



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

DENVER AREA COUNCIL

June 28, 2018

Attendees:

Name	Present
Hyiam Reiffman	No; set us up though.
Greg Ostravich	Yes
Shawn Connelly	Yes
Mike Shapiro	Yes
Dave Reynolds	No
James Dockter	Yes
Jenna Wilkin	Yes
Ariella Wells	No

Pledge of Allegiance

Dvar Torah - Parashat Balak Numbers 22:2–25:9

This is a parshe I've been fond of and a friend has a song that stemmed from this parshe. It's the story about how King Balak of Moab retained a sorcerer, Balaam, to curse Israel. Israel had conquered Balak's neighbors and was worried he'd be next. I didn't realize the story had more details. There were a number of times Balam tried to curse Israel.

The first time G-d appeared before Balaam at night and told him not to curse the people of Israel because they were blessed. Then the second time G-d said Balaam could go; but could only say what G-d instructed. The third time an angel blocked the path and Balaam's donkey stopped and laid down; Balaam struck the donkey which admonished him. Balaam was chastised for striking the donkey and told by the angel he could speak but only say what G-d commanded him to say. Then the fourth time an alter was built; when asked to curse Jacob Balaam explains how can he curse Jacob when the L-rd is not angered. Another alter is built and yet again Balaam says Jacob is not cursed. It happens **another** time and this time Balaam says "How goodly are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel! ... G-d, who has brought them out of Egypt with the strength of His loftiness He shall consume the nations which are his adversaries ... Those who bless [them] shall be blessed, and those who curse [them] shall be cursed."

Balaam is dismissed at this point because he hasn't accomplished his task; he also reveals some prophecy. There are other things discussed in this parshe too.

What's interesting is some of the events described appear to have only been a dream. It didn't make sense regarding the angel blocking the way and for the donkey to have seen the angel (only prophets can see the angel) and some of Balaam's entourage weren't mentioned in the passage. So it appears

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one of the dreams is relayed to us as a dream; one is not. The dreams are related to us to teach us and give us special messages. We just have to glean these hidden messages from the story.

How does this relate to scouts? Consider that in the same way unexpected or hidden messages were transmitted via this dream; we also learn things in scouts in ways that are by design; but aren't obvious to the scouts. For example, having a patrol flag, yell, and motto. Sure; that's fun; but the purpose is to help the patrol congeal as a unit; instill camaraderie. The rank advancement for scouting has a hidden purpose too. The first few ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class are skills-based ranks. The scout learns various scout craft skills that can help him to "Be Prepared." Then the Star, Life, and Eagle ranks have leadership components. These sets of rank advancement requirements help to instill the scouts with both skills to do well in the outdoors, deal with some emergencies, and to be able to lead others. The "package" of skills, camaraderie, fellowship and leadership has been cleverly concealed in a fun program.

Review April meeting minutes. – Minutes accepted

Old Business -

Unit Status –

James Dockter –

To Do: Greg will put James Dockter in touch with the clergy at Temple Emanuel. He's willing to be the Charter Org Rep if they start a unit. – *Greg spoke with Steve Stark, the Executive Director at Temple Emanuel about this and Rabbi Joe Black (not **that** Joe Black,) the Senior Rabbi. Rabbi Black suggested Megan be our Charter Org Rep or at least be contacted; need to follow-up about that and put James in touch with Steve and Joe.*

Mike Shapiro – Update on the Jewish Pack out of the Denver Jewish Day School and if Jenna Wilkins can take this on? Jenna wants to reach out to Hillel, et. al. that don't have a unit but could plug kids into what she's putting together.

- Mike hasn't spoken with anybody regarding Denver Campus; some challenges with the changes in leadership at DAT may mean this is on hold. Mike spoke Yoni Buckman at BMH/BJ about Rabbi Reifman stepping away. There's a Girl Scout Troop opportunity. Yoni is interested in that. We can proceed; he'll talk with Mike and then follow-up with James Dockter and meet with Michaela, our new assistant DE.

James Dockter – Glad we're reaching out to Emanuel; knew about Mike; wanted us to have some warm prospects so when we go into the Fall all we need is kids. TE and BMH/BJ each charter 1 unit; DJDS doesn't want to charter but would be amenable to meet there. (Near Evans and Quebec?); goal of getting 3 packs started. Temple Emanuel can recruit out of congregants and kids across the

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street at Carson Elementary. (Pack 37?)

Lisa Stroll is the new lead of academics; may try and start a pack at DAT. High School is moving to this campus; but it's not ready yet. Temporarily will use DAT's building. The Aaron / ark that Mike Shapiro built is still around; the school is using it. We'd like to keep access to it for the JCOS. Mike may pick it up, so it doesn't get lost in the move.

James mentioned HEA (Hebrew Educational Alliance) and Temple Sinai which are both in the Frontier District.

