Coordinator Interview!

By David Zakaim
With Sophie Zayden

David: How long have you been doing Rayim Yachad for?
Sophie: 2 years.

David: What would you say has been your favorite moment in Rayim?
Sophie: Last year at Great Neck, the post Shabbos activity, the dance party mixed in as a community member's birthday party.

David: What do you do when you are not on shabbatons?
Sophie: Think about the next shabbaton.

David: What is your favorite part of the shabbatons?
Sophie: When everyone arrives and its madness and you know its about to be a fun weekend.

David: Do you have any other experience in Yachad aside from Rayim?
Sophie: Three amazing Yachad birthrights and one Yachad summer camp.

David: Is it hard to be from Minnesota and adjust to NY Yachad?
Sophie: No way! Our members made adjusting so easy!

David: Is there anything else you would like to share?
Sophie: I miss everybody and hope everybody is staying safe. Shoutout to David O. for being my first member!

David: Thank you Sophie for your time, and I hope to see you soon!

D’var Torah for Pekudai

By Sophie Zayden

Good Shabbos!

Hi everyone!

It's easy to make mistakes. Everybody does. What's not so easy is to admit having made them. Often we fear that others will look down on us if they find out we did something wrong, so we try to cover up and deny our mistakes.

In this week's Torah portion, we learn about the special ceremonies that the Jewish people would perform when they discovered that they had done something wrong that had unjustly caused harm. They would publicly admit what they had done and ask God for forgiveness.

And not only would the common people do this, but even the nation's most respected leaders, such as the High Priest, the members of the Supreme Court and even the King! We learn from here the valuable lesson that being able to own up and admit that we're not perfect isn't a sign of weakness but rather one of great courage and strength that will earn us much more respect than denying our mistakes ever will.

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Member Interviews!

By Eli Ginsberg
With Avi Tsadok
Eli: How long have you been with Yachad for?
Avi: I started when I was 8. I've been very involved with Yachad doing Shabbatons, camps, and other programming even since. It's been a long time.
Eli: What is your favorite part of Yachad programming?
Avi: Being with friends, and taking selfies with them.
Eli: What do you do during the week?
Avi: I assist my father, who works with computers. I go into work with him, where I do Pinterest. I also go to the New Jersey Yachad Dayhab, and the Mendal Balk Center on Mondays and Tuesdays.
Eli: What is your favorite game we play on Shabbatons?
Avi: I like the songs we do in circle time.
Eli: Avi, we don't do circle time in Rayim
Avi: Why not?
Eli: Because we're too cool for it.
Avi: Well we should do it.
Eli: What is your favorite Shabbos food?
Avi: Chicken and soup.
Eli: Do you mean chicken soup.
Avi: No
Eli: Can you please tell us about your experience as a celebrity. You were pretty much the star of the Mordechai Shapiro video!
Avi: It was fun to be with him. We were at Yoel Balk's backyard when we filmed it. He was super nice. He's a great singer.
Eli: What do your hobbies include
Avi: I like social media. Especially Facebook and Tic Toc.
Eli: Give us one fun fact about you
Avi: I like to sing and dance, and post videos of me singing and dancing on Tic Toc.
Eli: So, before we're done, any shoutouts you want to make
Avi: This one goes out to everyone in Yachad! I love you all. And please make sure to follow me on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tic Toc

With Jenny Kellman
Eli: How long have you been with Yachad for?
Jenny: It's been so long. I don't even remember. My mother told me I started when I was 13, and still in school. I started in Seniors. I've basically been with you guys all my whole life.
Eli: What is your favorite part of Yachad programming?
Jenny: The Dvar Torahs. Especially when I get to give them.
Eli: You're always awesome when you give Dvar Torahs! Do you ever get nervous speaking in front of the community?
Jenny: Not really. I love public speaking
Eli: What do you do during the week?
Jenny: I go to Chayeinu Dayhab, where we do fun activities, such as cooking, art, music, bowling, swimming. It keeps me very busy during the day. I also work in Prospect Park Yeshiva twice a week, where I assist a teacher, help out in the mail room, and serve lunch. I used to make sandwiches there, but not anymore.
Eli: What is your favorite game we play on Shabbatons?
Jenny: When I'm not taking a nap, it's a tie between banana grams and apples to apples. But usually I like to nap during the time.
Eli: What is your favorite Shabbos food?
Jenny: Chicken, cholent, and broccoli kugel.
Eli: What do your hobbies include?
Jenny: I like facebook, I watch TV show, I like bowling, and swimming. I've also been taking a lot of walks lately, which is very nice for me. Especially on Shabbos. And don't forget naps, those are the best.
Eli: You know, you always have a smile on your face, and are always so cheerful, no matter what the circumstances. Do you want to share with us your secret for that?
Jenny: I don't have a secret for that. I just smile all the time. I'm a very happy person. It's important to keep a positive attitude.
Eli: Any words of inspiration you want to share:
Jenny: Just stay happy, no matter what the circumstances are.
Eli: Give us one fun fact about you
Jenny: I'm a very good singer, and I'm very good at playing the piano. I've been taking lessons lately.
Eli: Any shoutouts you want to give before we are done?
Jenny: I want to tell everyone to be safe and be happy!
Recipe of the Week

