



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## DENVER AREA COUNCIL

### Jewish Committee on Scouting

Minutes

02/23/2017

Attendees: Hyiam Reiffman, Mike Shapiro (via Skype), Shawn Connelly

Opening

Pledge of Allegiance

Dvar Torah – Hyiam

In this week's parsha, Mishpatim, there are a lot of laws. This ties directly to the first point of the Scout Law, Trustworthy. "You should stay away from false words" The passage does not say tell the truth, but to stay away from falsehoods. If you testify in a bet din, you have to have two people to attest to your words. You can not have a person stand by your side and not say anything. Eyes are always on us as Jews looking for us to do wrong. For this reason, we always need to stay true.

### Review January meeting minutes

Accepted as posted.

### Old Business

New unit / recruitment initiatives

Might have the adult leadership to form a Cub Scout pack at Denver Academy of Torah. Greg reports there is a possibility of Temple Emmanuel starting a troop.

Existing units – health/prognosis: Tabled for next time.

STEM

Any Interest/progress @ DAT? - Shawn/ Hyiam – Tabled for next time.

Eagle Scout candidates –progress / status updates?

Mayer is continuing to work on his Eagle required Merit badges, he is bringing home the Personal Fitness (completed) and that leaves 2 (Cooking & Personal Management).

His Project is exponentially harder since he is so far removed from his support. We are going to meet with Troop 120 Scoutmaster this weekend and talk through this. We have to decide once

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which location he should do it at, how does he work through all the lead up and where do we get help if he chooses to do it in New York.

Mayer is still planning on going to Jambo, his desire is to go with his current Troop as he has many friends going and the pre-trip 'is the bomb'.

We are now finalizing the logistics around that (food, travel, Shabbat etc.), the local Contingent is being a great help in accommodating his needs and being very creative in finding solutions.

Amy McNeil asked Mayer and myself to help with Training for the next Chaplain's Aide Course, of course we agreed. This is a great program and we had a lot of fun doing it last year.

### Publicity:

JCOS Banner – Banner design approved, need to get purchase order signed and banner ordered.

### Programs –

Scout trip to Israel -2018 - Tabled until November, waiting for program from Scouts Israel.

### Kinus –

Eckert Farms is not interested as they have their own activity. Mike's daughter-in-law has contacts at the Denver Jewish Day School and they have a farm which could be used for a service project.

### Jambo 2017

Update on Pre-tour

Religious awards – No updates

Chair Succession – Greg said he would be amenable to taking on the Chair role if there isn't another selected by that process. Mike was going to reach out to Scott Markowitz to see if he wanted the position.

### New Business

Next Meeting? - March 23rd / 6:00 pm / DAT

Closing (Scoutmasters Minute) – Mike

God instructs every Jew that if he has a Jewish slave working for him, then after six years he is to be set free. On the surface, it seems like when the seventh year arrives the slave would eagerly, happily, and

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enthusiastically run from his master's house into his new found freedom. But this just isn't how a slave feels. The reason for this is that the longer a person is under the "rule" of someone or something else, the less belief he has that he can actually make it on his own.

One of the most debilitating aspects of any form of enslavement is that it robs a person of his self-worth and self-confidence. He becomes enslaved physically, emotionally and mentally. But the fact the God commands the slave to be set free in the seventh year demonstrates an incredible and powerful seed that God plants within all of us. And that is knowing, without question, that we all have the ability to make it on our own without this master.

Whether you realize it or not, each and everyone of us are enslaved to someone or to something. Whether it's continuing to stay in at a job we dislike, in a relationship that's unhealthy, engage in destructive behaviors, or need to watch hours of television in order to escape the thoughts of the day - we all choose to be slaves.

While no one wants to be controlled, this enslavement is far better than we fear what will become of us if we chose to leave. The bottom line is that within all of us is a powerful and driving belief that questions if we really can make it on our own without this master. And although the enslavement is hard, frustrating, and painful, we don't leave because we doubt our ability to make it in un-chartered waters.

But the exact opposite is true. Whatever unhealthy situation controls a part of your life and keeps you from blossoming and becoming great, then also know that you can walk away and make it without this master. And when you do muster the strength to leave and fight the inner voice that questions your ability to succeed, then the battle is 99% won. Because when you commit to being free, you just have to hand the ball over to God and He will give you everything you need to make it.

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