

Shevet Tapuz



September - November 2009

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Shevet Update

Since the end of August our Shevet has been fortunate to have Yael Bleiberg as our new energetic Merakezet. Since Yael's arrival we have had quite a few events ran and led by her. This includes Shachbag Fun Day, Leadership Seminar, Irvine Global Village Festival, our Open House and Kochav Nolad show. We applaud Yael for her energy, patience, and positive attitude; making all of these events happen in such a short period of time. In November we had our first troop-wide event of the year: the Shevet Camping Trip, which took place at O'Neill Regional Park. We anticipated a large number of participants as our Shevet is rapidly growing.

We would like to welcome the many new families who have joined the Tzofim for the first time this year, and we welcome everyone to be active and to volunteer to help us make it another great Tzofim activities year.

Our [calendar](#) is full of exciting events planned for our children and our family members, as well as some events for the entire community. Please check our online calendar regularly for updates.



A Message from Yael

Dear Chanichim, Shachbag parents and community members,
My name is Yael Bleiberg and I am the new Merakezet of Shevet Tapuz.

I'm 25 years old and the younger of two sisters. I was born and raised in Beer-Sheva, the beautiful capital of the Negev

I was a Chanicha (scout) in a youth movement in Israel ("Hanoar Haoved Vehalomed") for eight years. After graduating from high school I spent a year volunteering at the youth movement in a position parallel to a scout troop leader, overseeing a troop of 1,500 kids.

After my military service, in an effort to expand and build my leadership skills, I studied at Ben Gurion University for three years to receive my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education and Hebrew Literature.

Upon graduation I wanted to take some time off to get a hands-on and more meaningful experience working with communities and youth and I decided to take part, as a Young Shlichah, in a program run by The Jewish Agency that collaborates among Jewish organizations from around the world and brings Israel to communities abroad.

I arrived in Orange County about three months ago to work as a troop leader for the Israeli Scouts and as an Israeli educator/expert for both the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Jewish Community Center in Orange County. I am thrilled to say that with the help and support of the Israeli and Jewish Community here, I already feel very much at home.

Although we have just started our activity year less than three months ago, we have already had many special events. Most recently was the Shevet (Troop) Camping Trip, and I really enjoy the work with the scouts.

This year we have a lot of new Madrichim and I am glad to say that all of them are making the much needed and appreciated effort to make the activities as educational a fun as they could possibly be. Working together with the Madrichim and the excellent group of Pehilim, and with the support of the parents, I anticipate that we will have a very successful year. The parents of the Chanichim that I have met so far have been wonderful and I am looking forward to meeting the rest of you.

I am glad to have made the decision to come and work here in Orange County with you and the other wonderful agencies.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming Chanukah celebration on Saturday, December 12.

Please feel free to contact me by email (yaeltapuz@gmail.com) or by phone (949-235-6050).

Yael

Summary of our Summer 2009 Events

End of the Year Pool Party

The Shevet End of the Year Pool Party was held, as usual, at Woodbridge, Irvine. Although it was a cloudy day the party went as planned and everybody had fun. We said goodbye to the families (Ashkenazi, Tuval, Bash and Ron) that were about to leave our Shevet and Orange County and to our Bogrim (Orr, Matan and Adam).

We also acknowledged Shoval for her contribution to the Shevet throughout the year.



Summer Camp

Our annual Shevet Summer Camp took place at [Caspers Wilderness Park](#), off Ortega Hwy. Although space was limited most of the kids who wanted to participate managed to get in. The camping site we had was nice and shady and the temperature was pleasant. Our large 8th and 9th grade group had their traditional promotion to the Shachbag with a ceremony and they officially became Sachbagnikim.



Shachbag Fun Day

Every year our Shachbag celebrates a year of extensive community and Scouting work by unwinding and bonding in an event called "Shachbag Fun Day". This year the Shachbag met at the South Lagoon in Woodbridge for a morning of sailing and picnicking and getting to know our new Merakezet Yael. As always this was a fun and exciting event especially since it was conducted after the long summer vacation when many of the children were out of the country, traveling.



