

Coming Up...

Full details of all our events are available on our Facebook page, or call the Bayit on 0208 209 1319 to speak to one of the team.

- Summer Machane is coming! 29th July – 12th August. Spaces are filling up fast, so make sure to send your forms in! For more information, contact yehuda@bauk.org.
- Applications for key roles in svivot for 5776 are open online! To be part of the lifeblood of Bnei Akiva across the country, visit www.bauk.org
- The Bnei Akiva 5-A-Side Football Tournament is nearly here! 12th July at Powerleague, Mill Hill. To enter a team, or for more information, contact adam@bauk.org
- Every year, Bnei Akiva collectively learns the whole of Tanach in Memory of Marc Weinberg, Mazkir of 5759 and shining example of our ideology. All are welcome to participate. To sign up to learn a section, see the Bnei Akiva Facebook page or for more information, contact marina@bauk.org

Mystery Melacha

Nat Kunin
Nat Kunin is in Shevet Ne'eman and is a Madrich of Leeds Bnei Akiva

There are 39 activities that we are not allowed to do on Shabbat. These are called "Melachot" or "Acts of work". Can you guess which Melacha this riddle is about? Log onto the Bnei Akiva Youtube channel after Shabbat to see if you're right!

We know that the Jews are the People of the book. To create a sefer, this action must be took

So, put down your pen and your post-its! For when it's Shabbat, one may not use them – mostly!

In fact, to be over the d'oraita, Two letters you have to write(-a?)

So, to form one letter – but chas v'shalom two – is not in this melacha, though in fact you

Should know that, miderabanan, one should avoid it if one can

It's origin's in the Mishkan, a Holy Tent. To be portable was this edifice meant

Therefore it was composed of many boards. In order to sort and match these, they had to be scored

With markings on those components which linked, and the matching marked boards were bound,

To reate God's House. from which all melachot were found

And so it is brought down in our Halacha, that one should not do this. Now, guess the Melacha!

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תנועת בני אקבה
BNEI AKIVA UK

ושבתה הארץ
Shabbat Lashem 'שבת לה
בלק - Balak

Undercover Angels of Mercy

Eli Maman

There is a small shul in the centre of New York City with a regular minyan for Shacharit. One morning there were only nine men in Shul so they waited a while for a tenth man. Eventually an old Jew showed up, and insisted on being the chazzan. However, he was taking a very long time and the other men were getting frustrated as they were getting late for work. All of a sudden they heard a massive explosion and an overwhelming crash. It was the 11th of September 2001, and the nearby Twin Towers had been attacked. Some of the members of this minyan would have been inside had they started on time and davened at a regular speed. They felt relief as they realised their lives were saved by this old man.

In this week's parasha, Bilam is on his way to curse Bnei Yisrael when a sword-bearing angel comes and blocks his path. Rashi cites a Midrash which says it was the angel of mercy and was coming to prevent Bilam from sinning. Herein lies an interesting point; accentuated by Rav Pam. If one was to imagine an 'angel of mercy' you would probably picture a white, fluorescent being with a halo hovering over them, whereas an angel that appears with a sword may be the angel of death. Here, however, it is the angel of mercy that bears a sword. The message is that that which might appear to be destruction may actually be mercy. In other words, something that happens that you would be tempted to become frustrated at or brand a failure might really be Hashem protecting you - we simply fail to see it that way. In the above story these people felt rather frustrated at the speed of the chazzan but they did not realise it was really Hashem's mercy in ultimately saving their lives. The way someone sees something seemingly destructive depends on their attitude and bitachon (trust in Hashem).

In summary, let's try take on board the simple yet powerful message that the disappointments in life are often undercover 'angels of mercy' there to save us, which we should appreciate.

Eli Maman is in Shevet Na'aleh and was a Madrich on the Beit Midrash Program 5774

Wishing Mazal Tov to Suzanne, Danny, Robbie, Michael and Jamie Landau who are making Aliyah in the coming week!

מְשֻׁבְּרִים, לְגִבּוֹל!

Editor's Corner

Shalom!

We are very excited for Israel Machane to begin! Following their inspiring seminar in Israel with the UJIA, our madrichim are hard at work preparing to give their chanichim an unmissable experience!

Last Shabbat we had an incredible parent-child learning programme, seuda shlishit and activities in Mill Hill shul.

Welcome back to members of Shevet Na'aleh who are returning from Hachshara and gap year programmes. We can't wait to see you take themovement forward!

Shabbat Shalom!

THIS WEEK'S SHABBAT TIMES

	🕒	🌅
London	21:06	22:24
Manchester	21:25	22:56
Birmingham	21:14	22:50
Cambridge	21:05	22:39
Leeds	20:00	22:50
Liverpool	21:24	23:04
Jerusalem	19:13	20:31

To receive Shabbat Lashem by email every Friday, or for sponsorship details, send an email to shabbat@bauk.org



Insight and Inspiration on the Parasha

Rav Ari Faust, Rabbinical Shaliach

Don't Be Right, Be Upright

What are the properties of authentic Jewish living? What are the values that we are meant to aspire to? In our *parasha*, we read of Bilaam the evil prophet who uttered words of praise and blessing to Am Yisrael instead of curses. He speaks of the patriarchs as “upright” (Bamidbar 23:10). Why does Bilaam chose to describe the patriarchs as “upright” and not simply as “righteous” or “pious”? Does this quality supersede the others? Rabbi Naftali Tzvi of Volozhin (Netziv) offers an explanation that contains a most powerful and potent message, that is so relevant on the eve of the Three Weeks of mourning the destruction of the Temple leading-up to Tisha B'Av (HaEmek Davar):

“The *pasuk* (Devarim 32:4) says, ‘... Righteous and upright is He.’ This is interpreted to be the reason that The Holy One, Blessed be He, destroyed the Second Temple. And we have already explained that the people of the Second Temple were righteous, pious and Torah studiers, however they were not upright in their ways. Therefore, the baseless hatred in their hearts caused them to suspect those whose expression of serving God was different to their own to be heretics. And through this they came to murder and all other evils, until the Temple was ultimately destroyed.”

