



Shalom 06|19

The Journal of the Reading Jewish Community published by the *Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks*

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- Women's Philanthropy
- Jewish Federations of North America
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- Leo Camp Lecture
- Shabbat B'Yachad

Annual meeting and picnic is just about here!

By Amanda J. Hornberger

The community is invited to join Jewish Federation of Reading for its annual meeting on Sunday, June 2, at 12:30 p.m. at Wyomissing Hills Park, 53 Valley Road in Wyomissing. Learn about all the various programs and services offered by Federation and the great things occurring

right here in Berks!

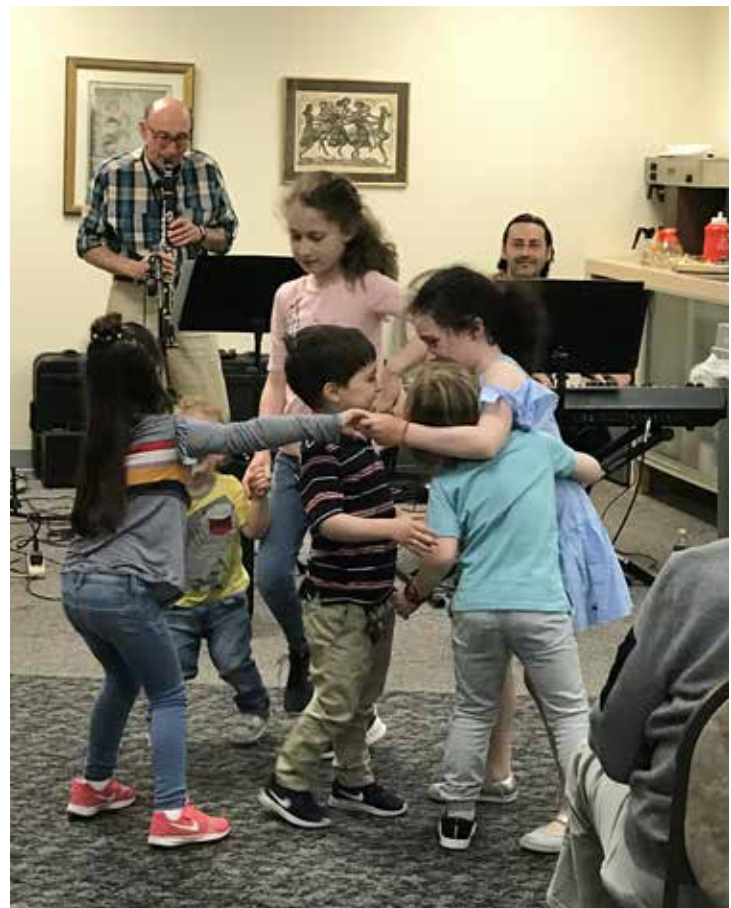
Immediately following the meeting stay for a free kosher picnic meal and Rita's Italian Ice. There will be games, entertainment and fun for all ages, including a magic show by The Amazing Carson at 1:30 p.m. Guests will also be invited to swim, free of charge, at the Wyomissing

Hills Pool, across the street from the park.

The meeting and fun will take place at Wyomissing Hills Park beginning at 12:30 p.m. and the fun will continue until 3 p.m. Free parking is available at the pool or on the street by the park.

We hope community members of all ages will join us for this fun afternoon!

Our community in action



It's been a busy month for Federation activities. Look inside this edition to find additional photos and to learn more about these events and more to come. Clockwise from top left, Yom Hashoah observance, Maimonides Society lecture, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut commemoration; memorial service at Chabad following the synagogue shooting in Poway, Calif.

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What is a community?

By **Richard Nassau**
Development Director

Last month our Maimonides Society sponsored Laurie Zoloth, a distinguished scholar on the intersection of bioethics and Judaism.

The program was held at the Wyomissing home of Pam Charendoff and Jonathan Primack.

