



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

DENVER AREA COUNCIL

Jewish Committee on Scouting

Agenda 12/21/17

Attendees: Greg Ostravich, Hyiam Reiffman, Mike Shapiro (on-line), Shawn Connelly

Opening

Pledge of Allegiance

Dvar Torah – Greg

Vayigash means he approached, and may mean a few different things. More on that in a second. This parsha is about when Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers in Egypt and they return to Canaan to bring their father back to reunite with the son he thought he lost 22 years earlier. Joseph becomes wealthy, and Pharaoh gives his family the fertile land of Goshen as their own.

Vayigash may mean "he approached" for battle, "he approached" a conciliation, or "coming near" prayer. Rabbi Eleazar combined all these views. Judah approached Joseph for all three, saying If it be war, I approach for war, if it be conciliation, I approach for conciliation, if it be for entreaty, I approach to entreat. (Midrash Rabbah)

I picked this to talk about for tonight.

Ten times Joseph heard his brothers refer to his father as "your servant" and he did not protest. Because of this, his life was shortened by ten years. (Joseph lived 110 years.)(Pirkei d'Rabbi Eliezer, ch. 39)

Joseph in my opinion was arrogant; he did not show humility in failing to correct his brothers' terminology. They probably feared for their life and used that terminology to show respect. Joseph had a high position in the government and had no reason not to correct the brothers. I see this as similar to other times in our history where those who were arrogant paid a high price. Moses, striking the rock to bring forth water instead of doing as G-d commanded as an example.

There isn't a direct tie to scouting here unless we want to discuss expanding the Scout Law. At every Eagle Scoutmaster's Conference I ask the scouts if they could add a 13th point to the scout law what would it be? It has been mentioned a scout is Humble as that extra point of the scout law. Humility would have served Joseph well here and then he would have corrected his brothers.

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Review Nov meeting minutes. - Approved

Old Business

Unit status

T1613 – Met a couple of times. Asked a couple of parents to step-up and help. Need more boys to join the unit. Only 5 boys that are Jewish in the unit and their attendance is sketchy including one that made Aliyah. Shawn will talk to Council to apprise them of the situation.

Reactivation status - P1613? – Mom dropped it because no parents are helping.

Eagle Scout candidates –progress / status updates?

Sam is in for February for Kinnus to complete some requirements.
Gavriel Asher is completing his HS requirements so he's too busy.
Mayer is still working on it; Dave is not here for an update.

Programs – Next Kinus – Purim, & Shooting @ PV, President's Day weekend
Open to all; but Cubbies need parents; siblings, boys or girls, are invited too.

Updates:

Lodging –

Cook's Roost, Ft. Laramie, Ft. Garland lodges close to the shooting range. Gilwell Hall was reserved and unavailable. Cook's Roost has a full range oven, bathroom facilities. (Use this one for attending females?) The other two lodges have bunk beds, heaters, electricity. Outhouse for restrooms.

Agenda – activities

Timeslots for shooting – 10:30 – 12:00; 1:00 – 2:30 (Note: Cold lunch – sandwiches?)
What ranges: BB Gun ranges, air rifle, and muzzle loading.
BB Gun for Cubbies; Rifle on one session; shotgun on the next. Maybe archery too?

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Offer the scouts a choice of which shooting activity when they register and then we know how many staff, ranger officers/safety officers we need.

Food

We may have allergy issues; need to figure that out.

Paper plates, bowls, Styrofoam cups
Dairy Patrol Box

Saturday

Cracker Barrel Saturday Night – Cheese and Crackers
Costco sells a nice cheese tray. Crackers, any hechscer.
Popcorn – Hyiiam has an air popper
Chips Ahoy cookies w/Marshmallow Fluff for “S’mores”
Drinks: Water, Hot Chocolate
Bring a pot to boil water, hot water kettle (electric kettle)

Sunday

Breakfast – Cereal, Instant Oatmeal, “Quick” Grits (for Shawn & Greg), Milk
Eggs from the Milk Carton

Lunch (Cold Lunch – maybe hot soup)

Dutch Oven Hamantaschen

Dinner

Monday

Breakfast

Note: Shawn & Greg will finish the menu off-line and share with Hyiam.

