



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

DENVER AREA COUNCIL

November 29, 2018

Attendees:

Name	Present
Greg Ostravich	X
Shawn Connelly	X
Mike Shapiro (remote)	X
Dave Reynolds	
James Dockter	
Jenna Wilkin	
Ariella Wells	

Pledge of Allegiance

Dvar Torah - Parashat Vayishlach (Genesis 32:4 – 36:43)

Jacob returns to the Holy Land after a 20-year stay in Charan and sends angel-emissaries to Esau in hope of reconciliation, but his messengers report that his brother is on the warpath with 400 armed men. Jacob prepares for war, prays, and sends Esau a large gift (consisting of hundreds of heads of livestock) to appease him.

That night, Jacob ferries his family and possessions across the Jabbok River; he, however, remains behind and encounters the angel that embodies the spirit of Esau, with whom he wrestles until daybreak. Jacob suffers a dislocated hip but vanquishes the supernatural creature, who bestows on him the name Israel, which means “he who prevails over the divine.”

Jacob and Esau meet, embrace and kiss, but part ways. Jacob purchases a plot of land near Shechem, whose crown prince—also called Shechem—abducts and rapes Jacob’s daughter Dinah. Dinah’s brothers Simeon and Levi avenge the deed by killing all male inhabitants of the city, after rendering them vulnerable by convincing them to circumcise themselves.

Jacob journeys on. Rachel dies while giving birth to her second son, Benjamin, and is buried in a roadside grave near Bethlehem. Reuben loses the birthright because he interferes with his father’s marital life. Jacob arrives in Hebron, to his father Isaac, who later dies at age 180. (Rebecca has passed away before Jacob’s arrival.)

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Our Parshah concludes with a detailed account of Esau's wives, children and grandchildren; the family histories of the people of Seir, among whom Esau settled; and a list of the eight kings who ruled Edom, the land of Esau's and Seir's descendants.

An Interpretation of the parshah I found talks about Jacob not battling Esau's Angel but actually struggling with **himself**.

"Our problem is that if Jacob is truly alone, who can be wrestling with him? One possible answer is -- no one! Jacob is actually wrestling with himself. This would explain the ambiguity in the passage."

The parshah goes into more details about the battle and why he struggles because he's so successful; and how this stems from his relationship with Esau and taking the birthright from Esau then ends with:

"Jacob limps away from that confrontation, physically weaker, but spiritually transformed and empowered. Now he knows how to respond to challenges, which await him from both this world, and the other. His identity would no longer be defined or determined by his relationship with his brother Esau. He has now become Israel. The physical and spiritual are no longer at odds. Together, they accompany Jacob/Israel with every step he takes as he moves toward his destiny, albeit at a slower pace physically, but spiritually invigorated."

Review October meeting minutes.

Minutes approved.

Old Business -

Unit Status –

Temple Emanuel – Pack 1874 – Met on Sunday the 18th to recruit; week of Thanksgiving so attendance was sparse. One was too old for a Pack; referred then to the DAT unit.

Steve Stark said he's not sure materials are downstairs anymore.

BMH Troop Equipment: Update – No Update.

Aish, HEA (Hebrew Educational Alliance) and Temple Sinai – Updates? No update; we'll try

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again for the next meeting. Aish, HEA, and Temple Sinai are Denver so Michaela needs to contact.

Rabbi Leban from “The Jewish Experience” – Jenna had contacted; any update? No. update.

Chabad – Any word with Rabbi Popak Jr. at Stapleton for Explorers? No.

1613 – Have they been meeting every other week? How’s it going?
Should have had a meeting last night; two weeks ago went good.

Programs

Kinnus: Lag Bomer – Hamilton Scout HQ in the Courtyard 5/19/2019 9-4

We had discussed these programming suggestions at the last meeting; do we want to flesh this out more? I believe Shawn has booked the facility for us.

Starter list; let’s add to it and discuss:

- Demo of Setting up Tents – Are there tents here? There should be some in Colorado Adventure Point that we can use. Shawn will confirm. We’ll practice beforehand.
- Knots – Basic Knots? Decorative? Let’s do both.
 - Square Knot
 - Clove Hitch
 - Two Half-Hitch
 - Taut line
 - Timber Hitch
 - Lashings
 - Bowline
 - Sheep shank
 - Decorative: Butterfly Knot
 - Decorative: Monkey Fist
 - **Decorative: Turk’s Head**
- Pioneering
 - Tri-Pod for a Weather Rock
- Cooking Demonstration – using stove
 - Eggs? Omelets?
- Cooking with Dutch Oven – Mike Shapiro; Shawn will bring them.
 - Cobbler – with charcoal on the Dutch Oven
- Patrol Box usage
 - 1613 Patrol Box which is Kosher.
 - Trailer at DAT – need to bring it here for that event.
 - Because Shawn is now with the Camping Department Program items are easier

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to access; he runs Program.

- What to Bring and not bring for a camping trip – Wait to assign this.
- Bonfire – Wait to do this too.

We may see if some of the more seasoned scouts in 1613 will lead this up. Also adults from Pack 1874

Memorial Day Weekend – Sunday, stay through Monday at Odom Farm. Note that the DAC bought Odom Farm. Still doing the Sunday to Monday of Memorial Day? Updates? Do we want to flesh this out more? Still doing the Hamilton Scout HQ event too? Yes; do both. Question about booking the venue. They have a hike planned there too; that would work too. Shawn will follow-up with them to see if we can use that venue. We're not sure if it's available because of the holiday.

