

August 22, 2019

Location:

156 S Poplar Street

Denver, CO 80230

Attendees:

Name	Present
Ariella Wells (remote)	No
Shawn Connelly	Yes
Dave Reynolds	No
Greg Ostravich	Yes
Jenna Wilkin	Yes
Joe Black	
Mike Shapiro	Yes
Harel Erez	
Rebecca (Riky) Erez	
Sonya Lipman	

Pledge of Allegiance

Eikev - Deuteronomy 7:12–11:25

Summary:

In the Parshah of Eikev (“**Because**”), Moses continues his closing address to the children of Israel, promising them that if they will fulfill the commandments (**mitzvot**) of the Torah, they will prosper in the **Land** they are about to conquer and settle in keeping with G-d’s promise to their forefathers.

Moses also **rebukes** them for their failings in their first generation as a people, recalling their worship of the **Golden Calf**, the rebellion of **Korach**, the sin of the **spies**, their angering of G-d at Taveirah, Massah and Kivrot Hataavah (“**The Graves of Lust**”). “You have been **rebellious** against G-d,” he says to them, “since the day I knew you.” But he also speaks of G-d’s forgiveness of their sins, and the **Second Tablets** which G-d inscribed and gave to them following their repentance.

Moses describes the land they are about to enter as “flowing with **milk** and **honey**,” blessed with the “seven kinds” (**wheat, barley, grapevines, figs, pomegranates, olive oil** and **dates**), and as the place that is the **focus** of G-d’s **providence** of His world.

A key passage in our Parshah is the second chapter of the **Shema**, which repeats the fundamental mitzvot enumerated in the Shema’s first chapter, and describes the **rewards** of fulfilling G-d’s commandments and the adverse results (famine and **exile**) of their neglect. It is also the source of the precept of **prayer**, and includes a reference to the resurrection of the dead in the **messianic age**.



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Commentary from 2016 by Rabbi Sacks:

<http://rabbisacks.org/spirituality-listening-ekev-5776/>

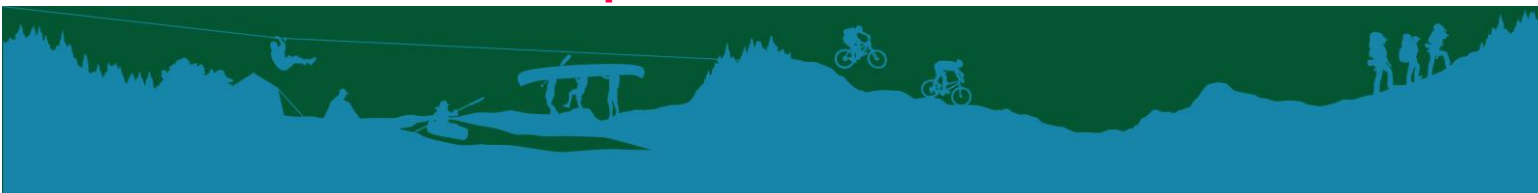
Here are some excerpts from that commentary:

It is one of the most important words in Judaism, and also one of the least understood. Its two most famous occurrences are in last week's parsha and this week's: "*Hear* O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one," and "It shall come to pass if you *surely listen* to My commandments which I am commanding you today, to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul" – the openings of the first and second paragraphs of the *Shema*. It also appears in the first line of the parsha: "It shall come to pass, if you *listen* to these laws."

The word, of course, is *shema*. I have argued elsewhere that it is fundamentally untranslatable into English since it means so many things: to hear, to listen, to pay attention, to understand, to internalize, to respond, to obey. It is one of the motif-words of the book of Devarim, where it appears no less than 92 times – more than in any other book of the Torah. Time and again in the last month of his life Moses told the people, *Shema*: listen, heed, pay attention. Hear what I am saying. Hear what God is saying. Listen to what he wants from us. If you would only listen ... *Judaism is a religion of listening*. This is one of its most original contributions to civilization.

