



#LiveLearnLindenbaum



Lech Lecha, November 4, 2022

The Week in Review

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SAR

What an incredible week at Midreshet Lindenbaum! On Monday morning, the group of us who went to Poland arrived back home and reunited with the Masa group. There was no greater feeling than flying back to Israel, the home of the Jewish people, after spending a week in Poland. The trip, led by Rav Brown, Ada, Rabbanit Rachel, and Yaffa was truly an out-of-this-world experience, full of meaningful learning about Polish Jewry and the Holocaust. It was still, of course, a very intense week. And so the feeling of returning to medinat Yisrael—a privilege so many Polish Jews would have done anything for—after everything we'd experienced in the past week was surreal. One of the things I've taken away from our Poland trip is that I'm now even more appreciative of the fact that we get to study Torah in Israel for the entire year. We are truly so lucky.

After spending the day unpacking and resting (and doing tons of laundry:), we had a formal reunion of the two groups where we each shared our

experiences from the past week. I loved that we had the opportunity to reflect on both trips together, as one midrasha, after such a long time spent apart.

We were also informed of the bracha bee, an opportunity where we study the halakhot of brachot and compete for prizes. We learned that Lindenbaum specifically does the bracha bee during cheshvan, so that we can add more brachot to “mar cheshvan”. I’m very excited to have a built-in opportunity to learn about all the questions I have about making brachot!

The next morning was back to regular classes. It was wonderful to finally be back in routine and settling into Choref zman after the long stretch of Elul zman and Poland/Masa. We finally began to dig into masekhet Makkot, our masekhet of the year, which is all about criminal law and capital punishment. After morning seder, we had the afternoon off in honor of Election Day. That night, we had a wonderful info session led by Jamie who gave us a crash course on the Israeli political system and on the election. I learned so much that night and, when we were watching the polling results come in, we were all on the edge of our seats!

On Wednesday and Thursday, we had our first full days of classes. On Thursday, we began the morning with seder Tanakh and Halakha b’iyun, and spent the afternoon in our different emuna and elective classes. We ended the day with Seder Erev, one of the highlights of our week here at Lindenbaum. Seder Erev is so incredible because it’s the one time of the week when every single student can individually learn whatever she wants but we all do so together, in our beautiful beit midrash. I’m studying Rav Soloveitchik’s Halakhic Man in chevruta and it’s definitely one of my favorite parts of the week! After seder erev, we had an incredible mishmar led by Dr. Shana Schick about Beit Hillel’s legacy of humility and tolerance (with, of course, great snacks). After, we began gearing up towards Shabbat and for our first full week of classes, beginning this Sunday.



Masa Yisraeli trip breakfast and mosaic-making activity at Rabbanit Sally's home



Poland Trip returns to Israel...





**Back to the Beit
Midrash...**



Election Breakdown





Darkaynu Welcome and Speed Dating



D'var Torah from our Students

Tamar Spira
Sharon, MA
Maimonides

We've all heard the first pasuk of Lech Lecha, where Avraham is commanded to leave the land of his forefathers and go to the land that God will show him. We see that Avraham obeys God without question and moves to Eretz Canaan. While this was a difficult test for Avraham, I think that what Avraham does next reveals his character even more.

Once moving to Eretz Canaan, specifically a place called Alon Moreh, Avraham builds a mizbeach. He then moves to Beit El, builds another mizbeach, and calls out the name of God. Finally, he builds another mizbeach in Alone Mamre.

What strikes me about Avraham's mizbeach building is that God never commanded or even suggested doing this. Avraham could have simply moved with his family to the new land, settled there, and lived happily ever after. Instead, Avraham lives a nomadic lifestyle where he travels to different areas and lives out of a tent. It's almost like Avraham is continuously telling himself to "lech lecha," to keep moving to new places.

The Ramban explains that Avraham called out God's name loudly in order to raise awareness for God. He was trying to spread the idea of monotheism and preach to the people of Canaan. By building physical monuments in multiple places, Avraham attracted the attention of the locals and taught them about God. While Avraham was never told to preach to the locals or call out God's name to them, his actions were essential in getting Judaism started.

Avraham's actions teach us the importance of going above and beyond. At times, we will receive our own "lech lecha," a calling to do something out of our comfort zone. Avraham teaches us not only to listen to the "lech lecha," but also to build our own mizbachot. That is, we should push ourselves to go the extra mile and do what needs to be done even if we aren't being called to do so.

Shabbat Shalom

