

Around the Community 

Cub Scout Pack 1818 Present Colors at Long Island Nets Game

Cub Scout Pack 1818, the only shomer Shabbos and shomer kosher Cub Scout Pack in the Long Island area, chartered by the Marion and Aaron Gural JCC, were the Color Guard as the Long Island Nets hosted Jewish Heritage Night at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

The boys of Pack 1818, led by Cub Master Bruce Wernick, had been practicing for weeks leading up to the big day. Walking onto the Coliseum floor the boys were struck by the enormity of the evening.

“At first I was scared,” said Porat Altman, “but once we started it felt really awesome!”

Before the ceremony began a moment of silence was observed in honor of the victims of the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill, Pennsylvania, where eleven people were murdered during Shabbos services. Their names were displayed on the Jumbotron during the somber memorial. After, the Cub Scouts were announced to the floor where Yehuda Fistel, Zeke Wernick, and Ezra Kanarfogol carried out the American, Israeli, and Pack 1818 flags respectively.



Jewish music sensation Yoni Z wowed the crowd with his rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. Afterwards, the boys walked off the floor, and the game began between the Long Island Nets and the Lakeland Magic.

Everyone stayed to watch the game and participated in Chanukah themed arts and crafts, played the latest video games at the gaming truck parked beside the basketball court, and enjoyed the inflatables, all part of the Jewish Heritage Night celebration.

During halftime a basketball decorated menorah was lit to kick off the first night of Chanukah. It was truly a night that will never be forgotten by the boys. Special thanks goes to Sol Palen and everyone at the Long Island Nets for bestowing Pack 1818 with this honor.

For more information about joining this shomer Shabbos, kosher Pack contact Batsheva Altman at (917)450-4225 or Bruce Wernick at either 646-271-2969 or pack-master1818@gmail.com.



TEAM Shabbos – Next Week

Just one week away!

In just one week, shuls and communities across the county will join together for the annual National Association of Chevra Kadisha TEAM Shabbos. Following last year’s tremendous success, the fourth annual Traditional End-of-Life Awareness Movement (TEAM) Shabbos returns this Shabbos, Parshas Vayechi, December 22, 2018.

A project of the National Association of Chevra Kadisha (NASCK), TEAM Shabbos addresses end-of-life concerns that affect the Jewish community. The mission of TEAM Shabbos – to generate awareness, education, and direction regarding the value of life and critical end-of-life decisions

– is resonating strongly in communities throughout the U.S. and Canada. The momentum is growing as shuls and communities nationwide enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to bring the topic of end-of-life, a subject which is too often avoided, out into the open in an informative, inspiring, and positive way.

There are several ways shuls can participate in TEAM Shabbos. Utilize the week leading up to Parshas Vayechi to open the conversation about relevant issues through the Shabbos *drasha*, *shiurim*, newsletters, and *divrei Torah*.

But TEAM Shabbos is not just about a shul *drasha*. TEAM Shabbos is encouraging community members

to get involved and take action! Communities can also use this opportunity to collaborate with NASCK in planning programs that delve into a vast array of end-of-life related topics. Individuals can be encouraged to purchase life-insurance, fill out a halachic living will, begin the process of writing a will in accordance with halacha, reach out to family members who may be considering choices other than a traditional burial for a loved-one, or open an end-of-life conversation with their parents.

From New York to Toronto to Tennessee, the TEAM Shabbos initiative is creating a dramatic shift in the perspective about end-of-life care and preparation. Subjects that were once taboo and questions that have gone

unanswered can now be addressed in a constructive way. By taking advantage of the teachable moment that TEAM Shabbos offers and with the commitment of rabbis, shuls, and active community members around the country, we can continue spreading our message about the importance of properly preparing ourselves and others for illness and end-of-life decisions.

Has your shul joined the TEAM? Encourage your rav and shul to sign up today, and join hundreds of shuls across the nation to generate awareness about the Torah perspective on the value of life, here and hereafter.

To sign up or learn more, call 718-847-6280, email info@nasck.org, or visit teamshabbos.org/register.