



NEWS & NOTES

FALL 2021

Director's Message

By Rabbi David Finkelstein

During Covid, we switched our News & Notes to an online edition that we emailed to our friends, families, and supporters. At the request of many of our readers, we are switching back to a hard copy format. I hope you enjoy our Fall 2021 edition of the News and Notes!

The beginning of the *Shulchan Aruch* (the Code of Jewish Law authored by Rabbi Yosef Cairo in Venice in 1565) has a very clear and strong instruction for how we are to begin our day as a Jew or as a servant of Hashem - "Strengthen yourself like a lion to get up in the morning to serve your Creator."

Rabbi Yehoshua Goldstein asks, "What is that unique quality of the lion that I must mimic and strengthen myself in, in order to be able to properly fulfill this law?" The male lion spends most of the day in sleep or lying down at rest. However, the second it smells, hears or sees another animal in the area, it immediately goes from the rest or sleep state into full speed charge without even a second of thought.

This is the characteristic of the lion that the Jewish law wants us to imitate. The moment that our cell phone alarm rings or we open our eyes in the morning, we should jump right into our service of *HaShem*. How do we do that? By reciting the *Modeh Ani*. Wake up, clear your mind quickly, and then jump into your day with both feet! This is also a great game plan for life. Be ready to jump into service to the One Above as soon as we wake up.

For the last few years, I have had tremendous knee pain from many decades of sports and chasing kids around our 107-acre campus 😊. I used Covid as an opportunity to have two

knee replacements and, B"H, I feel great! I had trouble standing up for parts of *davening* over the past few years during key parts of the service, but now, I love jumping up on these new knees and I will never take for granted this gift that *HaShem* has granted me.

This is exactly what ShoresH did when we received the go-ahead from the CDC, the Maryland health department, and our team of medical professionals to open Camp ShoresH this summer. We pounced! We sprang into action! We dove into the pool! We jumped into the race - ok, you get my gist! We hired the best staff ever, recruited 360 wonderful campers, reserved venues, bus companies, etc.

Parents were thrilled to have their kids socialize in person with other children again, get out of the house and leave their electronics behind. Campers were so happy to meet new friends, continue bonds with old friends and connect with the staff.

The campus was beautified, and improvements or additions were made to the game room, miniature golf course, obstacle course, ice cream diner, misting tent, stairs and decks to the red barn, the **Reitberger/Blumenfeld** Junior ShoresH basketball court - and so much more! Trips to places like Urban Air, Fourth Dimension Fun Center, the Crystal Grottoes, an Orioles game, ice skating, paint ball, Greenbriar State Park, Adventure Park



USA, and a Nationals game made camp truly unbelievable. Speaking of the Nationals game, thank you to **Mark Lerner** who not only owns the Washington Nationals but is the grandfather of one of our ShoresH

campers. He donated the game tickets we were able to share with our camp families. And did I mention that camp dad, **Aaron Polun**, built and facilitated a Destructo-Therapy Wreck Room for our CITs? It was awesome and helped let off a bunch of P.S. (Pandemic Stress)! To top it off, we bought an 8-seat golf cart to zip our kids all around the campus.

There were so many meaningful moments this summer and I will include just a few here. I was very proud of my staff who stepped up in a beautiful way and helped one of our Frederick families with the burial of a family member. Staff members raised and donated funds, 11 staff members went to the cemetery and helped give a proper Jewish burial. And our very own **Leah Kowalsky** went above and beyond preparing Shabbos and Shiva food for the family. What a true act of *chesed*.

Additionally, we hosted a Bar Mitzvah for **Asa Winter-Shirey**, a camper from Georgia whose mom was a camper when growing up in Virginia and whose grandparents are **Alan & Sandy Winter**. It was a beautiful event and the whole family came. Thank you to our generous benefactor, **Ushie Shafran**, for

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ShoresH 365: Sponsor a Day or a Week at ShoresH

As many of you know, one of the sayings at ShoresH is "From Baby to Bubby" because we strive to be a part of our families' lives throughout the years - starting at birth, when we send one of our ShoresH onesies to camp families, all through the school years at camp and camp reunions, activities, and classes including STEP (ShoresH Torah Enrichment Program), Davison Middle School Jew Crews, and Fidler Teen Torah Center Brew Crews for high schoolers, college students, and post-college young adults, as well as Fidler Teen Torah Center Israel trips. In addition, we offer adult education several times a week, family *Shabbatonim*, and holiday celebrations and observances throughout the year.

In keeping with our motto, "ShoresH - going strong all year long," we are in touch with our families nearly every day - teaching, supporting, guiding, and celebrating with them - to help them connect to their rich Jewish heritage, and help raise the next generation of caring, committed and knowledgeable Jews.

Please join us in this important and rewarding endeavor and honor your loved ones by sponsoring a day or a week at ShoresH by clicking <https://shoresH.com/shoresH-365/>



Leave a lasting legacy and ensure the growth of Judaism in our community for generations to come. Leaving a portion of your estate to ShoresH is the simplest way to reduce estate taxes and the easiest way to leave your ShoresH legacy. Please contact Rabbi David Finkelstein at rdave@shoresH.com to learn more about this program.