Religious awards - Any word from Jenna about scouts in 1613? Will follow-up with 1874 when the Pack is up and running. No update; Jenna not on the call.

JCOS Program @ Philmont in Summer 2019? Do we have the dates yet? Yes.

Reminder from last meeting if you go: Don't get in the 2nd lunch shift; needs to be the first shift because Kosher meals need to thaw. Tents have electricity for CPAPs.

Scout Sabbath – Update: Does February 2nd work? Update on the patch. Did this date work for all congregations? Shawn said there's a National Patch. If the Pack isn't there yet Greg might join 1613 instead. Shawn will order some patches. Mike will follow-up with 1613.

DTGC (Duty to G-d and Country) – 1st of all a huge thank you to Mr. Ritchie for picking up the costs for the attendees. Rabbi Baskin did a great job with the invocation. His line about Colorado being the land of "Elk and Honey" was great.

Development Team pleased with our Jewish representation.

Shomer Shabbos Wood Badge – Baltimore Area Council May 20th – May 24th, 2019:

Do we need to reach out to the Denver Council to promote this? How do we do it?

Here are the details again:

Baltimore Area Council is sponsoring a Sabbath Friendly Wood Badge course during the spring of 2019. The course will be held from Monday, May 20, 2019 (7:30 am) until Friday, May 24, 2019 (4:15 pm). Dates and meals have been designed to meet the obligations of a variety of religious observances, including strictly Kosher food and time for religious obligations to be met. An orientation meeting (recommended, but not required) is scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 7 pm.

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Opening Prayers for Scouting Events

I forgot about this and added it to the agenda after I shared it. I asked my clergy about opening prayers for scouting events. I don't want to mimic the current prayers that various sects of Christianity use when we are asked to provide a prayer and I was looking for something different. I could only think of the Shema, the Shehecheyanu, and the brachot over the bread and wine. None of those seemed to be a good choice. Her son's father is an Eagle Scout and is a Rabbi in the military, currently stationed in South Korea and she thought he might have some ideas. Rabbi Hyatt had some suggestions in the meantime and I'll list them below.

1. Shehecheyanu: More than just a "seasonal" or special occasion prayer; also a prayer of thanks or gratitude for doing something specific so it would be appropriate.
2. Traveler's Prayer – "May it be your will, our G-d and G-d of our ancestors, that you lead us in peace and help us reach our destination safely, joyfully and peacefully. May you protect us on our leaving and on our return, and rescue us from any harm, and may you bless the work of our hands and may our deeds merit honor for you. Praise to you, Adonai, Protector of Israel."
3. Take a piece of text – perhaps it wouldn't be a "blessing" in the traditional sense – for example, pull some texts together (Deuteronomy: "Be strong and Courageous, do not be afraid, for Adonai your G-d is with you")
4. "Write your own" – for example, is there a standard prayer that is said? Something that could be adapted?

Two Eagle Candidates; Mayer Reynolds & Sam Strear; Greg may act as an advisor for Sam Strear. Joyce Saitta reached out to Greg Ostravich about Eagle Projects for Mayer. Mike Shapiro will follow-up with Joyce Saitta. Greg Ostravich may help Sam Strear but does Greg need to be a registered leader in the Frontier District first. No; Greg just needs to be a registered leader; district and council doesn't matter. Sam hasn't reached out yet; Mike will ping him and cc: Greg Ostravich and Greg Holt

Council Camporee for 2019 at PV; Set-up a Shomer Shabbos Experience. Shawn will reserve Caribou campsites for that as well as the Dietler Commissary. September 20-22, 2019. This won't interfere with the High Holy Days which are at the end of the month. – Shawn hasn't reserved it yet, but he will be able to do that.

Rabbi Horowitz at BMH may want to join us for the committee. – Mike hasn't reached out to him yet; but he will. He's got two young girls that were maybe going to join Scouts, but it sounds like they went into girl scouts instead. Mike will follow up with another Rabbi at DAT to see if they want to join us.

New Business –

Pin for Camporee for JCOS? Yes; but who does the design?
Same for Kinnus patch design?

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Would love for the youth to do it; Patches we need a 6 week lead time.
Start getting the designs fleshed out in February for Kinnus.
We'll do the same for Camporee in June or July for pins.
Have the youth vote for the winning design.

Next Meeting?

January 31st, 2019 – 6 PM at
Tentatively: Hamilton Scout HQ, 10455 W 6th Ave, Lakewood, CO 80215
Dobbins Room.
Maybe at DAT this time? We need Jenna will reach out to them if we want to do that.

Closing (Scoutmasters Minute) – Greg

I gave this one to my unit on 3/9/2015

Working Hard - Persistence

A Scout must learn to work hard. Lessons can be learned from hard work. Those who can work hard and finish what they start are the same ones that win "life's victories."

FYI: People that don't know about this hard work will call those people "lucky."

Stick to your task till it sticks to you

Beginners are many, but enders are few.

Honor, power, place and praise

Will come in time to him who stays.

Stick to your task till it sticks to you

Bend at it, sweat at it, smile at it too.

For out of the bend, the sweat, and the smile

Will come life's victories, after a while.

Author unknown

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