

discussion at the end that talked about trusting each other and how to be a trustworthy person. They enjoyed this activity.

4. Peulot Erev

a. List of peulot:

- Sunday 6/24 – Leil Get to Know Your Counselors – we introduced the staff and told the campers various things about ourselves
- Monday 6/25 – Leil Counselor Trivia – The campers were divided into their Tzrifim and given a slip of paper with a random fact about one of the staff members in the edah. They then had to ask yes/no questions to each staff member to determine who it was.
- Tuesday 6/26 – Leil Edah - We taught the edah song and signed the edah plaque.
- Wednesday 6/27 – All camp Pep Rally! It rained so we were under the deck off of the Bet Am Aleph. We presented our edah song and plaque.
- Thursday 6/28 – Leil Predator & Prey – In this game the kids were divided into groups based of a pre-made food chain and sent to tag one another. Along the way they could pick up “life cards” to them in the game. A small twist on the game that we threw in was that some of the “life cards” had diseases. The game ran smoothly in the start, however it only lasted a short while and improvisation was required. We ended up playing a few variations in which we switched the roles of the food chain in order to keep the kids interested for the 45 minute duration of Peulat erev.
- Sunday 7/1 – Leil International –The campers had the chance to “visit” and learn about 5 different countries – Peru, Ethiopia, France, Spain, and China. Campers visited each country-station while counselors with personal connections to these cultures told them about Jewish life and history. The campers then engaged in different activities at each station. A counselor who had participated in an Ethiopian pen-pal program told the campers about Ethiopians Jews and their immigration to Israel. The campers then competed in a relay race simulating Operation Moses in 1984 where they had to “carry” Ethiopians to Israel the fastest. A counselor who lived in Spain for four months spoke about Sephardic Jews and the campers tasted Moroccan Fruit Salad and Turkish Mint-Lemonade. A counselor whose grandfather was able to escape the Holocaust through China told the campers and then participated in a chopstick-pickup competition. By the end of the evening, campers understood more completely the breadth and variety of the Jewish community worldwide. (*Elizabeth Chipkin*)
- Monday 7/2 – Leil Mystery Auction - Set Up: Shira and I devised 12 clues (at first) that related to 12 prizes the kids were able to earn. We made 1,500 dollars of fake money and distributed it to the bunks. The kids were able to bid on prizes such as:
 - a. Trip To Rondeaus ☺
 - b. Movie Night ☺
 - c. Car Wash ☺
 - d. Breakfast in Bed ☺

- e. B-Side Walk to the pick up trash ☺
- f. A Rock and Roll of Toilet Paper ☺
- I. How Did It Go: The kids really enjoyed it; they had an amazing time and it was a lot fun. It took a lot shorter than we expected, we had already gone through 7 clues in about 15-20 minutes, so Shira and I came up with some other easier ones on the sport (i.e. Picnic Lunch, Extra Nikayon, and take out other people's trash). In the end everyone enjoyed it, but it was hard to get the kids to concentrate, but once they realized that the clues were important to decide whether the prize was good or not, their attention was more intently focused. *(Sam Kuttner)*
- Tuesday 7/3 – Leil Dress the Counselor - One counselor from each bunk was chosen to be dressed by the campers. Each bunk was given 15 minutes to complete the task of dressing their counselors in the craziest items. When time was up, each bunk brought their counselors to the catwalk and presented their counselor to theedah. After the presentations each counselor walked down the catwalk showing off their clothes to music. The campers really enjoyed this activity but it didn't take up as much time as we would have liked. *(Merissa Goldman)*
- Wednesday 7/4 – Yom Sport
- Thursday 7/5 – Leil 1776 - After Yom Sport ended, we still had American pride running through us as we divided the edah into eight states and sent them around tzad aleph proving their patriotism by singing the national anthem, recreating the scene of crossing the Delaware as a tableau, creating a state flag, and naming as many presidents as possible. This scavenger hunt was extremely planned and organized. (see attached sheets about clues)
- Sunday 7/8 – Bogrim Play
- Monday 7/9 – Hebrew games with Yehuda – We had planned to have Yehuda come and play games with the campers, but he only played one large group game with the edah. The campers seemed incredibly engaged and fascinated by him, but the staff is unsure why. It was a fun peulah, even if boring to the staff.
- Tuesday 7/10 – Tzad Aleph Program – Evelyn Dragat Rubenstein (see attached papers) - Tzad Aleph was presented with quite a dilemma as they were given a ransom note for Evelyn Dragat Rubenstein, an alumna of Palmer whose portrait normally hangs lovingly in Josh Edelglases' office. During Tuesday's peulat erev, all of Tzad Aleph ran around performing certain tasks to obtain clues about Evelyn's possible location. The chanichim had to create and present their theory of where Evelyn was on Thursday afternoon. A new note arrived on Friday morning telling everyone that Evelyn was not in any of the places suggested (amongst the pyramids, at Hogwarts, or in the jungle as a crocodile wrestler) but that she had been captured by Evil Wizards and that they had to duel to get her back. Combined with the scores from the tasks completed from Tuesday's peulat erev and their theories on her location, three tzrifim were selected to

compete against the "Evelyn's" (Tzad Aleph Hanhallah Quidditch Team) in a 3-way Quidditch match on the lower migrash. Solelim was victorious! They found many snitches and scored quite a few goals against both Ilanot and Shoafim! However, they then had to battle the "Evelyn's" in the final match to win the real Evelyn back (well, her portrait). Despite the sheer strength presented by the "Evelyn's", Solelim won the match quite easily! Their reward will be a movie night sometime this last week of 1st session! They were thrilled! ☺