I'm sure that I'm not the only one that had this experience but, it was something that made an impression on me. My family and I were sitting around the *Shabbos* table the other week and the conversation shifted to a topic that generated much discussion (which is a big deal when you have teenagers around who only want to leave the table ASAP 😊). "What lesson(s) have you learned from experiencing the COVID pandemic?" The answers were varied and spanned the physical, spiritual, and emotional areas of life. It was one of the best Friday night/*Shabbos* dinner discussions that included everyone and went on for quite a while. However, one basic theme emerged from all the answers given – this experience has caused us to re-evaluate our priorities in life and go back to the basics, whether it's regarding our physical or spiritual health, our family and relationships, or our commitment to Judaism and Torah.

It became evident to me that others had come to a similar conclusion when I solicited some people about topics and themes to discuss

for the upcoming year in adult education classes. They wanted to go back to the basics. While some classes are still in formation, here is what we have in store for the next few months:

- **"What in the world am I saying?"** Gain a greater understanding of the prayers and blessings we say. This class is being offered in person at Beth Sholom in Frederick on Wednesday evenings at 8 PM. For those unable to attend this class there is a Zoom option as well. Please contact Rabbi T for more information about this class and/or Zoom login info (rabbit@shoresh.com)
- **"It's time for a Torah upgrade"** Why are we still stuck in our Hebrew/Elementary school understanding of the *Torah*? This monthly class for young professionals (ages 30-40) will re-examine the stories in the *Torah* from a more mature perspective and see how they reveal valuable life lessons. This discussion group is hosted in person in a home in Baltimore on the last Thursday of each month.
- **"Lunch and Learns"** Monthly discussion groups in business offices at various

locations that bring together people in an informal atmosphere to eat, network, discuss and learn about contemporary Jewish topics. We'll bring the lunch to feed both your body and soul! If you are interested in hosting or attending these programs, please contact Rabbi T (rabbit@shoresh.com)

- **"On the Road"** If you are interested in an informal class that is relaxed, friendly and invites discussion, this is for you. Monthly home groups throughout Maryland and Virginia have been a staple of Shoresh adult education programming for almost three decades. Currently, there is a home group that meets monthly in Ashburn, VA and, if you live anywhere nearby – we'd love to have you join us. Other home groups are in formation so, if you're interested in hosting or joining one, please let Rabbi T know. (rabbit@shoresh.com)

Let's take the lessons from the pandemic experience to heart and seize the opportunity to follow through on our re-evaluation of life's important matters. Join an adult education class today.

Living Just an "Ordinary" Day

By Rabbi T

I don't know about you but I'm thoroughly exhausted after all the Jewish holidays over the past month or so. September/*Tishrei* went something like this – *Rosh Hashanah*, 2 days, *Shabbos*, 4 days, *Yom Kippur*, 1 day, *Shabbos*, 2 days, *Sukkos*, *Chol Hamoed*, *Shabbos*, *Shemini Atzeres*, *Simchas Torah*, 2 days, *Shabbos*. Whew!

So, the question really is – why not space these holidays out a little more? Maybe we should extend them into the next month. In fact, the name for the month following *Tishrei* is given a nickname – *Mar Cheshvan* – meaning "the bitter month of *Cheshvan*" because it is the only month which does not have any *Yomim Tovim* or special days within it. I've got a great idea! Let's extend the holidays into *Cheshvan* and stop calling it a derogatory name!

To truly appreciate the contrast between *Tishrei*'s fullness of holidays and *Cheshvan*'s lack of any special days, let's turn to Rabbi Samson Rafael Hirsch (1808-1888, leader of German Jewry). He writes that the goal of *Tishrei* is for a Jew to be inspired to serve G-d in his/her ordinary and day-to-day life. It is not realistic for a person to remain on such a high and lofty level engendered by the High Holidays throughout the rest of the year.

This is why *Cheshvan* follows *Tishrei*. *Cheshvan* is a month which represents ordinary, daily life. During *Cheshvan* we see how well we did during *Tishrei*. While *Tishrei* is the month of INSPIRATION, *Cheshvan* is the month of APPLICATION. Rav Hirsch writes that the name *Cheshvan* itself reflects this idea as well. The root of *Cheshvan* is "Chashu" which indicates silence and quiet. This is the characteristic of the month which directly follows the festive celebrations of the month of *Tishrei*. It is this month which gives an impression of stillness and entrance into quiet, private (i.e., "normal") life. Hence, there are no special days in *Cheshvan* – it is meant to reflect ordinary, daily *Avodas Hashem* – serving G-d in one's private, quiet life.

Based on this concept, we now have a better understanding why the *mitzvah* of living in a *sukkah* was chosen to represent the inner message of the holiday, but what of the holiday's other *mitzvos*? We have the biblical command to take the four species, the *mitzvah* to be extra joyful, the water-drawing celebrations, etc. If anything, the *mitzvah* of *sukkah*—and the name *Sukkos*—seems to point only to the holiday's setting and venue. Why, then, did the *Torah* choose to name the holiday after a

mitzvah that seemingly demands of us no more than the switching of our location?

But that's what Judaism is all about. Do whatever you normally do, all those mundane activities—but move them to the holy shade of the *sukkah*, and you've done a *mitzvah*. The same is true with everyday life: do whatever you normally do, all those mundane activities—but move them to the realm of holiness.

