

זכור את יום השבת לקדשו.
ששת ימים תעבד ועשית כל מלאכתך,
ויום השביעי שבת לה'

SHABBAT LASHEM

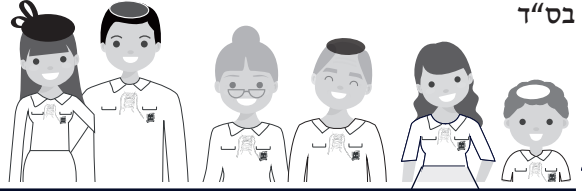
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TO BE MORALLY CONSCIOUS JOSHUA ADAMS SHEVET HINEINI

Step back into the classical period of Greek society and you may find one of the most revered philosophers of his generation. Aristotle, the founder of the Lyceum, wrote extensive works ranging from zoology to theatre to ethics. He formulates a 'hierarchy of souls'- in which he classifies humanity as the superior, 'rational' soul; in second place the animal kingdom, labelled 'sensitive' as it is only dictated by instinct and physicality; with plants at the bottom of the scale, being classified as 'vegetative', following the natural laws by which they exist. Judaism appears to adopt this hierarchy on the sixth day of creation, where God proclaims that humanity has "dominion...over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth" (Bereishit 1:28). It could appear that humanity has complete sovereignty over the animal kingdom- and could do with animals whatever they wish. This, however, is not the case. Ki Tetze is an extension of this 'sovereignty', establishing Spiderman's primary principle that 'with great power comes great responsibility'.

The verses in this week's sidra explain the mitzva of Shiluach Haken- the shying away of the mother bird. As it states, "you shall not take the mother [bird] upon the young...you shall send away the mother [bird]...in order...that your days are lengthened" (Devarim 22:6-7). The words "your days are lengthened" are also used after the commandment to honour one's parents - and for this reason some have interpreted Shiluach Haken as an act of compassion and sensitivity; values that are necessary if we are to fulfil Rabbi Akiva's passion of 'loving your neighbour as yourself'. Only when we respect the different elements of Aristotle's hierarchy of souls, animals and plants can we then begin to have more complex relationships in our lives, either with our fellow human beings or a transcendent being like

God. Conversely, if we can respect something as simple as plants then we can begin to think more carefully about how and why we act. This is reinstated by the concept of Shemittah- allowing the land to rest every seventh year and revitalise as we may do like God did on the seventh day of creation.

Ki Tetze, which mentions the greatest number of commandments in a single sidra (74 of 613), is a tribute to the forward-thinking nature of the Torah; it is unbelievable that that at the time of Sinai there would be a concept like Shiluach Haken that recognises and respects the maternal instincts that a mother bird has to her young, as well as its emphasis on animal rights in general: "You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together" (22:10). The strength of an ox is far greater than that of the donkey, which would endure an unnecessary painful experience if forced to work alongside an ox.

There is a corresponding principle between nature and humanity in Ki Tetze. As pointed out by Rabbi Sacks, there is a similarity between the words "when you enter your neighbour's vineyard, you may eat as many grapes as you desire" (23:25) and the mitzva "you shall not muzzle an ox when it is threshing [the grain]" (25:4). There is an understanding that by maintaining a high moral standard for animals it puts us in good stead for having respectful relationships with humanity. But if there is one key message to extract from Ki Tetze it is to be morally conscious within the world around us. We must be proactive. "You shall not see your brother's donkey or his ox fallen [under its load] on the road, and ignore them" (22:4).

Whether you attended Matan Torah at Sinai, the Lyceum in Aristotelian Greece, or one of Rabbi Sacks' superb Divrei Torah, we have always been able to become 'morally conscious', it is only a question of our desire and will to do so.

Thank you very much for reading and Shabbat Shalom.

JOSH WAS A MADRICH ON MACHANE ARI 5780.

London	In: 19:39 Out: 20:46	Oxford	In: 19:41 Out: 20:51	Leeds	In: 19:47 Out: 22:59
Manchester	In: 19:49 Out: 21:01	Bristol	In: 19:46 Out: 20:55	Liverpool	In: 19:51 Out: 21:04
Cambridge	In: 19:37 Out: 20:47	Birmingham	In: 19:45 Out: 20:56	Jerusalem	In: 18:32 Out: 19:44

5780: A YEAR IN REVIEW

RAFI COHEN | MAZKIR



Hashem Imachem! Chaverim, it is an honour to stand before you at my 8th Veida, and to deliver to you, on behalf of the Hanhalla, a report of the movement's activities, successes and struggles over the past year. At the

outset, let me say it has not been the year any of us thought it would be. Nevertheless, I am so proud to have been Mazkir in a year which saw the finest of what our Tnua has to offer from so many Chaverim – the strong commitment to Torah v'Avodah, our beloved ideology.

Let me begin with a rough outline of the year's key activities. In late August we waved goodbye to Torani and Kivun and in mid-September, Rav Ari Faust stepped down as the Head of the British Desk at World Bnei Akiva, one of his many roles he has held on behalf of Bnei Akiva UK in Israel. He was replaced in the role by Mazkir 5763 Jonny Lipczer.

