

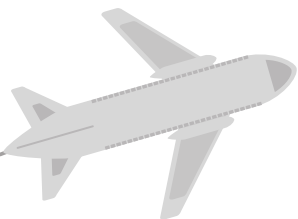


Parshat Ki Tetze, August 19, 2021

The Week in Review

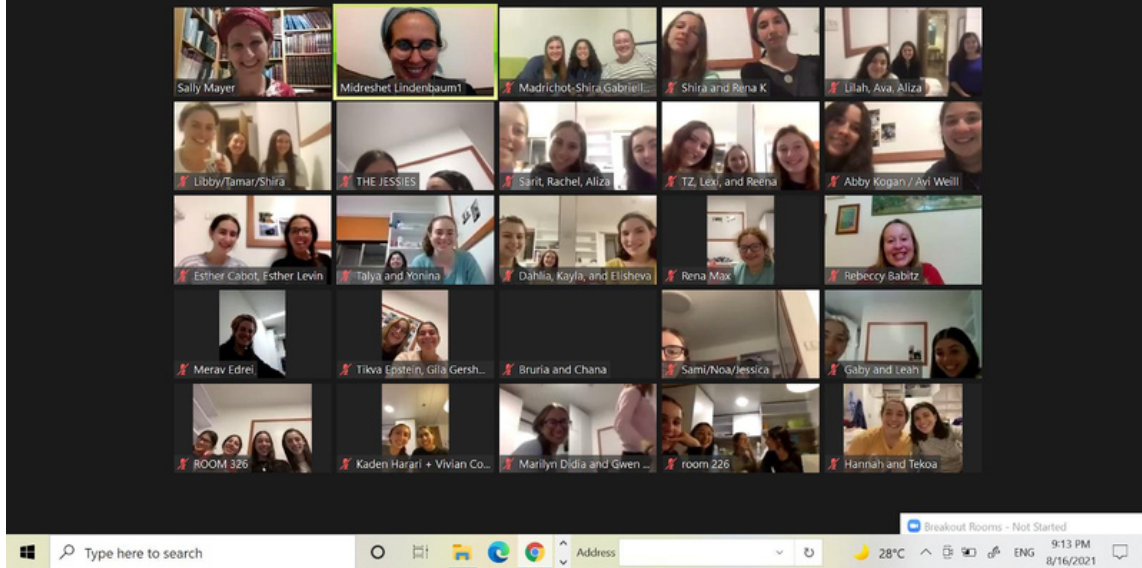
by Aliza Kahan
Teaneck, NJ
Maayanot

It has been an amazing first week at Midreshet Lindenbaum! We arrived on Monday afternoon and had the night to unpack and enjoy a meal in our room with our roommates! On Tuesday, we started our Hilchot Teshuva chavrutot where we get the opportunity to learn with someone new every day. It has been an amazing opportunity to meet new people and jumpstart our Elul learning. We ended off Tuesday night with delicious smoothie bowls prepared by our amazing madrichot, and fun icebreakers on the Mirpeset! On Wednesday, we had an introduction to Massechet Rosh Hashanah (the Massechet we will be learning til the Chagim) with Rabbanit Nomi. We also each had the opportunity to meet our Gemara Ramim, and it was nice to be able to discuss our learning styles and preferences with them. We had introductions to our Tanach classes followed by an orientation on the back patio (the weather in Jerusalem has been beautiful!) with Rabbanit Sally! On Wednesday night, our amazing Madrichot organized a night activity where we got to tie dye and make s'mores! Even though we have been following quarantine protocols, it has an awesome bonding experience and we are excited for our first Shabbat together!

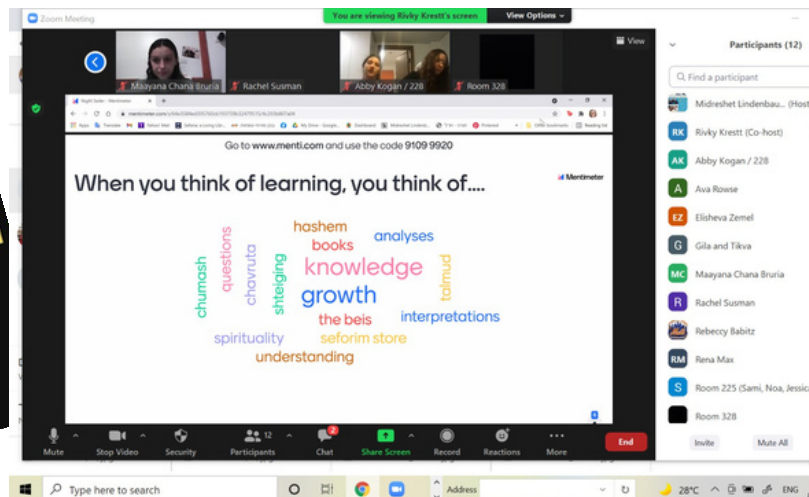


They're Here!!





Getting to
know each other...



Seder Erev Intro...

Outdoor Learning





Smoothies, S'mores and Tie Dye!





B'Yachad B'Bidud!







Suite Pizza Making



D'var Torah from our Students

Bruria Spraragen
Teaneck, NJ
Frisch

Parshat Ki Tetzei is filled with a variety of laws from many categories of life, in seemingly no particular order. Slipped in between laws which fall into the category of בין אדם לחבירו - such as laws pertaining to marriage and honest loans - are two vague pasukim regarding צרעת. In צרעת we are told that if a person is afflicted with צרעת they are to do as the Cohanim and Leviim say because Hashem has told them what to do. We are then told in the next pasuk, “זָכוֹר אֶת אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְמִרְיָם בְּדֶרֶךְ בְּצֵאתְכֶם מִמִּצְרָיִם” - remember what the Lord your God did to Miriam on the journey after you left Egypt. On the journey, Miriam spoke לשון הרע about Moshe and was given צרעת and forced to be isolated from the camp until she healed, but why do we need to mention that here and why is it so imperative that we remember it? Rashi says that if one wants to prevent the plague of צרעת, he should refrain from speaking badly about another person. Remember what happened to Miriam when she spoke לשון הרע and you won't make the same mistake. Ramban disagrees; he argues that this pasuk is actually a מצות עשה - a positive commandment - similar to that of, “זָכוֹר אֶת אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְךָ עַמְלֶק,” or, “זָכוֹר אֶת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת,” as we see later in the parasha. This mitzvah acts as an active warning against speaking לשון הרע; it is an positive commandment to remember the punishment of Miriam and Ramban even puts it as part of the 613 mitzvah or of the Torah.

We are now in the month of Elul, a time that we think more about our personal goals for this year and things we need to work on, both בין אדם למקום and בין אדם לחבירו. One thing we can all strive to do is listen to the words of this week's parasha and remember what happened to Miriam and, as the Ramban suggests, make it an active priority to better ourselves and refrain from speaking badly about others. In this way, these two seemingly out of context pesukim about צרעת are linked to the surrounding laws about how to properly treat others.



Shabbat Shalom!