The *sukkah* emphasizes that every act of living can be holy and that no act is intrinsically "mundane." It teaches that holiness need not be imported from heaven, but is to be readily found here on earth. The *sukkah* is not just about a shift of location for living life, but a shift of perspective on living life itself. To connect with G-d, so long as that is your objective, you don't need to draw water, you can drink water; and you don't have to bind and bless fruit, you can eat them.

This is the challenge all of us face now as we head into the fall and winter months – to take and internalize the lessons gleaned from the special holidays of *Tishrei* and have them affect our ordinary, normal, daily lives, and to instill within them more meaning and spiritual connection.

Shoresh's Got Talent Showcases Rising Stars

In the midst of a global pandemic, when everything is limited to a Zoom session, it can be hard to maintain connections with friends and create meaningful experiences for a Jewish community. But Shoresh, whose roots are grounded in its rich history of creating unforgettable memories for Jewish families all around Maryland, D.C. and Virginia, found a safe and entertaining way to enter the hearts and homes of its beloved families on Saturday night, February 6, with its first "Shoresh's Got Talent."

In prior years, the non-profit's annual "Night of Entertainment" fundraising event took place at Baltimore's Modell Performing Arts Center at The Lyric, with famous comedians and magicians like Mark Schiff and Oz Pearlman headlining the evenings' festivities. The winter event typically had over 1,200 guests in attendance for a wonderful night of fun.

But with COVID-19's ever-changing social gathering rules, Shoresh's Executive Director, **Rabbi David Finkelstein**, was forced to re-invent the wheel. Ultimately, he and his team at Shoresh creatively crafted a "Night of Entertainment" like none other - trading tiered, opera-hall seating for the comfort of a couch, and enlisting talent not from Hollywood A-listers, but from their own community.

Dozens of people, young and old, submitted videos showcasing their skills, hoping to make the final list that would compete via Zoom.

The ten semi-finalists performed virtually from their own homes. Talents included: a singer-guitarist, a violinist, a violaist, a comedian, a juggler, magicians, and a few pianists. More than 400 screens tuned in (from California to NY, and even some folks in Israel were on) to the "Shoresh's Got Talent" event, which lasted nearly two hours and was emceed by camp parent, **Zach Messler**. The event kicked off with newcomer star, **Joey Newcomb**, singing "Thank You Hashem" to the viewers. Between performances there were cameo appearances by over ten well-known stars including singer **Mordechai Ben David**, former Raven **Ray Lewis**, comedian **Gilbert Gottfried**, and even Seinfeld's Soup Nazi. Star illusionists **Oz Pearlman** and **Ben Seidman** even snuck in to perform some mind-blowing tricks.

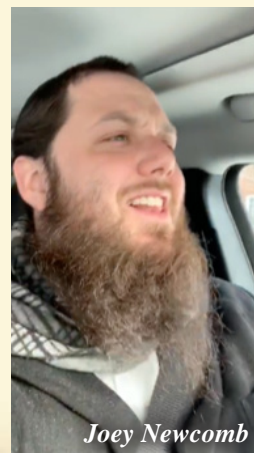
The top three contestants were chosen by a popular vote done live, with the final placement of winners determined by guest judges: vocal coach **Scott Harlan**, actress **Winnie Freedman**, and TV producer **Becky Perlow**.

The winner of the event, 16-year-old **Avishai Seidemann**, performed a piano piece that stole the hearts of the entire community. Viewer Yudis was thoroughly impressed with Seidemann's performance. "He was my choice. What a brave, talented, fine young man." Second place was awarded to pianist **Jacob Goldman**, while **Racheli Benzaquen** came in third for her viola performance.

Many wonderful comments were received on how the show flowed so nicely. Shoresh community member, **Karl Dicker**, was quick to note the surprising amount of kosher entertainment in the Shoresh community. "We have some really talented kids connected with Shoresh," said Dicker, adding that the talent event "is maybe something we want to keep" for the future.

One of the performers stole the show even though he was not a semi-finalist, and instead was there to entertain during the voting segment. Fans agreed that 13-year-old **BZ Openden** was amazing with his rendition of the opening number from the Broadway hit show "Hamilton." Instead of singing about the famous founding father, Openden sang about Shoresh's own community father, Rabbi David Finkelstein, with parody words written by **Dr. Yossi Scheller**.

The event benefits year-round programming for Shoresh and generates sponsors from around the region. In addition to sponsorships, Shoresh also raised money through its online auction of four packages. By that evening, the event reached its fundraising goal, raising more than \$180,000 for its 2021 season. Shoresh appreciates all the performers, donors and viewers who supported this unique program. Though everyone hopes to return to in-person events soon, it's nice to know that there are some virtual programs still worth tuning in for.





As the old adage goes, “When opportunity knocks, make sure to open the door.” While the outbreak of the coronavirus unfortunately caused a shutdown or reduction of many Shores programs and events, including summer camp in 2020, there has been at least one bright spot – a new and exciting program. Welcome to STEP – Shores Torah Enrichment Program - a unique virtual learning program that serves as or supplements a child’s current Hebrew school program.