The Talmud (Yoma 9a) identifies the three principal catalysts in the destruction of the First Temple as murder, idolatry and illicit relationships. It struggles to find the reason for the destruction of the Second Temple, considering that the people of that generation ‘learned Torah, observed Mitzvot and performed acts of lovingkindness’? The answer is that they displayed baseless hatred to each other. Now, how can righteous people come to such behaviour? Netziv explains that the source of their hatred was that they weren’t upright; they didn’t have a holistic appreciation for creation and hence their relationship with reality – and Jewish practice – was rotten at its foundation.

They behaved in a way that was divisive and hateful; not accepting and loving those who were different from themselves. They would disqualify and hate people just because of their different beliefs. They may have been great scholars who were pedantic about the performance of the commandments, but they were corrupt in their ways, which led to the downfall of our national structure.

Netziv continues:

“And for this came the *tzidduk hadin* – justification – that the Holy One, Blessed be He, is upright and cannot tolerate ‘righteous people’ like that (who are corrupt). He only loves those who follow the upright path, and do not stray to corruption even if it is ‘for the sake of Heaven’ – for this leads to destruction of humanity and the decay of society.”

Righteousness and piety are not the absolute Jewish values. The ends – Torah study and observance of Mitzvot – do not justify the means. We are charged to emulate God’s ways (Devarim 28:9); thus even if we are Torah scholars and pedantic about Mitzvah observance, if we do not follow the upright path we simply cannot be Godly. Those who lack the property of being upright – no matter how “righteous” they may be – lack a holistic and truly Godly outlook on life. The upright lifestyle – true righteousness – includes the acceptance of those who differ from us, and the love of those we disagree with. The lack thereof leads to the decay of society and the destruction of Judasim.

Netziv concludes:

“And this was the ultimate appraisal of the patriarchs; for besides merely being righteous and pious, they were upright. This means that they were pleasant, loving and well-wishing to all of creation, even towards pagans and idolaters.”

We are the heirs of a tradition of righteousness and piety that cannot go hand-in-hand with corruption. The way of our forefathers – and the way of authentic Judaism – is to love unequivocally, even those who we disagree with. It is to exemplify baseless love towards all of God’s creation. It is with this upright behaviour and baseless love that we can remedy the baseless hatred that led to the destruction of the Temple, and thus rebuild all that has been fractured in the world.

Rav Ari Faust is in Shevet Yechiam, and is Shaliach for Bnei Akiva and the Jewish Agency for Israel

Machane Cadur Regel

A WEEK OF FUN FOR FOOTY FANS
YEARS 3-5

We are delighted to be teaming up with the amazing Super SoccerStars for Machane Cadur Regel!

Super Soccerstars is a fantastic organisation which aims to teach football skills through building teamwork and self-confidence in young children.

You'll spend an amazing week with an organisation which is widely respected and even has celebrities sending their children to their clubs! You'll be taught a wide range of football and team skills from professional coaches, as well as being taken care of by Bnei Akiva Madrichim! You have the chance to win medals, and maybe even be chosen as Bnei Akiva's Junior Footballer of the Year!

If you love football, and want to be a part of Bnei Akiva Machane, then this is the place for you! Have the chance to be the next star in Jewish football with fantastic coaches!

Date: 3rd-7th August 2015

Venue: Mill Hill Powerleague

Price: £125







All the Land that You See

Looking at and learning about every corner of our Land

The Negev

Michael Landau

The Negev is filled with a lot Jewish history. Ancient Jewish texts write about desert oasis of Ein Gedi which is located within the Negev. David HaMelech, while fleeing from Shaul HaMelech, hid in Ein Gedi. Shir HaShirim, attributed to Shlomo HaMelech says, “My beloved to me is a spray of henna blooms from the vineyards of Ein Gedi.” (1:14). The Talmud states that Jews continued to live in Ein Gedi following the destruction of the First Beit Hamikdash and Ein Gedi had a thriving Jewish community during the times of the Second Beit Hamikdash. Jews continued to live in the area of Ein Gedi up through the sixth century, when the community was wiped out during oppressions instigated by Byzantine Emperor Justinian. In modern times however, Jews have returned to Ein Gedi which is now a national park, and Kibbutz Ein Gedi has a population of about 250 people today.

Masada is another important piece of Jewish history to be found in the Negev. The Masada Fortress which was built by King Herod, who ruled Israel during the times of the Roman Empire. After the great Jewish revolt against Rome in 70 CE, the Zealot group fled to the Masada Fortress, where they continued to fight against Roman oppression until they chose mass suicide rather than giving in to the yoke of Roman tyranny. Today the Masada Fortress of the Negev, is the second most popular tourist destination in Israel and Israeli soldiers often take their oaths at the archaeological site.

Michael Landau is in Shevet Na'aleh and was on Hachsharat Torani in Yeshivat Eretz HaTzvi in 5775