- Wednesday 7/11 – Yom 1967
- Thursday 7/12 – Machon Play
- Sunday 7/15 – Zimkudiyah #1
- Monday 7/16 – Leil Flag Making & Capture the Flag - This peulat erev, while not a failure, was not as well organized as it could have been in the sense that the planning on my part was rushed, in some part due to the fact that my fellow va'ad member unexpectedly left on his day off without telling me. I had each group make a bunk 'flag' (complete with coat of arms, family name, bunk motto, and bunk colors) with markers and white paper. Then I separated the upper migrash into five sections (i.e., one per bunk), and had the bunks hide their flags and begin the game. It was chaotic, and on occasion small rows started, but throughout the activity the kids seemed to have fun. The counselors served as the judges. The bunk with the most flags at the end of the game was the winning bunk. Initially I had wanted to do a two part version of this, the bunks making painted bunk flags one night and then capturing them the next. This was the dumbed down version of that vision.
- Tuesday 7/17 – CIT Peulat Erev – Leil Singled Out: This was an interesting activity planned and run completely by the CITs. They modified the game so that it was never called singled out, but it was modeled off of that game show. It was a nice idea but eliminates many campers very quickly, leaving them with absolutely nothing to do. The CITs were active and involved, but only with the campers playing in front of the group. They were not interspersed around the rest of theedah.
- Wednesday 7/18 – Etgar
- Thursday 7/19 – Banquet & Film Festival
- Wednesday 7/25 – 1st night Peulat Erev – Concentric circle game – Campers made two circles, the inner facing the outer and had the opportunity to talk to everyone about a variety of topics.
- Thursday 7/26 – Leil Mat Ball – Two staff members taught the edah the Solelim song while two other staff members set up the field. We had the campers changed into sneakers before the peulah started and we got extra mattresses from open beds in the bunks. Once set up, the campers were split into two groups – top and bottom bunks. The rules differed from regular kickball in that they must run around the bases twice; they do not have to run to the next base; if they step off of the base though, they then must run to the next one; and

you can catch a fly ball to get someone out or have someone in the outfield catch the ball and throw to the baseman. If they catch the ball, everyone running to the base is out. Things to change for next time: have the campers wear sneakers ahead of time and possibly a colored t-shirt to designate teams; make the rules more clear since the campers kept stepping off bases and not running to the next ones; have counselors ump each base to make sure that campers are playing correctly; use a better ball. I think the activity went well under the circumstances but many campers were bored standing around in the outfield or waiting to kick. Campers were also arguing that the game wasn't fair and it could have been avoided if the counselors participated more. *(Michelle Finkle)*

- Sunday 7/29 – Leil Chef HaBarzel (Iron Chef) – This peulah combined many different things – brachot learned in Yehadut, Hebrew words, learning to prepare hummus and falafel, and racing against time. Each bunk was asked questions and if they were correct, they won the ingredients necessary to prepare a falafel dish. After the series of questions, with the ingredients they won, each bunk prepared three dishes which were judged by a panel of judges (people from outside of the edah). For this peulah it was very important to prepare ahead of time. The materials were all obtained from the kitchen, with the exception of the falafel. Additionally, we had to portion out the food before everything started. The peulah was a success. All of the kids really enjoyed working with food. In the future we could have used a more spacious room in order for people to be able to move around more. In order to tie the questions into the idea of food we asked about brachot and kashrut. The campers were able to show what they had learned in Yehadut and from everyday camp situations.
- Monday 7/30 – Amitzim Play
- Tuesday 7/31 – Leil Guess Who? – Part 1 was a game where the campers had to break into two groups and discover using yes/no questions who the other person had on their card. Part 2 included the entire edah getting into a grid and having a staff member play guess who just like the board game. They would ask a yes/no question and campers would sit if it didn't fit them.
- Wednesday 8/1 – Yom Life Cycle
- Thursday 8/2 – Leil Agam - The Leil Beach Party peulat was orchestrated by Elizabeth and myself. We reserved the beach front and asked several lifeguards (Shahar, David, Rotem) to be on duty for us. Then we decorated the beach with Wal*Mart-purchased streamers and Hawaiian themed party favors. From the chadar, we had pretzels, chips, cookies, and salsa. We had also purchased soda from Wal*Mart for the erev. The execution was simple; the kids could swim if they wanted to, with snacks right outside the beach area for consumption. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and the kids hurled themselves in, wave after wave, running into the water. Even those who didn't swim seemed to be happy to relax on the beach. Clean up was as simple as picking up that which we had deployed, and Elizabeth's car was used in both the dropping off and picking

up of the stuff. The upsides of this peulat erev are as follows: there is no actual programming, per se; simply reserving the time, life guards, and food is all that really needs to be done. It is also a beautifully simple activity, because it's essentially straight up fun. I see no downsides with this peulat erev.