Over the years, many families have asked Shores to develop a Sunday/Hebrew school that makes Judaism meaningful, relevant, and fun – like camp all year-round! Until now, one major challenge to fulfilling this request has been geographical – we have families across Maryland, Virginia, D.C., West Virginia, and beyond. How could we possibly get everyone together every Sunday morning? Enter 2020 and the ability to utilize Zoom technology. The Shores administration decided that opportunity was knocking on our door and that we needed to open it in a

significant way.

With the help and support of our dear friend, **Charlotte Weinberg**, and The Carroll A Weinberg M.D. and Charlotte Cohen Weinberg Foundation, the STEP program is sponsored in memory of her late husband, Carroll. The Weinbergs have been supporters of Jewish education and other successful Shores programs for many years, including the teen trips to Israel. Thank you, Charlotte, for partnering with us to positively impact the next generation of Jews.

During the 2020-2021 school year, more than 20 participants logged on at 11 a.m. each Sunday morning and were greeted by the exuberance of **Rabbis Stein and Majeski** playing their musical instruments (keyboard and tennis racket 🥳). For about 20 minutes, participants were treated to a fun and fast-paced davening, becoming familiar with many of the prayers typically sung at camp. The Rabbis explained the meaning of the prayers and incorporated new ones as the weeks progressed. After davening, the students entered one of two breakout rooms based on their grade. The 4th-6th graders were led by **Rabbi Tzvi Tuchman**, while 7th-9th graders spent time with **Rabbi Dave**, discussing the weekly Torah portion and character development lessons gleaned from that *Parsha*, in the remaining 40 minutes. In addition, deeper explanations of the prayers and a focus on upcoming Jewish holidays were also taught. The interactive and spirited

discussions were greatly enjoyed by participants, especially when prizes and gift cards were offered as incentives. Prior to *Pesach* each participant received a box with supplies relevant for the approaching holiday and **Phran Edelman** taught the kids how to make their own unique *seder* plate over Zoom.

The feedback from parents was extremely positive, with comments like “It has been amazing! We cannot thank Rabbi T, fellow Rabbis, and the Shores family enough for the wonderful experience. My boys have loved it (which says it all)! We are grateful for Shores!” We are so glad that Shores was able to give so many kids the opportunity to STEP up their Jewish education this past year.



Teen Board

Thank you to **Zoe Bayewitz** and **Ava Rowse** for their leadership as the Co-Presidents of our Fidler Teen Torah Center Board this past year. These young ladies did a fantastic job galvanizing their friends to attend social events, volunteer for various programs, and come to the Shores office to work on a myriad of projects including helping us prepare for camp. We wish both of them much success as they spend a year studying in Israel.

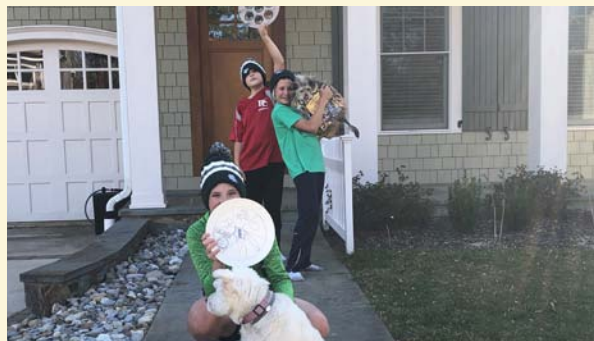


Surprise Deliveries Just in Time for The Holidays

This past spring, COVID-19 was not going to stop Shoresh from sharing the holiday spirit with many of our families. We assembled 100 *Pesach* care packages that included a Shoresh wine glass, matzah cover, seder plate, *Pesach haggadah* handbook, and recipe booklet, along with candy and other goodies. An additional 250 *Pesach* recipe booklets were mailed out since unfortunately we don't have enough people to make deliveries to all our families spread out all over Maryland and Virginia.

Our families were so appreciative. One family commented, "Once again, huge thanks to you and all of the other incredible folks at Shoresh who continue to put together all of these amazing programs and experiences for the kids and their families. We were so totally blown away by the Passover packages that we received! (So sorry that we missed you guys, btw.) We only wish that every Jewish organization was as creative and thoughtful as Shoresh, particularly during these difficult times."

Our little Shoresh elves were at it again in May to spread more joy for *Shavuot*. That package included a Shoresh cutting board, a cheese danish strip, sangria, fruit, nuts, crackers, and a special *Shavuot* learning packet. Everyone was so grateful to receive these surprise deliveries.



SHORESH BINGO IS BACK!

After a long hiatus due to Covid-19, Shoresh is back running bingo nights twice each month at Beth Sholom Congregation in Frederick to raise money for our Camp Shoresh Scholarship Fund. We have nearly 200 shifts to fill to replenish our fund so that campers can benefit from our financial aid to have an impactful summer next year. And that's where we need your help...

A few specifics:

- Shoresh bingos take place on the first and last Mondays of each month at Beth Sholom Congregation - 1011 N Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701.
- We need to recruit 14 volunteers for each of these Shoresh bingo nights.
- There are 2 shifts each night: 5-7:45PM and 7:30-10PM.