While the Maimonides Society is open to medical professionals, the talk on the topic, "May We Remake the World," was also attended by many non-medical community members.

The evening was highly electric with lots of interaction between Ms. Zoloth and those attending. One of the interactions helped start the evening. Ms. Zoloth, who is a faculty member and former dean of the University of Chicago Divinity School, asked, "What makes a Jewish community?" Take a second to think about what your reply would be. Was it that



you want, need or require in a Jewish community?

The replies to Ms. Zoloth's question covered most of the items on her list, which was inspired by the Talmudic text found in Sanhedrin 17b. The list includes a synagogue, a teacher, a doctor and a tzedakah fund collected by two and distributed by three. It also looks to the future — a teacher. Imagine that one of these pieces was missing from our community.

One of Federation's roles is to foster connections between members of our Jewish community. In sum, build community. We do this by supporting our synagogues, distributing food, bringing in speakers and collecting funds. Each is an example of the work Federation does to strengthen our Jewish community.

Last year, Federation's board began developing a strategic plan looking at the future of our community.

We asked and heard from a wide range of community members about their needs.

One result, and it is just one of the plan's

key elements, is Federation's commitment to increasing engagement throughout our entire community.

Our goal is to build community and foster the connections that come with it.

That list of 10 items needed for a community demonstrates the responsibility we have for each other. It is a shared responsibility. One that requires involvement.

I invite you to become involved and engage with our Jewish community however you wish.

Go online and make a gift to Federation.

Volunteer to distribute food at the Jewish Family Service Food Pantry.

Attend a community lecture or film.

Consider creating a legacy fund to support the next generation.

There is a joy to being part of a community. Make a connection and help build our Jewish community for the future.

Let us know how you want to be engaged.

A captivating talk at Maimonides Society

By **Richard Nassau**

Pam Charendoff and Jonathan Primack opened their home May 14 for a captivating evening that explored the intersection of Jewish thought and bioethics. The program, sponsored by Federation's Maimonides Society, featured Laurie Zoloth, a distinguished leader in the field of bioethics and Jewish studies.

Drawing from biblical and Talmudic texts to postmodern Jewish philosophy, Ms. Zoloth, a former dean of the University of Chicago Divinity School, led a lively discussion on the Jewish view and ethics of genetic engineering. The evening's topic — "May We Remake the World" — touched on issues ranging from space exploration to altering DNA to the African malaria epidemic that annually kills nearly 500,000 people, many of them children.

Ms. Zoloth follows other nationally prominent speakers brought to Berks County by Federation's Maimonides Society. She is the author of "Health Care and the Ethics of Encounter: A Jewish Discussion of Social Justice"; and co-editor of five books, including "Notes from a Narrow Ridge: Religion and Bioethics"; and "Jews and Genes: The Genetic Future in Contemporary Jewish Thought." She has been president of the American Academy of Religion and the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities.

Federation's Maimonides Society offers programs of community interest and helps strengthen relationships among medical professionals. Its members are a valuable community resource. They integrate medical and Jewish concerns and demonstrate the many ways they and other health professionals are working to improve life for people.

Open to medical professionals and welcoming new members, the Society also helps advance Federation's mission of serving vulnerable communities locally, in Israel and around the world.

For more information about the Maimonides Society, contact Federation at 610-921-0624.



Laurie Zoloth, top, delivers a fascinating talk to participants in the Maimonides Society.

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today!**



From the President's Desk

Working to weave a beautiful, welcoming community

By William D. Franklin
President

I recently read an intriguing article about the Aspen Institute's program called Weave: The Social Fabric Project. This project is a decentralized movement of individuals working to serve their community by creating hubs. These are places that provide coherent centers of debate and learning and where a commonality of values and efforts can be hammered out. Friends can gather and create a better, deeper community with healthy connections, respect and trust. That is what the Federation is



working toward.

