be some high profile musical guests there along with other exciting festivities. Everyone is excited to go down to 770 near the location of the parade. It should be a great day for all.

This week, **Chaim, Shamshon, Gavriel, Tzvi** and **Lipa** all enjoyed the walks





and various sports activities at the many different parks the Chevra went to. **Akiva, Mechy** and **Evan** all helped out getting big and small items alike during our Costco trip. **Yidi, Jeffrey, Shmuel** and **Hudi** all enjoyed the Shiurim given by **Rabbi Kraus**. They learned about the Parsha of the week as well some Perkei Avos and some talks about Sefiras Haomer. **Simcha** and **Shlomo** did a great job at packing up the Aishe! boxes so that everyone can get the deliveries out on time.

Good Shabbos!

Learning with Rabbi Kraus...

Parshas Emor

It's written in this week's Parsha in the first Pasuk, "You should tell to the Kohanim and the sons of Aharon that the soul should not become Tamei to you."

The question is as follows: Why does it refer to a living thing when it talks about becoming Tamei? They use the word "soul" (nefesh) instead of using the word "meis" (dead person). Why? The Torah obviously wants to teach us something.

Let's explain through a story. In the 1950's, there was a famous doctor. Back in those days, a patient drew a number and when their number was called, it was their turn to see the doctor. When this particular doctor worked at this hospital, he started getting to know people's names and learning about their stories and everyday lives. It dawned on him that these people have different jobs and different stories and are valuable people! It bothered the doctor that these patients were being called by numbers rather than names. So what did he do? He started to call these people by their names. At first, the nurses were confused. He explained to them that people are people should be referred to by their names, not a number. As a general rule now, this is how hospitals



call their patients to see the doctor - by their names and not numbers.

This teaches us that no matter what situation you're in, you are still a human being with feelings and have to be treated with respect.

There was a famous story in Jerusalem with a very Chashuv Yerushalmie lady named **Mrs. Guttman**. She was very famous for taking care of orphans. She even told her children to take care of them and, together, she and her children helped many people. One day, she wasn't feeling well and went to the doctor. They told her that she had a terrible sickness and didn't have much time to live. However, she came home and acted as if nothing happened. After a while, her children found out from the doctor that she had this illness and started crying profusely. She told her children that they shouldn't be upset because when she goes to Gan Eden, it will be like a Chasuna and told them to stop crying. She passed away two years later and as her Levaya was taking place on a Motzei Shabbos, it happened to be that there was a Hachnasas Sefer Torah celebration going on at the same time across the street from the funeral home. The Shul members were singing and dancing, and over a thousand people were there at the same time as her Levaya. Hashem arranged it this way just as she told her children that on the day of her passing, she would be greeted with singing and dancing like a Chasuna.

The Torah teaches us here that a Kohein should not become Tamei through a dead person. It doesn't use the term "dead person" but rather uses the word "soul" to teach us that the person who passed away is still valuable and important to Hashem and to the Jewish people and, therefore, should be treated with respect. This shows us how much more so we should respect each other while we are still alive.

Good Shabbos,

Rabbi Kraus



Our Discussions around the Table...

As we ate our lunch, we talked about what everyone's favorite part about Lag B'omer is...

- **Tzvi** said he likes listening to music and going to see a bonfire.
- **Chaim** is very excited to hang out with the people in Crown Heights and enjoy the bonfire together.
- **Shmuel** said this Lag B'omer is his favorite one because he has a family Chasunah that day! Mazel Tov!
- **Hudi** said he likes to see the bonfires.
- **Jeffrey** mentioned that he likes to have a good time on Lag B'omer and see the big fires.
- **Mechy** likes going to BBQ's!
- **Shlomo** said he wants to daven in honor of **Rav Shimon Bar Yochai** and celebrate in front of a fire.
- **Lipa** likes seeing all the trucks and different floats at the Great Parade!
- **Yidi** is excited to go to Monroe this Sunday to continue his Lag B'omer celebration!
- **Simcha's** favorite thing to do is shave and get a haircut!
- **Gavriel** is excited to go to the Great Parade with the Chevra.
- **Evan** is excited to go to different parties and listen to music.
- **Akiva** said he likes going to 18th Avenue to see all the different trucks and bonfires.
- **Shamshon** said he likes listening to regular music and going to bonfires.

A Joke for you...

Q: What does a nosey pepper do?

A: Gets jalapeno business!

Q: Can February March?

A: No. But April May.