By Chana Ahuva Rabinowitz

Vegetable Soup
*Serves about 6 people *

What you need: a pot, zucchini, onions, potatoes, leak, carrot
- Peel 2 onions and wash them off
- Cut the onions into 4 and place in pot with a little bit of oil
- Let the onions sauté for a few minutes
- Peel and cut 3 potatoes and place them into the pot
- Peel and cut a carrot and place into sauté
- Wash and cut the zucchini and leak and place in to sauté (leak is not necessary if one doesn't like it much)
- Once everything sautés put some salt and dill in
- Boil up some water and put water into the pot a bit more than to cover the vegetables
- Leave on medium fire for about an hour (the longer it cooks the more flavor it has)
- Let it cool

* If you want it to not have pieces in then using a zjuzjer (yes that's the spelling) aka. A hand blender can be used to mush up the soup
* If desired cut up some of the same veggies into small pieces and put them back into the soup to cook

Enjoy!

DIY Chinese Lantern

What you need:
- Paper or cardstock (preferably red or yellow)
- Scissors
- Stapler or tape
- Glue
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Things to decorate your lantern with:
  - gift wrap paper, washi tape, ribbons, sequins,
  - stickers, glitter glue, small buttons, etc.

Step 1: Make the handle.
Cut a 1-inch wide strip off on one short side.
Set this aside for the handle.

Step 2: Fold the paper in half.
Fold the paper in half; lengthwise.

Step 3: Draw a horizontal line.
Draw a horizontal line one inch from the long edge opposite the fold.

Step 4: Cut the slits.
Starting from the folded edge, cut a straight line about an inch from one short edge, all the way up to the horizontal line, and continue to do this until you reach the opposite short edge of the paper. Remember that the horizontal line marks the point where you stop cutting each straight line.

Step 5: Unfold the paper. The paper will have several vertical slits along the middle. Erase any pencil marks or re-fold the crease the opposite way to hide the pencil marks at the back.

Step 6: Decorate the top and bottom edge. You can keep your lantern plain or decorate the top and bottom edges.

Step 7: Form the paper into a lantern. Transform the paper into a lantern by forming it into a tube shape. Overlap the long edges at least ½-inch. Staple or tape at the top and bottom of the overlap.

Step 8: Glue the handle. Take the paper handle you made in Step 2. Glue the ends on the inside of the lantern’s top edge. Decorate the handle if you like!
Puzzle Time

By Racheli Brakha

B I B I R D S V U Z E P T O G C C F O Q
E O D Z Z Z E O M Z I A B Q O T H S T Q
B H W E W F A N L A B C Q L Y E F I I B
J E K A Y I S S S P R I N G O N B Q C U
R C E I E U T E F E W C W T P S X A O K
L W E S T J E E S U N S H I N E S R L B
T B R M T E R D Y Q T U L I P G Y O B U
E G G S J Z S S H X N N P G W O O I M T
U Q Z E E G A R D E N X C I N S J R F T
S M P E B J K M Z X X V P L K L V U Q E
P I C N I C Z Q M M C S E A S O N R D R
F N E S T U M A H U M A F L O W E R S F
D W A R M R A I N B O W Q U W Z I D T L
O A C Z S L Y O S K A I K W B U N N Y Y
G W F E J G R E E N Q V V F D M R J Q E
G Q Y H F M O A P R I L D W E X G I R Z

NEST
MAY
BEES
MARCH
CHICK
FLOWERS

SEASON
SUNSHINE
GREEN
PICNIC
WARM
TULIP

BUNNY
BLOSSOM
RAINBOW
SEEDS
GARDEN
APRIL

KITES
BUTTERFLY
EGGS
EASTER
BIRDS
SPRING
Why don’t scientists trust atoms?  Why did the banana go to the doctor?  Did you hear about the claustrophobic astronaut?
Because they make up everything  Because he wasn’t peeling well  He just needed a little space

ACROSS
1. A flower
2. Precipitation
3. Not cold or hot
4. Flying a _____ is the perfect windy day activity
5. A month of Spring
6. Rain or sun protection
7. The season after winter
8. Another month of Spring
9. A brief fall of rain
10. A small pool of water
11. A day for playing tricks
12. Mother’s Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of the month of
Hi Moshe Dovid! My favorite holiday as a child was always Sukkot because I loved the idea of sleeping in the Sukkah, and the way my brothers would set it up was so much fun. The floor was covered wall to wall with mattresses, and it was like one big bouncy house—although they never actually let me sleep in there. Today my favorite holiday is Shavuot because I love the food we have. In my family we do dairy meals by day and meat meals at night, and all of it is just so good. Plus I really love the weather. Speaking of good weather, my favorite thing to do in the summer is hang out with my friends at the beach or poolside. I LOVE to be in the sun. But I never forget my sunscreen!

If you are looking for advice about something or would like to ask me a question that would be featured in next week’s newsletter, email me at sompolinskye@ou.org.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Esti
Fun Pix!

By Gittle Freeman