



## SHABBATON EDITION!



פרשת בחקתי  
May 31, 2024

### This week in review!

It's been an exciting few weeks here at the Chevra to say the least! Of course, as we all know our biggest highlight was the Shabbaton which will be discussed in action packed detail, hold on to your seats!

Prior to the Shabbaton, the Chevra went to a NY Mets game! On the way, we stopped off at Forest Park in Queens for a nice lunch. We then all hopped back into the van and headed on over to Citi Field. Once we arrived at the stadium, the Chevra and the staff could not help but notice how impressive everything felt and looked. The beautiful field and freshly cut grass were a sight to see. It was amazing to see over 40,000 fans in the stadium from all the different angles. The weather was great! Speaking of the weather, it was a perfect 74 degrees and mostly sunny. We were lucky to have some of our seats in a nice shady area as there was a cool breeze blowing. Once in our seats, **Tzvi L, Lipa, Evan** and others from the Chevra led us with the chanting of "Let's go Mets" during the game! Before we knew it, our entire section joined in and were screaming out together with us, "Let's go Mets"! The score was close for most of the game but in the end the Phillies ending up winning. We had a great time watching the Mets play while cheering them on! We all had a great time at the ballpark by kicking back and relaxing with everyone together.

Here at the Chevra, we are keeping up with our plants that we planted a few weeks ago. The guys are continuously checking up on the plants and watering them when needed. Already we are seeing some leaves that started sprouting and are looking forward to continuing to watch them grow until they are ready to be picked and then eventually eaten as a part of our salad!

On Monday, in honor of Lag Ba'omer the Chevra went on a group outing to Bowl 360 lanes! We were originally planned to have a go-karting trip but since it rained, we went bowling instead and guess what? The Chevra had such a great time! Each of the guys had their name on the big screen above each lane and waited until their name appeared on the screen to bowl their turn. The excitement that each of the guys had when their name came up on the screen was nice to see. So many of the guys bowled great. During one of **Akiva's** turns, he turned around backwards and rolled the ball from in between his feet and guess what, he got







a strike! We were all so thrilled for him and we gave him high fives. You should have seen his smile. Overall, we had a great time spending some quality time together.

Now on to the main event. As you all know the Chevra went on an unforgettable Shabbaton with Yeshiva Mesivta Ateres Yaakov at Camp Romimu. The Chevra had a super uplifting Shabbos that will be hard to forget! On Friday morning when everyone arrived at the Chevra with their luggage, there was such excitement radiating from everyone's faces in anticipation for the Shabbaton. We then split the groups up, double checked that we had everything, and made our way to Camp Romimu in Monticello, NY. It was a nice and relaxing drive with beautiful views and cool breezes along the way coming from the mountain air. The weather was gorgeous during the weekend. Once we finally arrived, we got started with a quick lunch at the camp grounds. Afterwards we went to the gym to play basketball as well as stopped off at the game room to unwind before getting ready for Shabbos. As it was getting closer to Shabbos, the Chevra guys showered, put on their special Shabbos clothing and headed to the Bais Midrash for Mincha and Kabalas Shabbos. The atmosphere was very uplifting with singing and dancing together with the entire yeshiva.

This year the guest speaker at the Shabbaton was one that we were all familiar with. It was our very own **Rabbi Rabinowitz Shilta!** Yes, that's correct, **Shlomo's** father and it was such a surprise for Shlomo and the Chevra when we saw him at the Shabbaton! We were so excited when he was introduced and then stood up at the podium to speak! He gave a Drasha in between Mincha and Kabalas Shabbos. There were at least 250 people in the Shul, which was an amazing site to see and be a part of. Rabbi Rabinowitz spoke about how special Shabbos is and the many ways that we can count down to Shabbos in order to greet the special day with excitement. Rabbi Rabinowitz also spoke again after Mincha on Shabbos afternoon and gave the whole yeshiva and Chevra an inspiring lesson. To sum up the speech, it was about a quiet boy named Chaim in a yeshiva that taught everyone a valuable lesson on how to daven with the proper Kavanah. While Chaim was learning about Chana and giving to the poor other students in the room had trouble understanding that particular part that was being taught. Chaim raised his hand and explained that part by saying that until you daven to Hashem like your starving and begging Hashem for just a piece of bread to survive, that is the kind of davening and passion a person should have in his heart that we should all daven with. The Rabbi was amazed by that explanation from Chaim and this became known as "Chaim's Tefillah". There were many stories when people were struggling and asked Hashem for something, but unfortunately weren't answered with the results that





they were looking for. After many people have tried davening with the proper Kavanah, known as Chaim's Tefillah, they were granted to see great results, particularly with having children. This was truly an amazing story and a great lesson!

The Drasha was then followed by a wonderful Seudas Shabbos with Zemiros and delicious food. After everyone enjoyed a good night's sleep, on Shabbos morning, the Chevra guys were on time for Shachris and some even woke up extra early to get a cup of coffee before heading to Shul. After davening, we had a very nice Kiddush.

When the Kiddush was over there was still some time before Shabbos lunch so we exchanged some words of Torah and spoke about the Parsha. One of our staff members, **Nachum R** sat with the Chevra and learned some Daf Yomi with them and they very much enjoyed. After lunch everyone decided to rest up a bit. Once everyone was refreshed with renewed energy we took a walk down to the famous lake area to check out the beautiful scenery. While we were at the lake, some of the guys even reminded Hillel about the previous Shabbaton's when they were enjoying the nice scenic views, they did some relaxing exercises. And of course we kept with this tradition. We started by having everyone take a deep breath while closing their eyes and listened to the sounds of nature around us. The meditation was nice and relaxing.