In the final weeks of Elul, Selichot were held at the London Bayit, with a special Erev Rosh Hashana service held in Kinloss together with Mizrahi UK, and on Rosh Hashana itself the Manchester Bayit held very successful services. Around the same time, we were delighted to welcome into the BAUK family Nini, Matan, Shachar and Maor Milner, our new Northern Shlichim, together with Rav Joel, Rabbanit Sarah, Tani and Tsofia Kenigsberg, our new Rabbinical Shlichim. What a year for them to have started!!

Sukkot saw several events: 'Soup in the Sukkah' to meet Rav Joel and Sarah, Tikkun Leil Hoshana Rabbah in memory of Yoni Jesner z"l, held in the new London Bayit Sukkah with Rav Yogev Cohen and Rabbi Joseph Dweck. The Tnua travelled to Manchester for Simchat Torah, honouring Harry Birns, Uriel Abeles, Anoushka Goldman and Shira Collins as our Chattanim and N'shei Chayil. Also over Sukkot, our Svivot over the country restarted with successful Sukkah crawls, and Shevet Amichai, Chaverim who were on Hachshara 40 years ago(!) held an incredibly moving reunion on Kibbutz Alumim in Israel.

In November we contributed to Mitzvah Day, supporting the Joely Bear blood drive, and collecting for GIFT in both London and

Manchester. Throughout the year, the Student Bet Midrash partnership has stayed strong, and it was in November that two new projects were added under this umbrella. Firstly, the launch of weekly SBM sessions in Birmingham, and secondly, the creation of the Lilmod ul'lamed Women's Jewish Educator programme, a really special and unique programme that I encourage all Chaverot in Shevet Morasha and up to look into. A series of Melave Malka's with guest speakers started in Hendon, and for the first time ever, applications for Summer Machane opened even before those for Winter Machane had closed.

In December we had Chanukah on an incredible Winter Machane, over 200 Chaverim all together, with candle lighting every night, and a special last night firework party with hot doughnuts! The ruach was pumping, the ideology was tangible, the Madrichim were incredible, the Chanichim had an amazing time and didn't want it to end, and we welcomed Shevet Seenai, the newest Shevet in the Bnei Akiva family!

In January our Chinuch Worker Chana married Boger Kobi in Israel, and Shabbat Ha'Irgun season began with a very special Shabbat in Oxford organised by our youngest ever Madricha. Over the last year Ayelet, aged 8, the daughter of a Bnei Akiva family from Israel studying abroad, has been running activities for children in the community younger than herself! We sent her the smallest Chultzah we could find! At the end of January, the Mazkirut attended the Holocaust Memorial Trust's national commemoration ceremony, and the movement marked Mental Health Awareness Shabbat on Parashat Bo.

In February, Mazkirut applications closed, Eli was busy attending gap year fairs up and down the country, Rav Joel launched a series of Shiurim, 'Lights of Religious Zionism' and Bogrim were invited to a fruit carving evening to mark Tu b'Shvat at the London Bayit. The Mazkirut roadshow launched with Rav Joel visiting London university campuses as well as Birmingham and Bristol JSocs.

In March Eli and I visited Torani and Kivun, as well as other members of Shevet Morasha spending the year in Israel. Purim was a great success in both Manchester and London – and then the world shut down. Lockdown began on 16th March. It took us just four days to respond.

5780: A YEAR IN REVIEW CTD.

Over the next five weeks we ran Machane Aviv. We reached over 200 Chaverim with a daily schedule, shiurim from top Israeli educators, peer-led learning opportunities, pre tefilla insights, Hadracha hot tips, Israel updates, a supper quiz, an escape room, Chug, shevet chills and more. There was ruach, Mifkad, Kabbalat Shabbat. It was an incredible time of Chaverim taking responsibility, and it made me so proud to be a BANik. Thank you to everyone who was involved! Pesach came, and had Hallel over Zoom and our 49 second Omer thoughts all the way up to Shavuot.

The highlight of April was Yom Ha'atzmaut. While we couldn't have the live atmosphere of Kinloss and the Manchester Bayit, our reach and impact were magnified beyond belief! We reached around five thousand people across the world, showing them that no matter the circumstances, we will stand up and proudly celebrate our homeland, our state. Zoe collected and published advice from Olim of all ages, sharing their wisdom and top Aliyah tips.

In May we had a very special opportunity to Zoom meet with Asher Cailingold, our 4th and longest ever serving Mazkir. His stories of the early movement, advice for Chaverim and memories of his sister Esther and brother in law Yehuda Avner (also a Mazkir) were seriously amazing and well worth re watching, you can find it on our Facebook page. Machane Aviv merged into BA Online and we launched an ulpan programme – Sichot b'Ivrit – and a social action programme – 100 Acts of Kindness, which both received support and praise. At Lag Ba'Omer Bnei Akiva marked its international birthday (91 years in Israel). At Yom Yerushalayim we had a special virtual tour of the Kotel Tunnels and launched bauk.org/Aliyah, a page with resources and contacts for any chaver looking to begin their journey home.