Please note that all players are required to be fully vaccinated and present their vaccination cards, and to remain masked except while eating or drinking. Volunteers also must be fully vaccinated and masked.

Please reach out to Liz Matson, at liz@shoresh.com to sign up.

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his donation that sponsored *tefillin* for our Bar Mitzvah boy and 14 other sets as well. May *HaShem* give you many merits for your friendship and philanthropy, Ushie.

We also hosted a surprise *Bas Mitzvah* for **Sivan Madura** of Middletown, Maryland. Sivan missed her celebration, as many *B'nei Mitzvot* did because of Covid, and we wanted to bring some joy to her. Her parents, **Mike & Maya Madura**, surprised her along with her brothers Noam & Eden. And as this issue of News & Notes was going to press, we held our 13th surprise Bas Mitzvah - this time for **Charly Craft** and her family from Ashburn, Virginia. Seeing

Charly's face beaming and feeling the love of the Shoresh staff who participated made this a truly beautiful event.

Finally, I want to thank *HaShem* for a special gift. We were so pumped to be back at camp this past summer, but due to the many challenges brought by the pandemic, there were several moments of anxiety. I needed to end off strong by grabbing onto something that would give me *chizzuk* - strength - to take away from Camp 2021. On the last day of camp, I enlisted five staff members and ten CITs to help me clean out a huge back room full of *siddurim*, *chumashim*, costumes - you name it, it was in there, and

such a mess. It took several hours but we got it done and then I told the CITs to pick something from our prize closet as thanks for their diligent work. Nine of them took me up on the offer but one of them had a different request - she said, "Thank you so much for your generous offer, but if you don't mind, I would rather receive an Artscroll *siddur* than a prize from the closet. My counselor taught me how to *daven* a little and she said that she would continue with me during the year." Wow! What an amazing young lady and an inspiration to all!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Chanukah!

CAMP SHORESH 2021



BACK TO OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED SUMMER PROGRAM

After running ShoresH@Home, a successful virtual program last summer, we knew we could do it again if we had to, but also knew that our kids really needed to be back in person this year. After many months of planning, many meetings with our medical advisory team, and many days unsure of what was going to be, we went for it. Though Camp ShoresH 2021 was definitely a different program with COVID precautions, it still had all the heart, soul, and *ruach* of a traditional summer.

Assigned seating on buses, bunk pods by city, on and off masking requirements, and no Shabbatonim, overnights, or big trips, were just a few ways that camp differed from the past. Our head staff came up with creative ways to limit large gatherings – one example was having one division eat in the big pavilion each day for a special “Out to Lunch” bonding experience that included fun games. Local trips were by division and included a tour of Crystal Grottoes Caverns, Fourth Dimension Fun Center, Adventure Park USA, and hiking trips. Even the traditional bonfire for our closing ceremony looked different with multiple fire pits set up for each division.

One parent remarked at the end of camp, “Our daughter said on Friday, ‘I’m sad because camp is over; ShoresH really is the happiest place on earth.’ Thank you for providing her with a wonderful summer experience which she was sorely in need of after a very difficult year. We are grateful to you all.”

Baruch HaShem, we were fortunate to not have any direct COVID exposures requiring any bunks to quarantine and miss camp! All in all, Camp ShoresH 2021 was truly a different experience, but one that all campers, as well as staff, were blessed to attend.





The Greater the Obstacle, The More Glory in Overcoming It

As the title alludes, we knew there would be obstacles this summer having camp during a pandemic, but what we did not know was that we would gain an actual obstacle course in the process. During Covid, Shoresh has been renting our campus to the Yeshiva of Greater Washington. Besides the obvious benefit to Shoresh of receiving rental income, there was an unforeseen windfall. Some of the *bochurim* who were learning at the Yeshiva loved the campus, found out more about the Shoresh mission, and wanted jobs at the organization.

One of our newly-found stars was **Avraham Kovel** from Connecticut. He has a very interesting and unique Jewish journey and is currently studying in Israel. He started an obstacle course design and construction

business, and also created a workout game called *Playout* (which he introduced to the camp). With the help of one of our contractors, Avraham designed and built an obstacle course in the challenge course area, integrating some of the rarely used low elements. With his positive energy and love for physical fitness, he facilitated the obstacle course program getting kids excited to be working out.



The obstacle course has not yet been dedicated. If you are interested in naming opportunities, please reach out to Rabbi Dave at 410-908-2267 or rdave@shoresh.com.



8 seat
golf cart

Junior Shoresh Scores Big



Our youngest campers in our Junior Shoresh division had a special gift awaiting them when they came off their buses the first day of camp. Adjacent to the Junior Shoresh playground was a new asphalt basketball course with real hoops – just a bit lower than standard height, perfect for 4-6-year-olds. The new addition was installed thanks to the generous contributions of **Henry & Fran Reitberger** and **Howard & Shirley Blumenfeld** as part of a matching grant that Shoresh was awarded for campus

improvements. The Day Camp 2021 matching grant program was made possible by **JCamp 180**, a program of the **Harold Grinspoon Foundation**.