May was a busy "weaving" month for our Jewish community. We had a meaningful and informative Yom Hashoah. A week later we had a moving Yom Hazikaron program during which an Israeli veteran spoke about the importance of the day to him and his compatriot Israelis and the difficulty of not being in Israel on such a nationally emotional day. This was followed by a Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration with singing, dancing and delicious Israeli food.

We kick-started our Women's Philanthropy Group, where Letty Pogrebin spoke of her Jewish journey. And our medical professionals participated in a discussion led by Laurie Zoloth at a Maimonides Society event.

Looking forward, on Sunday, June 2, from 12:30 to 3, we have our Annual Meeting with a barbecue picnic and a magician to entertain us. Later that week, we will view Deborah Lipstadt's talk on her recent book, "Antisemitism: Here and Now," and a discussion will follow. Unfortunately, this is an important and relevant educational event.

At May's JFR Board Meeting, several board members mentioned that they frequently have been asked by non-Jewish co-workers why Jewish communities are not rallying together to fight the BDS movement, antisemitism and other Israel delegitimization groups rising on the political left and political right. They had no ready answers. The conclusion was that we need to develop a series of programs

to educate us all. Program discussions will be factual, not political.

Speaking of education, we are excited to announce that an Education Committee has been formed. We envision programs where people of all ages could study the same topics, but in age-appropriate format so that we weave together our generations. Courses could cover learning Hebrew, Israeli songs and dances and Jewish ethics.

Doris and Elliot Leisawitz recently gave us a beautiful crocheted "Shalom" by Doris' cousin Rose Kelly. We thank them for the wonderful donation. You will soon be able to see it as you enter the JCC. This piece of art is a lovely woven symbol of our beautiful and welcoming community.

Opinion: *The Times* and a cartoon that was no laughing matter

By Michael Fromm

I did not grow up in New York City but, like so many American Jews, I have been a longtime reader of *The New York Times*. The *Times* has been called the "hometown paper of American Jewry." It is the newspaper we love and, in our vulnerability to its perceived influence on public opinion, love to hate.

In this regard, the Jewish community's collective outcry over the anti-Semitic cartoon published in the *Times'* international edition on April 25 — portraying the prime minister of Israel as a dog leading a blind President Trump in a skullcap — should come as no surprise.

In the week after the cartoon was published, I spoke to numerous friends and relatives who had long been frustrated by the *Times'* negative tilt on Israel. For many, the appearance of the cartoon confirmed suspicions that the *Times* is fundamentally hostile toward Jews and Israel. Several went so far as to cancel their subscriptions.

This cartoon came at an especially bad time. Amid a flurry of anti-Semitic controversies on the left, many Jews feel increasingly unwelcome in their traditional political home. They fear that the American left is following in the

footsteps of its British counterpart, led by the avowed anti-Semite Jeremy Corbyn. Published by a standard-bearer of liberal opinion, the cartoon only fueled these anxieties.

Is the uproar in the Jewish community justified? Does the culture of the *Times* truly lend itself to anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist reporting and editorial coverage?

Immediately after the cartoon appeared, in my role as Chair-elect of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), I co-authored a letter to the *Times* that was signed by scores of national and local Jewish groups, excoriating the newspaper for publishing an inflammatory and hateful cartoon. How could this happen, and what are you going to do about it, we asked.

Now in crisis mode, top newspaper officials were receptive to our outreach and agreed to meet. Along with JCPA's CEO, I was joined by the leaders of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), Hadassah and two of the three major Jewish movements for a meeting at the *Times* headquarters with Publisher A.G. Sulzberger and Opinion Editor James Bennet.

The two could not have been more gracious. They were appropriately contrite, telling us they had taken tangible steps,

including severing the paper's relationship with the cartoon syndicate, to ensure that such a blunder would never happen again. But we explained that we were there to address the weightier question of whether the cartoon was an isolated incident or a reflection of the newspaper's culture.

