**The Women of the Great Assembly: Secret Society**

**Opening Day Peulat Binyan (Banot)**

Date: Tuesday, June 27

Time: 2:30

Location: Zulah

Rain Location: Zulah

Materials

● Script

● Invitations

* Pieces of paper
* Markers/pens
* Glass/plastic bottle
* Disposable camera
* frosting
* Paper towels
* Plaque

Dress code: Razzle Dazzle

Explain that this is a secret society that has been passed down from Nivonim to Nevonim to

Nivonim, etc -- script

“Anoint” them into the Women of the great assembly one at a time (need schtick)

“Evelyn received the wisdom in the Old K’far and handed it down to Olga. And Olga handed it down to Tammy Gelb, and Tammy to Nivonim to Nevonim, to Nivonim, and finally to the Women of the Great Assembly.” They said three things: (something sisterhood), (something about being silly), and (something about living in the moment)

Note: we rebury the book at the end of the kayitz

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SCRIPT:

Welcome.

Thank you for joining us today.

Today you will be initiated into a long lineage of Ramah leaders throughout history; a lineage

that was established even before the trees in the chorshah began to grow.

Today is the day you become role models, dogmah eshiim, in Machane Ramah.

Today is the day you take your first steps into the role of a wise one, a nivonah, per se.

This is a secret society. You are only to speak of our rituals, our text, and our traditions among the other leaders who have lived here before us.

The Leaders of our Great Assembly stand on three pillars, derived from our code of ethics, The Ethics of the Mothers. Pirkei Imahot. We will read it aloud.

(read it aloud)

The first pillar is: unity. We will document our moments of sisterhood with this Matzlemat Binyan, Binyan camera. These photographs will capture your memories as you grow as a cohesive unit. The Nivonot.

The second: foolishness. As your madrichot apply the sacred frosting to your faces, remember that everything you do this summer will be a reflection of the silly, vibrant spirit that is in each and every one of you. Always maintain an element of foolishness in whatever you do. Your laughter is your light, your flavor, your sweetness. Share it with the machaneh and share it with each other.

The third: making your mark. This is your summer, your time to shine. Everything you do this summer will contribute to your legacy as the Nivonot of 2017. On this paper, please write a goal or hope you have for this summer. Take a moment to appreciate this once in a lifetime opportunity to make this goal a reality, and accept the responsibility of doing so. In this way, you will drop your anchor in this special place, a place where you will flourish throughout the next 2 months, and remain grounded in for years to come.

(\*\*tell them to write their names on the back of the paper, pass a bottle around the circle and have them put the papers in a bottle while they remain silent\*\*)

We will end with a quote. This ancient plaque was found in the rafters of this binyan long ago when our wise ancestors inhabited this holy place. Today we honor the words, their words, that can enlighten us all. Please close your eyes as we bring our ceremony to a close:

אַל תִּסְתַּכֵּל בַּקַּנְקַן, אֶלָּא בַמֶּה שֶׁיֶּשׁ בּוֹ

Do not look at the container, rather at what is inside of it.

This camera will snapshot your memories, this frosting will elevate your spirit, and these goals will guide you on this incredible journey. You are the women and more importantly leaders, and what lies inside each and every one of you is what will make this summer holy.

Open your eyes. Welcome home.

(\*\*get them together to take the first Nivonot picture with frosting on their faces, allow them to wash off afterwards\*\*)

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You have been tapped to join

**The Women of the Great Assembly**

We ask that you arrive in the זולה at 2:45

Attire is Razzle Dazzle