This idea – that knowing is seeing – remains the dominant metaphor in the West even today. We speak of *insight*, *foresight* and *hindsight*. We offer an *observation*. We adopt a *perspective*. We *illustrate*. We *illuminate*. We *shed light* on an issue. When we understand something, we say, "*I see*."

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Judaism offered a radical alternative. It is faith in a God we cannot see, a God who cannot be represented visually. The very act of making a graven image – a visual symbol – is a form of idolatry. As Moses reminded the people in last week's parsha, when the Israelites had a direct encounter with God at Mount Sinai, "You heard the sound of words, but saw no image; there was only a voice." ([Deut. 4:12](#)). God communicates in sounds, not sights. He speaks. He commands. He calls. That is why the supreme religious act is *Shema*. When God speaks, we listen. When He commands, we try to obey.

Jews and Judaism taught that we cannot see God, but we can hear Him and He hears us. It is through the word – speaking and listening – that we can have an intimate relationship with God as our parent, our partner, our sovereign, the One who loves us and whom we love. We cannot demonstrate God scientifically. We cannot prove God logically. These are Greek, not Jewish, modes of thought. I believe that from a Jewish perspective, trying to prove the existence of God logically or scientifically is a mistaken enterprise.^[4] God is not an object but a subject. The Jewish mode is to relate to God in intimacy and love, as well as awe and reverence.

Listening lies at the very heart of relationship. It means that we are open to the other, that we respect him or her, that their perceptions and feelings matter to us. We give them permission to be honest, even if this means making ourselves vulnerable in so doing. A good parent listens to their child. A good employer listens to his or her workers. A good company listens to its customers or clients. A good leader listens to those he or she leads. Listening does not mean agreeing but it does mean caring. Listening is the climate in which love and respect grow.

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Review July Meeting Minutes – Minutes approved

Unit Status

Aish / HEA / Temple Sinai Update – Greg reached out to Mikeala. Mikeala is gone (July 12th) so we'll find a new contact. Tobin Truslow is the current contact. -> Now it's Ceasar Guerrero. We'll try and follow up with him.

Mike: No update but will talk to BMH about resurrecting a Pack. Denver Jewish Day School maybe too (DJDS) at Iliff & Wabash. Was Denver Campus of Jewish Education. → Mike spoke with the Rabbi and gave him a description of what he would need to do as the Chartered Org Rep. The Scoutmaster and the committee chairs along with the youth would do the work.

1613 – Jenna has been on her own; is stepping away from the unit. We need to find a local Pack she can plug into instead. Maybe Temple Emanuel in the Fall? 1613 will be the unit Sammy Strears finishes out with for his Eagle. They are in existence through December 31st. Not sure Josh did the Eagle Scoutmaster Conference but Josh Rubin and Greg Holt met with him so that may have been the Scoutmaster Conference; also we'll need a BOR for Sammy.

1874 – Greg reached out to Zach Rolf and Mikaela. Will be meeting in August. Also Jenna would be willing to help out with Emanuel. → Zach moved back East; we'll try and find some contacts (Ceasar with DAC, TBD at Temple Emanuel?)

Programs:

Scout Shabbat (Observant Shabbos) at Council Camporee. – September 20-22, 2019. – Still interested? Where should we do this? -- Table until we have a unit to sponsor it. (Not seeing interest; may skip this time since we don't have the numbers and they really need adult leaders to help out with support for Camporee.

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Passover Patches? Update: Order was canceled because people in the camping department didn't know what they were. Shawn talked to the right person; they should be in 9/9.

