



Parshat Kedoshim, March 29 2022

The Week in Review

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Kayitz zman started! It's so exciting to see everyone back into learning after a long Pesach break. We began the zman on Wednesday going to Yad Vashem to hear from the shoa survivor Moshe Bart. It was a blessing to share a moment with such a character. Then we attended the national Yom Hashoa Tekes (ceremony) on top of Har Herzl and it was a very meaningful experience. On Thursday we had our own Tekes with the entire midrasha. In the afternoon we had the opportunity to go back to Har Herzl, to the military cemetery. It's so moving to see the beauty they made out of this place of grieving. It shows how much we care about each and everyone's lives and stories. Our hearts were heavy hearing some of their incredible stories and yet the place is calm, peaceful. It is our duty to remember and never forget.

After a meaningful week with many emotions we look forward to Shabbat together and to another busy week commemorating Yom Hazikaron and celebrating Yom Haatzmaut together!

Midrasha-Wide Tekes Yom HaShoa



Official National

Yad Vashem Tekes





Tour of Har Herzl



D'var Torah from our Students

Leora Rothschild

Teaneck, NJ

Maayanot

כְּאֶזְרַח מִכֶּם יִהְיֶה לָכֶם הַגֵּר הַגֵּר אֶתְכֶם וְאַהֲבַת לֹ כְּמוֹךְ כִּי גֵרִים הָיִיתֶם בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם אֲנִי ה' אֱלֹקֵיכֶם (ויקרא י"ט:כד)

As we traveled through the desert receiving new laws, HaShem informed us on how we should treat strangers. A couple of פסוקים before this one, G-d used the same word, “ואהבת” to tell בני ישראל how to treat their friends. We were not just told to live among the stranger but rather to love and include him/her because we were once lonely strangers in Egypt. We were being commanded to take the pain and experiences we went through and use that emotion to love and give kindness towards others.

This week, in honor of Yom Hashoa, we went to Yad Vashem. We had the privilege of hearing from the Holocaust Survivor, Moshe Bart. He spoke about his time in five different concentration camps and his coming to Israel. He then went on to sing, tell us jokes, and explain the beautiful life he built for himself here in Eretz Yisrael. After we heard Mr. Bart's inspiring speech, we headed to the National Yom Hashoa Tekes. Hearing survivors and their children speak was incredibly meaningful. At the tekes, a video of Shmuel Blumenfeld, a survivor, was shown where he repeated his last words to Eichman, “Do you see this, Mr. Eichmann? This is an authentic number from Auschwitz. Your men didn't follow orders. It's a miracle that a few people survived and that we resurrected the Jewish people. We live in the State of Israel, forevermore.” Mr. Blumenfeld continued the story of the Jewish people. Throughout the week, the words “Never Forget” have been repeating in my head: a promise to live by. This was not just a promise to never forget the pain and suffering our ancestors went through in the Holocaust, but to never forget that we are the continuation of the Six Million Jews that perished in the Holocaust.

This coming week, we will enter another phase of Jewish History: the commemoration of the fallen soldiers and civilians of the State of Israel and the miracle of the establishment of the State of Israel. It was no coincidence placing Yom Hazikaron the day before Yom Haatzmaut. It is a clear representation of the lesson HaShem has been instilling in us since יציאת מצרים. We were strangers in a foreign land where none was kind to us so we love the stranger like he/she is our own. Moshe Bart experienced the most unimaginable pain, but this week Mr. Bart and his many grandchildren will rejoice on Yom Haatzmaut for the establishment of the land he calls his own. Mr. Blumenfeld was dehumanized by being given a number on his arm. Now, his numbered arm is used to hold his many grandchildren.

We are the continuation of our history. It is our job to take the pain of the past and be better than those who oppressed and persecuted us. “ואהבת לו כמוך” – this is how we continue the story of our past.

Shabbat Shalom!