The new court was a much-needed addition to camp for our Juniors. Though the beautiful 107-acre campus already has two full basketball courts, they are generally used throughout the camp day by the “Big Camp” campers. The Junior boys and girls were thrilled to shoot hoops throughout the day whenever they wanted. Who knows? Maybe the next Michael Jordan will get his start at Camp Shoresh!



Yedid Nefesh Grant Makes an Impact

Camp Shoresh was fortunate to receive a Yedid Nefesh grant, an initiative of the **Foundation for Jewish Camp** made possible by the generosity of **The Marcus Foundation**, designed to help camps focus on the mental, emotional, and social health (MESH) needs of both campers and staff. The 32 grant recipients were selected from more than 90 applicants and represent a diverse range of day and overnight camps, Jewish denominations, regions, and camp movements.

Named *Yedid Nefesh* (Hebrew for “Beloved Soul”), this initiative addresses the increasing challenges campers and staff face as it relates to MESH with a multi-faceted, whole-person approach. Funds help camps hire qualified mental health professionals and assist with staff training and wellness programming. The program will span three years, and we are pleased to report that it made a tremendous impact at camp this summer.

Thanks to this grant, **Tamar Livingstone** joined the Shoresh team as our Mental Health Professional. Tamar is a licensed social worker with experience working with children and families. She was a much-needed addition

to the staff, assisting with campers who needed more one-on-one support. Additionally, she was a huge resource for our counselors, giving them strategies for dealing with campers who need additional emotional assistance. The grant also allowed the creation of a sensory room to allow campers to “just chill” if they needed a break. All bunks had a scheduled visit to the sensory room during the first two weeks of camp to have some “Tamar Time” and experience the cozy space and do a team building activity or make a coping craft.





is the hallmark of our Shoresch campus. Rabbi Dave and Debbie spent a Shabbos with the Yeshiva last spring, and several of the students were so impressed with what they heard about Shoresch that they applied for staff positions and joined us at camp. They were excellent additions to our staff and exceptional role models to their campers and fellow staff members. We look forward to growing this mutually beneficial relationship for many years to come!



It's not unusual for one visiting the Shoresch campus during the summer months to hear sounds of Jewish prayers and Torah learning. However, we have been extremely fortunate to host Yeshiva Gedolah of Greater Washington on our beautiful Adamstown campus since Fall 2020 (with a break for Camp 2021, of course!). The Rosh Yeshiva, **Rabbi Ahron Lopiansky** shlit"a, together with other Rebbeim and more than 50 students living on our grounds were able to learn, grow, and be inspired surrounded by the natural beauty that



Shoresch Shop Now Open

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<https://shoresch-inc.myspreadshop.com>

In memory of Rav Sheftel Neuberger zt"l

By Rabbi Dave



My heart goes out to the entire Neuberger family, the Ner Israel family, and all of *klal Yisroel* on the loss of Rav Sheftel Meir Neuberger, zt"l. Rav Sheftel was given over the reins of Ner Israel from his illustrious father, **Rabbi Naftali Neuberger** zt"l, and took it to greater heights.

I was blessed to spend a good portion of my life at Ner Israel in high school, Yeshiva, and Kollel. **Rabbi Stein, Rabbi T,** and other Shoresch staff members gained so much from the Yeshiva and learned life lessons from so many rabbis.

My relationship with Rav Sheftel fully blossomed when he helped teach me how to lead davening on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. He gave me a tape of his beautiful *nusach* - the musical chanting of the prayers. I found out over the years that very few people had this tape and I passed it along to future

young men who wanted to learn and lead the davening on the high holidays.

Rabbi Neuberger visited camp each summer for over ten years. He would address the campers and staff with some beautiful Torah thought, but told me his real reason for coming was because he felt very uplifted watching the Shoresch children *bentch*. Listening to the excitement of the kids inspired him. Throughout the *bentching* he would ask me, "Where is this child from who's *bentching* so beautifully?"

I would answer, "Ashburn, VA" or "Gaithersburg" or "Frederick," etc. Rav Sheftel would shake his head and smile, and tell me how moved he was to see this firsthand.



Then he would say his goodbyes and head back to Baltimore. He drove two hours to spend 20 minutes giving his students strength and to let us know how proud he was of us, but he also came to strengthen himself. He is truly missed. *Baruch Dayan Haemes.*

[Editor's Note: Rav Sheftel's son, Rav Boruch, who is now the President at Ner Israel, carried on in his father's footsteps and visited us as well at camp this summer.]



In memory of Naomi Lazerow, a"h

By Rabbi Dave



On May 30th, I lost one of my best friends in this world, Naomi Lazerow a"h. When Naomi was your friend, you felt like a million dollars, but she was so much more than just a friend. She was a mentor, a role model, the quintessential mother and grandmother.

She was an all-day panic. She was truly the funniest lady I ever met. I just loved sitting next to her at our Shabbos table and hearing all of her entertaining comments. Actually, my children all fought when Naomi and her dear husband, Carl, would come over to get the seat right next to Naomi.

Naomi and Carl moved to Frederick from Baltimore where they raised their three children Lanie, Alan, and Nina. Not only did she actually work for the organization, but she was the ultimate volunteer. There was nothing that she wouldn't do to help make Shoresh successful.

And if someone dared to start up with me or the organization – WATCH OUT. Naomi would be like a lioness protecting her young. She had that kind of passion and beautiful feel for the organization that worked with her and Carl to raise their children and now grandchildren.