DAC Jewish Eagles

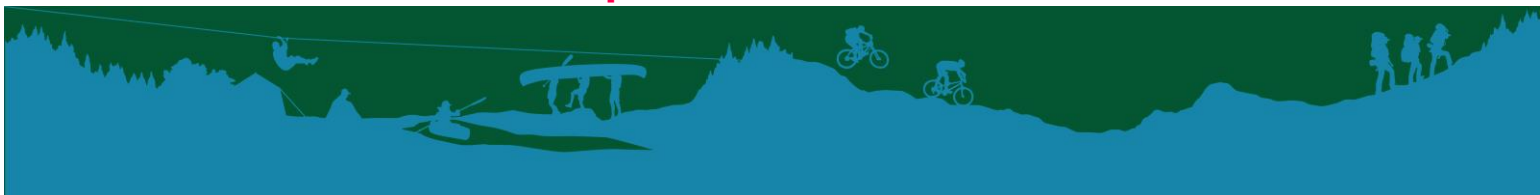
- Sammy Strear - Eagle update? Project done; write-up? → Check if he did Scoutmaster Conference with Josh Rubin and then we'll need to schedule a BOR.

Council Camporee for 2019 at PV - Updates (9/20-9/22) –

We'll just do some services stuff; but we're not going to have the full Jewish Camporee like we've had before for a Jewish unit. Not sure on meals; we'll see if volunteers have something to plug into for that or if we need to plug in to a unit at Camporee. We'll camp at Caribou and Mike's arranging meals and we can all volunteer with the Camporee. → See if Scott Markowitz wants to join us too.

- Same set-up as last time but this may vary based on headcount.
- We'll need to have the eruv set-up - let's see if we can include the campsite. Same as last time. Poles are in the trailer. Pull out the patrol boxes.
- Eruv includes the campsite we can go back and forth.
- Shul in the Commissary again.
- We need to nail down the activities, the times/agenda, the kosher food, et. al. Services Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday Afternoon and Evening, Kosher meals.
- What badges? (defer decision based on headcount)
- Siblings? Parents sleeping in tents?
- Archery? Shabbat restrictions but we can watch, then we can do stuff on Sunday we couldn't do on Saturday. Like the firing range for example.
- Greg needs to reach out to Tim Davies to discuss what we can have on Sunday. – Mike heard there will be shooting on Sunday.
- Camporee Pin – (Also skipping this)
 - 10 Commandments? (Tablets)

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- Samples from other pins to show the scouts
- Chaim design? Yes; still interested.
- Greg e-mailed David Short about the Jambo pin manufacturer. – Passed on to Shawn. Quality Lapel Pins. If we make 100 pins it would be around \$200. DAC could kick in 100; maybe we all kick-in \$25 to make the difference.
- Could do a Nature Hike. Question: Backpacks OK? Probably not. We need to follow up with that. Watches OK; something on a necklace. Allergies stuff OK. Maybe somebody not observant can carry?
- Shawn – post Jewish Observant Camping registration? Will get this for next time; needs to update what's already there. How do we get our numbers? Survey? Plug-in to the existing registration. Ask people to register with 1613. Should we reach out to Mark Zoller to promote? We'll reach out to those that sign up 1613.
 - Shabbos Dinner Friday Night in Commissary
 - Light breakfast at the campsite
 - Kiddush Luncheon
 - Cholent for Lunch
 - Mincha / Shalashudes / Havdalah – Sunday Shacharit.
 - Coldcuts or Shalshudes

Shooting Event –

Discuss with Mayer and Dave – find out Mayer's school schedule. Venue will be Cherry Creek Reservoir's Shooting Range.

Last Month's TODO items – Updates:

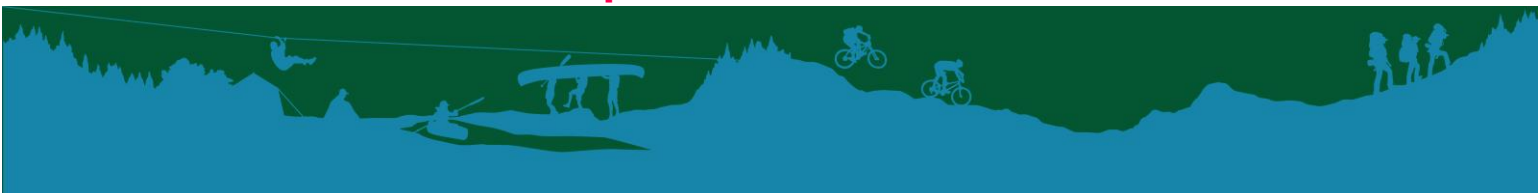
Shawn

- Check records of what we charged for the last Camporee - never mind; we're changing because we don't have support.

