

Yavneh Newsletter

VOLUME 1 No. 01

FRIDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2022 10, ADAR I 5782

Shabbaton

By Aviva Shalom

After two long years of crippling Covid restrictions, horrible home school and manky masks, we were ready for a really good time – and we got one! On the 28th of January 2022, Yavneh Girls were finally able to go on a much awaited Shabbaton. Staying in Wales, we had an amazing time, thanks to all the teachers, sixth form, and bogrot, especially Mrs Hoffner, who worked so hard to make it happen, and Mrs Perez, who headed the catering.

On Friday night, after Kabbalat Shabbat, there was a tochnit run by Yavneh alumni Tamara Kay, Jade Suissa and Rikki and Tali Smith. They showed years 8 and 9 the importance of the Torah and other things we need in our lives. At the meal, we were taught a wonderful song for the Shabbaton – thank you, Libby and Evie – to the tune of the song ‘Thank You Hashem’, which was also the theme. The Year 12s hosted a game at the meal, too. It had us in stitches! We sang the night away at a late-night tish later on.

The activities on Shabbat day were fantastic, especially the tochnit in the evening run by the sixth form. Colour War made us all lose our voices, but was incredible, so thank you, sixth form! The Havdalah under the stars was one to remember, with the bonfire burning and Rav Ari playing his guitar as we all sang along. Big thanks to the Eshels and Silbermanns for coming along and making the Yavneh Shabbaton even better!

Shoutout to everybody who helped make the Shabbaton 5782 so memorable. The work that you put into making this happen is really appreciated!



The Breakfast Club

By Adiella Ackerman

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and this new club ensures that everyone has a chance to eat something before we start the day, as many girls don't have the time to eat before school.

This club takes place every morning, in the tuck room and this gives us a time to meet and have a chat, as well as giving us the opportunity to have some breakfast!

“I love breakfast club as it is a great way to start my morning, and the toast is always delicious!” Miriam Melul said.

So, if you would like to start your morning with some toast and a chat, bring 20p and head to the tuck room before school!



Lunch and Learn

By Aviva Shalom & Rayut Hasleton

This year, with the arrival of Lani, the BA Shalicha and Rabbanit Silbermann, came a new lunchtime club: lunch and learn.

The aim of the club is to encourage Yavneh girls to learn and explore the Parsha and other Hebrew texts. The club comes with a free lunch after about half an hour of resourceful learning.

The topics explored are chosen through the interests of the girls and the time of the year – for example, the Year 8s are currently learning about Shmitta. The club is run by both Lani and Rabbanit Laura, each of them learning with different years.

If you are interested in joining and haven't already: Year 8 is on Tuesday with Lani, Year 9 in on Wednesday with Rabbanit Laura, and Year 10 and 11 are also on Wednesday with Lani.

We hope to see you there!!



Davening Competition

By Rebecca Harris

Since the start of this year, a new davening competition has been introduced, with the incentive of an amazing trip to Blackpool as the prize!

For the competition you need to have your davening chart signed everyday by a teacher, and the class who accumulates the most signatures wins this incredible prize!

We have also been having weekly sessions, in Monday's assembly, with Mrs Strom and Mrs Gefen, who teach us the importance of davening in order to help us gain a stronger and closer relationship with Hashem. They help us to understand the actual meaning of our prayers, which strengthens our understanding of davening. We have been taught that davening does not have to be at set specific times, but we should feel as though we are able to speak to Hashem anywhere and anytime, about anything!

Good luck with the competition!!



Tu B'Shvat

By Aviva Shalom

In the days leading up to Tu B'Shvat (which was on Monday 17th January) Mrs Hoffner was piloting a programme all about Tu B'Shvat – teaching classes on the pasuk comparing person to tree, part of a project to do with discovering who we really are. The runup to Tu B'Shvat was fantastic, but the actual event was even better!

Taking place during period 1 and 2 on Monday morning, the event happened in the hall and there was a carousel system. There were several different stations and a Kahoot to do with Shmitta. Mrs Hoffner also gave a presentation on Shmitta before the exciting Kahoot!

One of the stations was run by Lani. Having lived in Israel herself, Lani taught us about Shmitta in the kitchen: the rules when putting Shmitta to practical use at home. We were told about the special bin for produce grown in Shmitta and had to sort food items into it. Lani's activity was incredibly interesting, so thank you, Lani!

Another activity was writing a letter to a farmer keeping Shmitta. As this year is the year of Shmitta, we were told they could possibly be sent! Girls wrote about how farmers were role models, since they were so dedicated to keep Shmitta. We were also given maps of Israel and had to highlight the places with kedusha (as not all places are part of the Israel in the Torah). For example, Eilat – therefore Shmitta does not apply there.

Additionally, we made Shmitta farms out of several different materials and put 'hefker' signs on them. The sixth form also made us smoothies to celebrate Tu B'Shvat – big thanks to them for taking the time to do it!

The programme was very enjoyable and a great way to celebrate Tu B'Shvat!



Parshat Tezaveh

There is an obvious question that can be asked on last week's parsha Terumah which can be asked even more strongly this week on Tetzaveh.

Last week we saw Hashem command Moshe to build a Mishkan and instruct him to bring Korbanos and for Klal Yisroel to bring Gifts to Hashem.

This week, the sedra spends a lot of time going through the minute of detail on the Bigdei Kohen - the various items of clothing that the Kohen Godol as well as the Kohen Hedyot wore. Furthermore, the Torah gives us great detail on the Korbanos and various other aspects of the Avodah.

The question is one that Moshe asks and is as follows - how can a mere building contain the Shechinah? How can Korbanos be something Hashem desires? Why would a mere "Gift" from Klal Yisroel mean something to Hashem who is greater than time and space? Why all the detail? What difference does it make?

The Chofetz Chaim sees an answer to Moshe's question a simple yet powerful lesson - Hashem does not ask us to do the impossible or what is not unreasonable. Every person is obligated to do only what he or she can. As Shlomo HaMelech says in Koheles "All that you find within your ability to do, act upon it..."

The message for us should be clear. We shouldn't feel pressured or overwhelmed that we cannot do things to the very utmost. Our obligation is to do the very best we can do. We need to pull out all the stops in serving Hashem with Simcha - Ivdu es Hashem b'Simcha - and know that our obligation isn't just the things we do but the effort we put into it.

In this way, we will be doing Hashem's Will.

Based upon an idea by R Yaakov Menken.

By Adiela Levine

L'ilui nishmat Yehoshua Aryeh Leib ben Yonatan Chaim