In advance of the meeting, JCPA staff reviewed over a hundred *Times* editorials on Israel and Jews published since 2016 and came away with the following observations that we shared with Mr. Sulzberger and Mr. Bennet.

First, the *Times* consistently called out right wing anti-Semitism but failed to publish a single editorial on left wing anti-Semitism until its mea culpa that appeared following the cartoon controversy.

Second, the editorials were uniformly critical of Israeli government policy. In fact, not one opinion piece presented a generally positive viewpoint toward Israel. The majority upbraided the Israeli government for lack of progress on a two-state solution, settlements, and anti-democratic legislation. Insinuations of linkage between Zionist ideals and government policy were blatant and inescapable.

Given this, one could easily conclude that the editors at the *Times* endorsed the

offending cartoon. While Mr. Sulzberger quickly dismissed this notion, he did acknowledge an institutional culture that could be tone deaf to certain anti-Semitic tropes and went so far as to agree that if mainstream media does nothing to defuse a growing anti-Zionist atmosphere, the results can serve as cover for bad people to do bad things. He concluded by stating that the *Times* "needs to get it right". We found this sincerity and introspection to be compelling, but of course the proof will be in the pudding.

In his defense of the paper's coverage of Jews and Israel, veteran *Times* reporter Neil Lewis wrote that "journalism is, in the end, storytelling, and it's a basic tenet of the craft that those on the bottom are more sympathetic characters than the powerful." Hence the *Times'* growing sympathy over the past five decades for the plight of Palestinians.

I would suggest that the current crisis in its relationship with Jewish readers affords the *Times* an opportunity to rethink the story it tells and to expand its view of victimhood. Jews and Israel have most certainly been victims — of terrorism, delegitimization campaigns and hate crimes. It's high time the "newspaper of record" adjusts its coverage accordingly.

Everything you always wanted to know about Israel at 71

ISRAEL21c.com

- Israel has the highest number of startups per capita in the world.
- Israel hosts about 8,200 active high-tech companies.
- Israel's expenditure on research and development as a percentage of its GDP (4.21%) is the highest in the world.
- Israel ranks fifth in the world for healthy longevity and 11th in the world for overall happiness.
- Israel ranks 10th on the 2019 Bloomberg Healthiest Country Index.
- In 1948, about 2% of Israel was covered in trees. Now it's up to around 8.5%. Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael-Jewish National Fund has planted more than 240 million trees in Israel since 1901.
- Israel is one of the only countries in the world that ended the 20th century with more trees than it had at the start.
- Every Israeli has access annually to an average 152 kilograms of fruit and 154kg of vegetables.
- Israel recycles 87% of its wastewater for agriculture, much more than any other country in the world. Some 31% of irrigation water originates from treated wastewater.
- As of 2019, Israel counts some 545 resident species of birds.
- Every year some 500 million birds

of 150 to 200 species migrate across Israel.

- Twelve Israelis have been awarded Nobel prizes: S. Y. Agnon, Menachem Begin, Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Rabin, Daniel Kahneman, Aaron Ciechanover, Avram Hershko, Robert Aumann, Ada Yonath, Dan Shechtman, Michael Levitt and Arieh Warshel.
- Israel has the highest number of engineers and scientists per capita.
- Israel boasts a literacy level of 97.8% of citizens above the age of 15.
- Israel is home to 66 institutions of higher education.
- Time Out of London ranks Tel Aviv the best city in the Middle East.
- There are 13 beaches along Tel Aviv-Yafo's coastline, visited by some 8.5 million people annually.
- Tel Aviv has been called the world's largest top destination for vegan tourists and vegan capital of the world.
- Israel has more than 230 museums, believed to be more museums per capita than any other country.
- There are more vegans (5%) and vegetarians (8%) per capita than anywhere else in the world.
- In 2017, Israel hosted the world's largest animal rights march, drawing some 30,000 activists.

- Israel has won nine Olympic medals since 1952, one gold in sailing, one silver in judo, and bronze in judo, sailing and canoeing.