Irvine Global Village Festival

The Irvine Global Village Festival is an annual city-wide event organized by The City of Irvine. Many countries and cultures are represented at this event and booths are set-up for presentation of the different cultures. Our Shevet has traditionally been representing The State of Israel with a booth, run by our Shachbag, full of activities, educational material, and pictures. In the past we had "pita bread with chocolate spread" as a treat for our guests and sometimes we even baked our own pita bread. This year we had decided to let the crowd taste some "Bislli Falafel". It turned out to be a huge success. We had a record number of visitors to our booth and most of them took the time to do some activity or taste our treat.

Thanks to all the volunteers that contributed their time and effort to make this event once again a success.



Shachbag Leadership Seminar (Seminar Ptichat Shana)

This seminar is designed to unite and teach leadership skills to our Shachbagnikim. The smooth functioning of the Shachbag is a key instrument to the vitality of the Shevet. In the seminar the children learn their responsibilities as the older group and have the opportunity to bond with the new Shachbag members, as this group changes every year. This year the seminar took place at [Canyon RV Park](#). The highlight of the seminar was the [rope course](#) where they could test their courage, strength and climbing skills.



Open House

Shevet Tapuz Open house usually takes place during Sukkot. This year it occurred a week later, but the spirit of the holiday festivity was still present. Many members of the community showed up with plenty of delicious homemade food and ready to start a new Tzofim year. We've had a record number of registering members, many of them new.



Thanks to all of you who came ready with the forms in advance and with all documents signed. This helps speed up the administration process involving registering many kids at once.

Kochav Nolad

Organized by Yael, this Tzofim family event was an amazing kickoff for a new Tzofim year. We had three "Kochav Nolad stars" that sang Israeli songs and told their very interesting and unique life stories. Each and every one of them was phenomenal and the Chanichim had a blast.



Shevet Camping Trip



Our first Shevet-wide camping event of the year took place in November, at [O'Neill Regional Park](#).

The theme of the camp was Harry Potter. The children were divided into four "houses", and, as in the "Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry", each group included Chanichim from all age levels, allowing each child the opportunity to

work with and get to know other children, older and younger than him / her. Each team had a few missions to follow, with the main goal of finding, based on clues along a trail, the "Sorcerer's Stone". In addition, there were separate activities for each age group. Special thanks to all the Pehilim who worked so hard to build and operate the camp and the various structures, to the Merakzim Tzehirim who are always working tirelessly, and the Madrichim for their leadership and devotion to their chanichim.



Save the Date

For our annual community-wide

Chanukah Celebration

Saturday, December 12, 3:30 pm -5:30 pm

At Deerfield Community Park

Tzofim Chetz V'Keshet

Israel Summer Program

Dates: June 29, 2010 - July 28, 2010

Registration is Now Open

<http://www.israelscouts.org/siteDisplay.php?part=12&page=116>



Please
Help us get Money
with your
Supermarket Cards



Recently Ralphs supermarket canceled all the current subscribers to its "Ralphs Reward Community Contribution Program:"

This program allows us to earn hundreds of dollars each year without any cost to you.

Accordingly, **we urge you to update your Ralphs card and add Shevet Tapuz as your community organization.**

<http://www.shevettapuz.org/supermarkets.htm>

November- December Calendar

November 2009

1	Sun	Peula	Grade 9-12 3-8	JCC	1pm - 5pm 3pm - 5pm
7-8	Sun	<u>Shevet Camping Trip</u>		<u>O'Neill Regional Park</u>	
15	Sun	Peula	Grade 9-12 3-8	<u>Las Lomas Park</u>	1pm - 5pm 3pm - 5pm
22	Sun	Peula	Grade 9-12 3-8	<u>Las Lomas Park</u>	1pm - 5pm 3pm - 5pm

December 2009

6	Sun	Peula	Grade 9-12 3-8	JCC	1pm - 5pm 3pm - 5pm
12	Sat	Chanukah Celebration		<u>Deerfield Community Park</u>	3:30 pm-5:30 pm

Newsletter Editors

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Please e-mail your articles or news items for the next newsletter to
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