



DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

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The Shema is arguably the most central prayer in our *Siddur*. Interestingly, the three paragraphs we say, morning and night, are drawn from three different places in the Torah, all read in the summer season. *V'ahavta*, the first paragraph, appears in this week's *parsha*, Va'etchanan (Devarim 6:4-9). *V'haya Im Shamo'a* is found in next week's *parsha*, Eikev (Devarim 11:13-21). And the third, "*Parshat Tzitzit*," comes from a bit earlier, Parshat Shelach (Bamidbar 15:37-41). *Baruch Hashem*, my wife and I have had the tremendous blessing of seven boys and two girls. Among the seven Bar Mitzvahs we have celebrated, five have been in the summer; three featured the Torah readings of precisely these three passages: one in Va'etchanan, one in Eikev, and one in Shelach.

For the last two Shabbatot, our family visited Camp Dror - two weeks ago with Camp Dror's girls' camp in Hodayot, and then this past week of Shabbat Chazon with the boys' camp in Kfar Chassidim. They were both

wonderful experiences for us. This past weekend, when I came to *davening* on Friday morning at the boys' camp, I witnessed a truly moving moment. The camp began to read the *Shema* out loud, word by word, according to the *trop* melody. Listening to boys from fifth grade through twelfth grade sing every word with its proper intonations, it struck me how much the *trop* gives us. Reading it this way places the emphasis on exactly the right word, it ensures that not a single word is skipped or slurred, and it grants us much greater meaning to what we are saying.

It was a great experience to be a part of. I saw close to a hundred boys sitting with their counselors, *davening* at length, with hardly anyone talking, no phones, all saying together, "*V'ahavta* - you shall love Hashem with all your heart, your soul, your might." Right then, I wished every parent could be a fly on the wall in that room, to get so much pride from watching their sons *daven* so beautifully. Knowing I had a column to write and report on this, I took a picture so their parents and our broader readership can get a glimpse of it.

Then, when we reached the words of *Shema* "*v'shinantam l'vanecha v'dibarta bam* - you shall teach them to your children and speak of them" (Devarim 6:7), I couldn't stop thinking about how the parents that decided to send their kids to Camp Dror, whether they sent their sons or their daughters, or both, were truly fulfilling the mitzvah of *v'shinantam l'vanecha v'dibarta bam*. Because we know that the mitzvah of *chinuch* of children is not only upon the parents to do directly, but also

In memory of our mother
Rose Edith Cohen a"h
13 Menachem Av

May the learning from this
Torah Tidbits be in her memory

We miss you very much

*Janice Weinreb
Barbara Yasgur
Benay Deborah Cohen-Nesher
and Families*

to hire the right teachers and the right staff to be able to educate our children in the best way possible.

The Gemara (Bava Batra 21a) tells us about how Rabbi Yehoshua ben Gamla established that teachers of children be appointed in every city, because by entrusting their children to the right teachers and staff, the Torah can live on in the next generation so much more powerfully. Throughout both Shabbatot at Camp Dror, I watched *v'shinantam l'van-echa* come alive.

Every morning, a half hour before davening, the Cocoa Club gathers over hot cocoa and biscuits for serious personalized learning sessions to prepare for the morning prayers. I had the privilege of presenting at one of those sessions on Shabbat morning, and I saw about fifteen boys across from me with real thirst, asking question after question while we discussed the importance and essence of Shabbat Chazon, as well as its connection to Parshat Devarim. I told them how lucky they are that they have parents who want to make sure that in their spiritual toolbox they have at least one summer experience at Camp Dror, which will undoubtedly enhance their lives with Torah, with positive role models, with a passion for Torah that Camp Dror is giving them. The previous Shabbat on the girls' campus, I also spoke about how lucky they were. Not only to be at Dror, but also about living in the Land of Israel. And later on towards the end of Shabbat, I spoke about how although the war gave us unfortunately painful moments, we must understand how lucky we are with the unbelievable miracles we have also seen.

What moved me most was seeing such genuine enthusiasm and passion from our staff at Dror. I was able to connect to staff over those Shabbatot at both campuses, and I heard from



so many of them how they had decided to dedicate such a large portion of their summer in order to inspire the younger generation. I heard from them how they believe in these kids and teenagers, how they see themselves as role models to be able to build up the next generation, to make sure that the next generation is equipped with everything they need in order to be our future leaders.

The staff we have is so, so incredible. I was floored hearing so many campers talk to me about how they hope to be *madrichim* and *madrichot* when they get older, and *madrichim* and *madrichot* telling me how they have been coming to Camp Dror since the fifth or sixth grade!

This is true *v'shinantam* - teaching and inspiring the next generation. On the girls' side, we have to recognize Zahava Bauer, Shyelle Nagel, and Mikki Averick, who dedicate themselves so completely for their campers, and on the boys' side, Rabbi Yonatan Hirschhorn and Rabbi Leor Brenner doing the same. I know this is a team that barely sleeps in order to give campers an incredible summer. Leading both camps is Rabbi Kenny Pollack, who does a phenomenal job with passion, a love of Torah, and genuine love for every single camper.

I haven't experienced a *Kabbalat Shabbat* like this in years. There was well over an hour of dancing and singing, with not a single camper left sitting on the side. It was

so remarkable that I was grateful to have brought OU Israel board member Meir Raskas along, so that someone could help me convey to our leadership what words can barely capture. And my wife told me when she attended the girls' *davening* how special it was, and about the amazing spirit the girls gave to the singing and the atmosphere of Shabbat.

Our dear readers should know how beloved the Torah Tidbits are up there in camp. I brought a huge stack of about 60 Torah Tidbits up to the girl campus, and every last copy was taken. Rabbi Pollack had even asked me to bring more (which was difficult, since our run of 15,000 copies is so in-demand), so that we can make sure there is enough for both campuses. The copies I brought to the boys' campus were likewise taken without any left over. And it was really amazing to see. Throughout Shabbat I saw campers not only reading the great comic in the back by Netanel Epstein, but also the *divrei Torah*. Several told me they read Torah Tidbits with their parents each week and say it over at the Shabbat table. To see the next generation modeling their *madrichim*, learning not from what they are told but from what they are shown, was so incredible.

Another Torah Tidbits story from this past Shabbat warms my heart. Right before Shabbat on the boys' campus, I was surrounded by a crowd of staff members who begged me to take a picture with them. They said all they wanted was that the picture would be printed in this week's Torah Tidbits! I happily obliged!

I want to thank Esti Moskovitz, our Director of Anglo Engagement & Programming in Israel, & her associate Nehama Cohen, for taking everything we do for the English-speaking community in Israel, and Camp Dror in particular, to ever greater heights. And to every parent and grandparent who sent a camper

**Condolences to
Michaela Levine and family
on the passing of her husband**

ALAN ז"ל

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

to Camp Dror this summer: you have made an extraordinary investment in their future, and I have no doubt you will *shep nachas* as you watch them grow.

May we all merit to say *Kriat Shema* with a little more *kavanah*, finding deeper meaning in the great work of educating our children, grandchildren, and all those who are dear to us, with the words "v'shinantam l'vanecha."

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,


Rabbi Avi Berman

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