Miscellaneous

Patches (Triangle) – with Hamantaschen on them

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Publicity

Website, January Round Tables

10 scouts – 5 adults, adjust accordingly

Religious awards

Any Updates?

Succession Planning – Greg to assume Chair in Winter. – January 1

JCOS membership – invite parent(s) working the P1613 initiative?

Just the one mom; Hyiam will ask her.

JCOS Program @ Philmont in Summer 2018? - update / discussion -

New Business – Any? No.

Next Meeting? - Date / Time / Location ??

January 25th, at DAT from 6 PM – 7:15 ish

Closing (Scoutmasters Minute) – Greg

s

First of all, I had a different Scoutmaster minute I had planned to give. But I remembered an amazing speaker named Erik Weihenmayer and a Scoutmaster Minute I gave in 2015. I wanted to give that Scoutmaster Minute again. I hope it inspires you.

For those of you that don't know who Erik Weihenmayer is, or didn't hear his story he's a mountain climber and a kayaker. He didn't start either activity until after an event that happened his Freshman year in High School. He had a disease that caused him to lose his sight. As he was going blind and feeling sorry for himself he saw a person on "That's Incredible!" That TV show was in the 80's and was about incredible feats. His vision at that point was so poor he had to press his face up against the TV screen to see the show. This particular show highlighted a runner named Terry Fox. Terry Fox lost his leg to cancer. But instead of giving in to what happened, Terry decided to run across all of Canada to raise money and awareness for cancer research. Terry didn't finish his quest; he stopped after 3,339 miles because of the cancer. When Erik saw this, something clicked. He decided that he had no control over his loss of vision but he wouldn't let this incident stop him or mean that he would just give in to his blindness. He was reading a magazine in braille about learning to climb a mountain and he signed up for it. Then he continued to climb; summiting some of the world's tallest mountains. He climbed Everest and is the only sightless person to do so.

But he didn't stop there. He then decided to take up kayaking. He kayaked the Grand Canyon, including the "Lava" rapids which is the most dangerous part of the river. He failed on his first attempt, but he came back and did it on the second attempt.

He created an organization to help people achieve and understand that there are no limits. He talked about a man

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who doesn't have arms or legs but they fitted him with prosthetics and he crab walked up Kilimanjaro, one of the world's highest peaks and Africa's highest at almost 20,000 ft. Another person was a paraplegic. With a rig he is able to climb mountains by doing the equivalent of thousands of pull-ups over many hours during his climb.

My point isn't to say I expect you all to take up Mountain Climbing. It's that if these people can overcome adversity; maybe we can too. Whether that's a personal challenge we're having in athletics, a goal around achieving a scout rank, or a challenge with one of your classes. I'll close with something Erik talked about; a spark that he felt initiated his journey into mountain climbing and happened when he saw Terry Fox not letting his cancer and leg amputation determine his destiny.

"A spark of greatness exists in all people, but only by touching that spark to adversity's flame does it blaze into the force that fuels our lives and the world."

TODO Items:

Greg – Purim activity for Kinnus

Shawn – Get the activity on the Kinnus newsletter

Shawn – Patch Design – Triangle Patch with Hamantaschen on it

Greg – Email John Dawson about getting the Kinnus on the schedule

Greg – Philmont follow-up; ask Dave Whitner about financial support.

Hyiam – Will ask Jenna about JCOS

Shawn – Will ask Mikayla (a new Council Professional to publicize @ Frontier R/T)

Greg – Check with Aaron again on religious award; also the Kinnus weekend. (e-mail & cc: adult)

Mike – Will follow up with CJ and mention Kinnus

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