While you may be gone physically, you truly will live in my heart and all the hearts of your Shoresh family forever.



Shoresh's Got Talent:

"I keep meaning to write to tell you how nice I thought Sunday night was. It was truly a lot of fun, and I love that kids (and adults) had an opportunity to showcase their talents in such a beautiful public forum in the comfort of the warm Shoresh embrace. *Kol Hakavod* on a job well done. It's not easy to pull off something good during these Corona times, and you pulled off something really, really good!"

Pesach Packages:

"We love the Passover box and all the goodies with it that came to our house today. What a treat! Thank you so much for thinking of us!"

"Thank you so much for the *Pesach* visit last week. It really brightened our day!"

"We found a beautiful gift on our doorstep the other day that came from Shoresh. Frankly, it made my day. Thank you very much! Happy Passover to all wonderful Shoresh educators!"

Camp:

"Our daughters are having such a great time at camp! They love the counselors and the activities! I was a little nervous that it would be too much for them after not having any real camp last summer, but I shouldn't have worried. They're so happy. Thank you!"

"I want to first tell you what a great time our son is having at camp. Getting info from him is like pulling teeth but he said he was having fun and he leaves happy and comes home happy (and exhausted!), so in my book, it's a success. Thanks for all your hard work that went into a complicated summer!"

"Thank you Rabbi Dave! Our son is loving camp. I asked him how his day was on a scale of 1-10. He said 1000!"

"We wanted to express our sincere appreciation to you and to everyone who organized the *Tisha B'Av* event and helped make it happen (including the drivers!). Both our kids really enjoyed it and found it made their experience of *Tisha B'Av* much more meaningful than it would have been otherwise."

"This past *Shabbos* my daughter actually *bentched* for the first time in years. I couldn't believe my eyes! She said it's because at Shoresh they make *bentching* fun. She even said over a *d'var Torah* from Rabbi Dave by the *Shabbos* table. Thank you!"

"Just wanted to say thank you for taking care of my kids. They love Shoresh. All my son talks about is how he wants to win best camper. He is so excited, he loves Shoresh and loves to feel a part of things. He tells me every day the adventures he's had at camp. I adore how all my kids sing songs from Shoresh at the *Shabbos table*. Thank you!"

"Thank you for giving me a pair of *tefillin*. Having them has expanded my knowledge of Judaism. I've enjoyed davening in the *minyan* with the other campers and staff. I feel connected to G-d when I'm davening. I look forward to many more years at Shoresh."

"We will never be able to thank you enough for the joy and overwhelming gratitude we have for all that went into making our son's Bar Mitzvah at camp so special. We still are reliving every minute of that wonderful morning!"

Misc.:

"I am enclosing a small token of our appreciation for our Shavuot "Holiday Package." We are still enjoying the contents of that package!"

"Thank you and your team for making this an awesome Bat Mitzvah for our daughter! The donation we made today is for a lucky child whose family

might experience hardship to attend the wonderful Camp Shoresh ☺."

"Our son talks about Shoresh ALL. YEAR. LONG. And says it is his favorite place in the world."

"We just wanted to extend our deepest *hakarat hatov* to you for your generous wedding gift and for taking the time, effort, and "risk" to be a part of our simcha. It truly meant the world to us and our family having you there, as we know that without you and your incredible work, we would not be here today. We are so appreciative for all you have done for us over the years, and we are so grateful to have such special influential people in our lives."

"Thank you for all you have done for me to get to Israel this year! Your constant support and dedication, for so many years, means so much to me."

"Just wanted to say a special thank you for always being so AMAZING! Thank you for always welcoming our son into your home! Sending love and hugs to your very special family!"

"Thank you for your leadership. You are a model and a shining light for everything that a Jewish day camp could be. May this year be filled with much health, happiness, and success. Much admiration. Shana tova, Avi Orlow, Foundation for Jewish Camp"



BIRTHS

A daughter, Naamah, to **Danielle (Vernon) & Meir Goetz**

A son, Yaakov, to **Elisheva (Rosenwasser) & Noam White**

A daughter, Eliana, to Shayna & **Michael Khoshkerman**

A son, Azriel Yehuda, to Shaina & **Pasey Wealcath**

A daughter, Eila Rose, to Julie & **Andy Potash**

A son, Aaron Yaakov, to **Leah (Shnidman) & Moishy Pruzansky**

A son, Eytan David, to Dassi & **Eli Kohen**

A daughter, Riley Harper, to **Jordana (Ginz) & Michael Fotiadis**

A son, Dovi, to **Rena (Greenlinger) & Yehuda Furst**

A daughter, Meira, to Gitty & **Aryeh Zigdon**

A daughter, Leora Nili, to Rachel & **Ozzie Burnham**

A daughter, Alice Augusta, to **Sarah Zwilsky & Maximilian Meador**

A daughter, Eden Hallel, to **Malka (Solomont) & Yoni Elitzur**

A daughter, Noa Libi, to **Nechama (Solomont) & Benji Berger**

A son, Avi, to **Lauren (Chornock) & Dovie Gluck**

A son, Yehoshua Moshe, to Rikki & **Shaya Katz**

A son, Yosef Yonason, to **Elana & Menachem Tenenbaum**

A daughter, Ava (Chava), to **Avigayil (Chamdi) & Shulie Hochman**

A daughter, Neeli, to **Tzipora (Lowenstein) & David Hastings**

A son, Shalom, to **Shira (Moss) & Shmuel Artman**

A son, Idan Shai, to Gabri & **David Koslovsky**

A son, Elliott, and a daughter, Ilana, to Chrissy & **Brad Eyler**

Twin boys, Noam Ezra and Gavriel Mayer, to **Eliana (FERENCE) & Chanoach Spetner**