Just before Shavuot we held a special event for Bogrot with Yoetzet Halacha Laurie Novick, and an event for all UK youth movements run by March of the Living telling the fascinating and tragic story of youth movements during the Holocaust. Ahead of Shavuot, we, together with the Student Bet Midrash, held an online Tikkun Leil, with over 50 Chaverim staying up well into the night, many of whom made it all the way to Shacharit. After Shavuot, Rav Joel started his Torah and Technology shiurim, we launched Veida, held an led by Loretta Hodari focused

on racism and what we as leaders in the Jewish community can do about it, and did our best to replace the Summer Machanot that could not go ahead.

This summer has really seen something remarkable. From the ashes of moving Tisha b'Av services and Tisches at the London Bayit, we rose up to build three incredible weeks of Summer Machanot! 400 Chanichim, 70 Madrichim, 17 Senior Tzevet, two cities, one incredible achievement! We had ruach, peulot, bonfires, trips, learning and so much more! Thank you so much to everyone who took part and who made it all possible! We couldn't have asked for a better way to end off the year!

Regarding Svivot, this year saw the first ever residential Hadracha Shabbaton for Sviva Madrichim, as well as the rebirth or creation of four new Svivot with two more new Svivot ready to start this coming year. To be involved click on the Tafkid form at bauk.org/svivot. Regarding Chinuch, despite lockdown, a weekly Choveret and Shabbat Lashem were successfully emailed to our database and to communities across the country every week. Regarding Israel, this year was set to be a third record breaking year in a row, with 220 Chanichim set to go on six Israel Machane groups. Additionally, we worked hard throughout the year to put on events for those in Shevet Morasha not on our Hachshara programmes.

We are also proud that despite having their year cut short, many of those on Torani made it back to Israel and were able to continue their studies. We also want to wish Mazal Tov to those Chaverim who have made Aliyah over this movement year.

To finish with a few thank yous to the current Nivcharim, our Shlichim and the outgoing Mazkirut. To next year's Mazkirut, I wish the best of luck – Hatzlacha Rabbah! And to all of you, my Chanichim, my Madrichim, my Bogrim, my friends, Chaverim have an incredible year 5781! May your lives always be guided by the motto of Am Yisrael b'Eretz Yisrael Al Pi Torat Yisrael! Chaverim, Hashem Imachem.

ADAPTED FROM THE HANHALLA REPORT TO VEIDA 5780.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

- We have **reopened applications** for the tafkid of **Israel and Sixth Form Worker 5781** (2020-21)! An incredible chance to help shape the future of the tnuva. Job description available at tinyurl.com/JD-Israel-5781. To receive an application form and with any questions, please email mazkir@bauk.org. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

- **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Coronavirus has hit Bnei Akiva hard, costing us over £150,000. Over the last six months our Mazkirut and Bogrim have been working tirelessly to put on a range of fantastic programming for our youth, from Machane Aviv in the Spring, to a celebration of Israel like no other on Yom Ha'atzmaut, and now a packed summer of programming for over 400 children. Please support our **Yad Achim Campaign**. Visit bauk.org/yad-achim for more information and to donate.

- Applications are open for **Winter Machane 5781!** Join us at an exciting new site from **21st-28th December** and enjoy a fantastic Bnei Akiva residential full of fun, friends and Ruach! NEW THIS YEAR: **Machane Seenai for Year 11!** Sign up today at bauk.org/camps or email camps@bauk.org for more information.

- Look out for **Inspiration-Elul**, a series of short daily videos containing thoughts from bogrim in the lead-up to the Yamim Nora'im. Available on Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

- We are launching a **chesed initiative** planned by madrichim and chanichim who volunteered at GIFT this week: **donate your old football shirts, shorts and boots** to those who can't afford them! Drop off any donations (clean and in good condition) at the London Bayit.

- Mazal tov to **Josh Caplan** (Shevet Ne'eman) and **Sarah Weston** on the occasion of their wedding!

- Wishing a belated mazal tov to **Shvut Hershkovitz** (Shevet Ne'eman) on her marriage to **Yisrael Elias!**

- Be sure to like our **Facebook page (Bnei Akiva UK)** and follow our **Instagram (bneiakivauk)** to stay informed of our online content!

- To receive weekly copies of **Shabbat Lashem**, sign up for our mailing list at bauk.org/contact.

- Visit bauk.org/feedback for contact details for all Mazkirut members and to leave any general feedback!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. Why is the prohibition against marrying an Egyptian or an Edomite less severe than the prohibition against marrying an Ammonite or Moabite? (**See Rashi on 23:9**)

2. Why must a hired labourer be paid on the same day that they work? (**See Ramban on 24:15**)

SHABBAT SHALOM!!!



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