Greg

- Create the information for 1613 at Camporee. Get the word out to Mark Zoller. Work with Shawn Connelly on the flyer. – Never mind; not doing the

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Camporee like we did before.

Jenna

- Reach out to Rabbi Friedman about what you can do on a hike to carry the 10 Essentials including water. Maybe a big eruv fixes that problem. (For Camporee) → Never mind. Change of plans on our implementation.

All:

- Camporee Schedule - nail down activities and menu (one-handed bowline knot would be OK for example → Change of plans.

Next Month's TODO items:

Shawn

- Kinnus Patches
- Trailer Registration

Greg

- Reach out to Tim Davies about volunteer registration and costs.

Mike:

- Menu planning for Camporee
- Verify Sammy Strears did his Scoutmaster Conference.

Next Meeting:

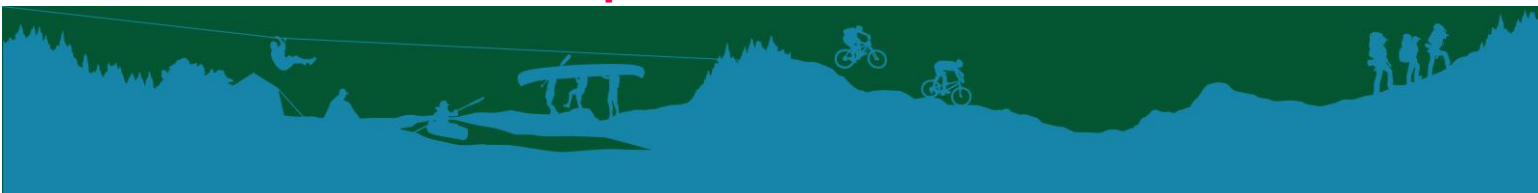
We'll meet **at** Camporee; Sunday morning during breakfast.

Scoutmaster Minute

Force vs Persuasion – The Sun and the Wind

The Wind and the Sun were arguing.

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It's a little known fact but, every once in a while, the forces of nature have an argument, and I happened to overhear them the other day.

We all know the wind is, well, kind of a blowhard and just the other day the Wind was bragging about how strong it was, and even insisted it was stronger than the Sun.

The Sun (basically a pretty good force of nature with a big, smiley face) smiled back at the wind and said "I have to admit you are pretty strong; but I don't know that you are any stronger than I am."

This made the Wind impatient and he reminded the Sun he could create hurricanes and tornadoes.

The Sun just kept smiling and, of course, this made the Wind kind of angry.

"Listen. See that guy over there?" the Wind asked, "I bet I can make him take off his coat faster than you can!"

"I don't think you can" the sun replied, still smiling.

"Well, I'll show you!" the Wind shouted. He started picking up speed and blasted the man so hard it nearly knocked him over. The man leaned into the wind and turned the collar of his coat up, holding on to it even harder.

After a few minutes of this the Wind gave up in frustration. "I'll bet you can't do any better!" he sneered at the Sun.

The sun smiled and said "Good try! Let's see if I can get this guy to take off his coat." The sun beamed down on the man, and warmed him up. The man smiled back at the sun and thought "finally, the wind has died down and it's getting warmer. I don't need this coat any more." The man took off his coat, slung it over his shoulder and continued on his way.

"See that?" said the Sun, "I am at least as strong as you, maybe even a little stronger." The wind huffed and puffed a little, but he knew the sun was right.

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What's more powerful; force or persuasion?

If we need to get something done I think we'll find that blasting others with the severity of our demands isn't nearly as effective as warming them up with kindness and encouragement.

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