The second and third weeks of July James Dockter will be in training. James will reach out to Yoni next week. May meet with Mike Shapiro since Greg is out of town.

James Miazza has been reaching out too – Aish?

Reach out to Chabad congregations and let them know the Rebbe is good with it.

Troop Trailer for DAT; does that go to Council? It has the kosher equipment in it. Traditionally the sponsor gets the equipment; but the trailer came from another unit and it has to pass it on to another unit. It can go to another troop at DAT; but we don't want it mothballed.

James is happy to start a pack or troop where we feel it works.

Talked about the leaders for a unit: Institution Head, Charter Org Rep, Committee Chair, Unit Leader (4-5 depending; Pack needs a Den Leader too.)

The Chartered Org Rep could be the Committee Chair too.

Chartered Org Rep goes to a meeting downtown once per year; votes on what happens in the local council. Mike would be willing to be the Unit Commissioner for the unit Jenna is working on.

Eagle Scout candidates – progress / status updates?

- Sam – Eagled 6/18/2018 with Bronze Palm
- Mayer – Dave wasn't here but last we heard at Scout Show he's working on it.

Question: Denver JCOS Certificate for Sam?

Shawn will look on the shared drive. We'll see if we can formalize a process on the website.

Programs

Kinnus - Do we do one for 2019? Table decision on that for now.

Patches? Greg has some extra ones that need to be disbursed. – Dave wasn't here; we'll get them to him later.

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Religious awards - Mike talked to CJ; her scout is still working on his Eagle; downloaded the package for the Etz Chaim knot (Tree of Life)

JCOS Program @ Philmont in Summer 2018? – Greg is not going ; training conflict. Ellen said they only have 1 person signed up. Shawn said the conference in Las Vegas was very successful; mentioned it to Ellen Marks the Chair of the Regional Jewish Committee on Scouting.

Scout Sabbath – Look at 1st Week in February? We may move it to the Fall. Rosh Hashana is September 9th so maybe before?

TODO items from last meeting:

- Greg – review materials from Ellen Marks (Not Done Yet – did meet with Ellen though) ; meeting scheduled for Wednesday before our JCOS meeting.

New Business – Any?

Greg emailed some people from LA council about ideas for our JCOS Meetings.

Greg met with the Relations Committee – updates:

- Attendees
 - Joe Black (**that** one) was there as the DAC Chaplain
 - Royd Desplain and Thomas Priday representing LDS
 - Catholic COS - Michael Rustemeyer
 - Committee Chair – Tom Honig
- Update on religious preference
 - Create a survey and list
 - Distribute so we can contact Jewish Denver Area Council youth
- Update on the changes with LDS involvement in scouting
 - End Date – 12/31/2019
 - BSA – might sell some camps to LDS for their program
 - This was about a new youth program worldwide; not membership changes.
 - Discussed breakfast in November; will be at DU; I believe Ritchie is speaking; awards for adults, make sure all faiths represented
- Discussion on Family Scouting

Mike Shapiro – Mike's heard from Diane that HQ has a new Chaplain's Aide guide and Chaplain's guide. This may be the result of Mike, Diane Kuhlman, and Amy McNeill efforts to get more elaborate information.

Shawn – Update on the Grand Canyon Council Jewish Committee on Scouting and their Venturing

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Kinnus. It's a Shomer Shabbos unit so it will be an Orthodox experience. Dates yet? No; but we don't have scouts that want to travel out of state for that.

Fall – West Los Angeles Area Council – Order of the Arrow Ordeal for Shomer Shabbos Scouts.

Committee Members – list for Ellen with contact info (only for JCOS purposes); registered with National; YPT trained; follow-up on e-mail?

Next Meeting? – Thursday, July 26th? At DAT? – Discuss

BMH/BJ? Council Office? – Yes; we'll do a Google Hangout to discuss Scout Shabbat as a recruiting tool.

Closing (Scoutmasters Minute) – Greg

Scoutmaster Minute

This one is the theme for the Fall Wood Badge course at Tahosa.

The message isn't obvious at first to one of the participants in the story.

6/8/2015 - Tossing Back Starfish Minute

You can't save the world, but you can help individuals wherever you are.

Script:

I was walking along an ocean beach one hot summer day. In the distance, I saw a man who was doing a strange dance, bending over again and again.

As I got closer, I saw that he was picking up starfish that had washed up on the shore and was throwing them back.

I asked him, "Why are you throwing those starfish into the sea?"

He replied, "The tide is going out, the sun is hot, and if I don't, they will die here."

I asked him why he was doing this since the beach was miles long and there were thousands of starfish and the few he threw back wouldn't make any difference.

The man paused with a starfish in his hand. He looked at it, then looked out at the ocean. Then, he tossed the starfish out and said, 'Made a difference to that one.'

To Do:

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- Greg will put James Dockter in touch with the clergy at Emanuel
- Shawn will check on need to check for Mike Shapiro and Jenna Wilkin.

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