A son, Daniel Meir, to Aliza & **Kovi Barron**

A son, Pinchas Sholom, to **Adina (Schachter) & Ari Simcha Bulman**

A daughter, Zoey (Yakira Shifra), to **Dina (Auerbach) & Ross Mailman**

A son, Daniel Ravi, to **Bayla (Cohen) & Sam Horn**

A son, William, to Kristen & **Carroll Zentz**

ENGAGEMENTS

Eliana Wilner to Andrew Kadish

Jordana Eisenberg to Ethan Kassimir

Shana Moss to Nesanel Schwartz

Yaira Dubin to Sina Kian

Tamar Devorah to Zack Rosen

Shira Itzkowitz to Nachie Lowy

Michal Ottensoser to Yosef Yehuda Friedman

Emilie Stewart to **Gene Paffrath**

Lauren Finkelstein to Chad Kremus

Becky Kaminsky to Shiv Patel

Mariah Stein to **Avi Kozlowski**

Mandy Caceres to **Greg Dwyer**

Jessica Sagoskin to **Phil Nicholas**

Avigayil Schuchman to **Avi Mitnick**

Shlomit Keehn to **Yisroel Juskowicz**

Marissa Schwartz to Jacob Siegel

WEDDINGS

Michal (Raskas) & Jacob Saks

Jamie & **Michael Dwyer**

Tzivi & **Yitzchok Ottensoser**

Shira (Stephanie Paffrath) & Robert Friedman

Danielle & **Zev Shields**

Vivi (Kelman) & Uri Kesselman

Rachie & **Adam Neuman**

Sara Kayla (Kanovsky) & Hillel Stutman

Rachael (Schulder) & Yoni Aviv

Jennifer & **Greg Shpilman**

Becky & **Dov Solomont**

Stefanie (Cohen) & Benjamin Rubenstein

Nesia (Ely) & Noah Ziv

BAR/BAT MITZVAHS

Jonathan Palti

Jake Lazerow

Felicity Spivak

Sivan Madura

Asa Winter-Shirey



Jamie & Michael Dwyer



Felicity Spivak



Sara Kayla (Kanovsky) & Hillel Stutman



Jonathan Palti



Asa Winter-Shirey

Where Are They Now?

This issue of Where Are They Now will spotlight the five children of Rabbi Asher and Charna Stein. All the kids grew up as campers at Shoresh and most continued as staff members.

Yisroel Yaacov Stein can't remember how many years he actually attended, "I lost track but it's longer than Rabbi Dave has been there!" He credits **Kenny Friedman** as being his favorite counselor even though he never had him. The reason that he loves Shoresh so much is "because it's nuts!" Yisroel Yaacov and his wife Michal reside in Norfolk, Virginia with

their five kids: Chaya Sara, 10; Dovid, 9; Nechama, 6; Bracha, 4; and Shlomo 2. He is a regional business director at Waterside Title Agency.

Shoshana (Stein) Herron participated in Camp Shoresh for 13 years altogether - 9 years as a camper, 4 as a counselor. Shoshana's favorite counselor was **Henny (Gibber) Zolty** because "she put up with all of my and **Nina (Lazerow) Muller's** craziness and always made every activity fun." She loves Shoresh because it is a place where all Jews are accepted and feel part of a community. Shoshana and

her husband David live in Minneapolis, Minnesota with their four children: Devora, 10; Shlomo, 7; Rikki, 5; and Aliza, 2. She is currently a teacher at Torah Academy of Minneapolis.

Nechama Stein has been part of Shoresh since birth! She remarked that she will always be a part of Shoresh since her father is. She had "too many amazing counselors to pick just one." Her favorite thing about Shoresh is all the wonderful memories and amazing friendships she made as a kid. Nechama lives in Baltimore and

teaches 3rd and 4th grade math and science at Bais Yaakov.

Michael Stein believes he attended Camp Shoresh for about eight years. Sardonicly he quips that his favorite counselor was **Brad Eyler** because "he taught me everything I know about Judaism and Yiddish." He shared honestly that "I love Shoresh because of the impact it has had on my life, and because when I think about the number of people it changed, it's impossible not to love it." Michael is a Director of

Human Resources and lives in Baltimore with his wife Bassie and two daughters Rochel, 4, and Meira, 2.

Malkie Stein attended Camp Shoresh for eight years. Her favorite counselor was Jordyn Miller "because she was a fun, energetic counselor who made every day awesome!" She loves Shoresh because she got to spend every day of the summer with her father and she couldn't ask for anything better. Malkie is in Israel for the year studying in seminary.



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