The action continued with a beautiful Havdalah where the Menahel, **Rabbi Yaffe**, took out his guitar and started playing. While the singing was going on, the students from Mesivta Ateres Yaakov took the Chevra guys and danced with them. It was really very nice!

We then followed with sports on the camp grounds and some even stayed up for a midnight BBQ. We made sure not to eat too much since it was late and we were going to sleep soon. When it was over the Chevra left the dining hall and headed back to the bunk house. Everyone was tired and was ready to call it a night. The following morning we davened, had breakfast, packed up our luggage, said our goodbyes and expressed our thanks before heading back to Brooklyn. A special shout out to **Lipa** for helping with the packing up and also loading the vans. This Shabbaton was truly an amazing experience, especially when seeing all the smiles and happy faces throughout the weekend. The memories from this year's Shabbaton will be spoken about for a long time at the Chevra. The following day, the guys were reminiscing about the Shabbaton and even started by planning the next one already!

We would like to thank our Shabbaton staff - **Nachum R, Shimshi, Ben, Dovid & Avi** for all of their amazing hard work and dedication over this past Shabbos. Just on Shabbos day alone the staff were up with the individuals from 7 am all the way to 12:30 am (the next day) with





no exaggeration! (Of course, they had some breaks of their own in between). They did this all with a smile and without them the Shabbaton could not have been possible. Thank you!

A big thank you to all the parents too! Not a single individual was without what they needed. Everyone was packed up to the brim with everything they needed and more. Additionally, the guys displayed great Middos throughout the entire Shabbos. The Compliments were never ending during the Shabbaton.

A special thank you to **Rabbi Horowitz** from Mesivta Ateres Yaakov for taking a special interest in the Chevra. All Shabbos long he came over to the Chevra to say hello and made the guys feel important. During Shabbos lunch Rabbi Horowitz came over to our table and said over a really nice D'var Torah. Followed by some words of Torah he started to sing a nice Shabbas Nigun and brought everyone into the middle of the room and danced with the group. He is truly a great person. Thank you!

Thank you to **Simcha Lichtenstein** for saying over a very nice D'var Torah during lunch which everyone enjoyed!

Thank you to **Rabbi Drebin** from Mesivta Ateres Yaakov for coordinating the Shabbaton with Hillel and for being really helpful throughout the whole Shabbos.

We would like to wish a very happy birthday to **Shamshon Glassman** & **Tzvi Willner**! Thank you for the delicious ice cakes. Happy birthday, Ad Me'ah v Eshrim Shanah!

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

### **Mr. Kerper**

*As we continue until there is peace in Eretz Yisroel and all of the hostages are returned, the Chevra keeps up with saying Tehillim every day. We will continue to daven for the safety and well-being of the Israeli army and for all of Klal Yisroel as we hope for a quick resolution to the current challenges.*

### **A Thought on Parshas Bechukosai:**

The Sidrah begins with the idyllic blessings that await the Jewish people if they live up to their covenant with Hashem, and they are worthy of Hashem's esteem. It then proceeds to the admonition, a sobering account of warnings, punishments, frustrations and curses that will be the inevitable outcome of any attempt to destroy the covenant. Indeed, although Hashem prevents all of these cursers from befalling Israel in anyone unbearable instant, a careful reading of the Jewish history and perhaps in the 20th century in particular shows that they have taken place at various intervals, before and during the exiles. Just as the curses have come, however, so the final blessings will come, for the final words of the Admonition are Hashem's irrevocable oath that He will





remember His covenant with the forefathers and redeem His children.

[Source – The Interlinear Chumash – Rabbi Menachem Davis- Artscroll]

Enjoy Menuchas Shabbos!

Sincerely,

**Rabbi Gross**

### A few jokes for you...

**Q. Which colored letter can you eat?**

A. A Brown E!

**Q. What do you say to a frog who needs a ride?**

A. Hop in!

**Q. Why did the teacher jump in the pool?**

A. He wanted to test the water?

**Quick quote:** Sleeping comes so naturally to me. I could do it with my eyes closed.

### Most memorable moments from the Shabbaton

**Gavriel** – “Walking around the camp grounds & davening with great Kavanah in the big shul with everyone.”

**Yidi** - “I liked the food and dancing with the Yeshiva during Friday night davening and during Havdalah. I also liked the Zemiros.”

**Hudy** – “Davening with the Yeshiva.”

**Simcha**-“The warmth from the Yeshiva on Shabbos and how friendly everyone was towards us.”

**Shamshon** – “The Rabbi’s speeches and the food.”

**Evan** – “Eating the meals on Shabbos and the Zemiros.”

**Lipa** - “Everything & meeting my nephew at the Shabbaton.”

**Tzvi W** - “The country air and the whole Shabbos was so much Fun.”

**Shmuel** – “Davening in the big Shul with so many people.”

**Shlomo** – Seeing his father stand up in front of the Yeshiva as the guest Rabbi and was really surprised! Also “Havdalah with the Yeshiva and dancing with Rabbi Drebin together with everyone else at the Yeshiva”.

**Tzvi L** - “Everything! I really enjoyed everything about the Shabbaton and want to go again”

**Nachum A** – “Meeting all the guys from the Yeshiva. They were so nice and friendly to us.”

**Chaim** - “Dressing up for Shabbas and joining in during Havdalah and Davening with the Yeshiva. The Shabbaton was really nice, thank you Hillel for taking us again.”



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