- Sunday 8/5 – Leil Musicals - We divided up the edah into 4 teams, 2 boy groups and 2 girl groups. We told them to pick a musical and they had all day to work with their team to come up with something to perform at night for peulat erev. They could rewrite a song from the musical with new lyrics or make a dance, skit, etc. The kids had a great time with it. They chose Beauty and the Beast, Phantom of the Opera, Lion King, and Grease. It turned out to be a lot of fun, and really cute; they did a great job with it. However, we did not plan it in enough detail, so we had a lot of extra time to waste. Each group only took about 2 minutes to present, so we had an “intermission” in which we tried to entertain them by being crazy and dancing and singing. Then, at the last second, we tried to get the staff to come up with their own skit to perform. At the end we picked one winner. It was a bad idea to pick a winner, but no one got a prize and they just brushed it off.
- Monday 8/6 – CIT Peulat Erev
- Tuesday 8/7 – Magshimim Play
- Wednesday 8/8 – Yom Ramah TV
- Thursday 8/9 – Leil Yisrael – This program was meant to bring Israel closer to Israel and learn more about Israel. The basic idea was taken from the Ilanot “Leil Yisrael”. We had six stations, based on different places in Israel:
 1. The Golan – an obstacle course that meant to imitate the mountains and rivers up in Northern Israel
 2. Haifa – Haifa is port city and therefore the kids needed to move “merchandise” (m&ms) from “sea” to “land” by passing it from one to the other, one m&m at a time.
 3. Tel Aviv – We played Israeli music for the Tel Aviv dance party!
 4. Jerusalem – We had a big Western Wall poster and the kids wrote notes and put them in the Kotel.
 5. The Negev – The Negev lacks water so the kids had a relay race of filling a bucket of water from another bucket of water using only a sponge.
 6. “Everything You Wanted to Know about Israel but Never Asked” – The Mishlachat members in the edah talked about their lives and answered questions about everything in Israel (candy, TV, army, etc.)

I think the peulah went really well. The kids enjoyed it a lot. The peulah combined a balanced amount of active fun things with more serious low-key things. The element of competition between the groups in some of the situations added to their will to participate. There are 2 things I would have added to the peulah looking back – 1: a rope around all of the stations to show the shape of Israel (the stations were located in geographical order, but having

no boundaries diminished this effect) and 2: I would ask the counselor responsible for the more active stations to emphasize the connection between the activity and the place in Israel so the educational value won't be lost like I'm afraid happened to us. (The kids weren't sure or did not remember the connection.) In summary, the peulah went very well and accomplished our goals of enriching the campers' knowledge of Israel and making them serious about it. (*Elite Florsheim*)

- Sunday 8/12 – Zimkudiyah 2
- Monday 8/13 – Leil Dress Your Counselor - This activity was pretty much the same as first session. Each bunk chose a different counselor to dress in the craziest items of clothing they could find. Each bunk was given 20 minutes to complete the task. After the counselors were dressed everyone met back up at the moadon for the fashion show. Each bunk also had to create a story about their counselor and share it with the edah. It was a fun activity that the campers really enjoyed. (*Merissa Goldman*)
- Tuesday 8/14 – Etgar
- Wednesday 8/15 – Nivonim Play
- Thursday 8/16 – Banquet & Are You Smarter than an Illanoter?
- Saturday 8/18 – Last Night Peulat Erev – Dance Party! ☺

- b. **Outstanding/unique peulot** – I think our outstanding peulot were Leil 1776, Leil Agam, Leil International, and Leil Chef HaBarzel. These peulot were original and extremely well planned and organized. The campers were engaged and active throughout the programs and I think they were enjoyable for both campers and staff to attend.
- c. **General guidelines for Solelim:** Peulat Erev normally starts around 7:20-7:30PM depending on when the campers return from evening medications. Peulat erev should last from 45 minutes to an hour, depending on the program. We set curfew for Solelim at 8:30PM so if a program ended a bit earlier, the campers had a few minutes of free time. It was very helpful that programs that required set-up be prepared ahead of time. Counselors would leave toward the end of dinner to get everything prepared for the campers. This enabled us to start as soon as we had everyone assembled.
- d. **Non-bunk Staff Integration:** Jeremy Stein was extremely attached to our edah. He was involved in his bunk (as the Bunk Abba) and helped out our edah in several situations as needed. Our other avot/imahot were great additions for the campers. Stephanie Meadow took special care of her girls and created traditions where the girls had harg'a'ah with her every Friday night.

~~5. T'fillot~~

~~a. T'fillah chart~~

- ~~Beginning of the summer~~
 - ~~1. Modeh Ani~~
 - ~~2. Ma TovU~~
 - ~~3. Birchot haShachar~~