Shalom

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General Offices: 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Suite 125
Wyomissing, PA 19610
Phone: 610-921-0624 FAX: 610-929-0886
Web site: www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Jewish Federation of Reading
Chair: Haia Mazuz
President: William D. Franklin
Communications Director: Mark Nemirow, Editor
Proofreaders: Federation staff

The opinions expressed in *Shalom* are of the writers and not the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks



Our graduates



Brittany Baksic, daughter of Marla and Steven Baksic and granddaughter of Judy Schnee and the late Jack Schnee, is graduating from Wilson High School. Brittany was involved in many student activities. She was captain of the Wilson swim team and was a varsity water polo player and a member of the State team. Brittany will be attending James Madison University in the fall.



Emily Baksic, daughter of Marla and Steven Baksic and granddaughter of Judy Schnee and the late Jack Schnee, graduated magna cum laude from Hofstra University's Honors College with a B.A. in International Business. Emily also received a B.A. from the University of Amsterdam. After graduation, Emily will be working in the financial district in New York City.



Carson Endy, son of Chad and Alicia Endy, grandson of Aileen Endy and great-grandson of Marjorie "Tootie" Moyer, is graduating from Exeter High School. He is an Eagle Scout and played in the Exeter Marching and Jazz bands. Carson will attend Penn State University in the fall, majoring in math.



Mark Goldberg, son of Debbie and David Goldberg, graduate from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He has accepted a job with Lockheed Martin in Binghamton, N.Y., as a Software Engineer Associate in the Rotary and Mission Systems Division.



Derian Haas, son of Jill and Michael Haas, graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with concentrations in Artificial Intelligence and Information Internetworks. He participated in Chinese Language for the Business and Technology program. Derian played clarinet in the GT Concert Band.



Jennifer Brittany Kauffman, daughter of David and Jody Kauffman and granddaughter of Robert and Shirley Kauffman, graduated in May from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science in Information Science. Jennifer spent part of her junior year studying in Australia. Jennifer was inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and was a member of the Cornell Chorale.



Logan Kramer, son of Robin Kramer of Shillington and Barry Kramer of Mohnton, is graduating from Gov. Mifflin High School. He is a section leader in Marching Band, is in Indoor percussion, is completing his Eagle Scout requirements, is a National Finalist for TSA teams and a semifinalist for Berks Best in Computer Science. He will be attending Lehigh University in the fall as an undecided engineering major.



Hannah Mart Walker, daughter of Michelle Mart and David Walker, graduated from Bard College at Simon's Rock with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Her senior thesis is an original translation and analysis of essays by the German writer and critic Siegfried Kracauer. Hannah studied abroad in Berlin and at Barnard College. She will work in Great Barrington, Mass. following graduation.



Tobias Mart Walker, son of Michelle Mart and David Walker, graduated from Bard College at Simon's Rock with an Associate of Arts degree. He will take a gap year before completing his undergraduate education. He has studied anthropology, lighting and sound design, German, and music. He will work in Great Barrington at an organic farm and restaurant for the summer.



Megan L. McIntosh, daughter of Dwight and Mindy McIntosh, received an Associate Degree in Baking and Pastry Arts from the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, N.Y. Megan, a graduate of Antietam High School, is currently enrolled in the institute's Bachelor's Degree Program in Culinary Science. Megan wants to do research and development for a chocolate and confections company.



Gabriella "Lella" Michelson, daughter of Rabbi Brian and Holly Michelson, is graduating with High Honors from Muhlenberg College with a double major in Theater and Dance Education. She spent her junior semester at the University of Ghana in West Africa. Lella plans to pursue a career in the performing arts, both on stage and behind the scenes in nonprofit education.



Mollie Pleet, daughter of Elaine Mendelssohn and Jesse Pleet, graduated from Pacific University with a doctorate in psychology. She is completing a residency at a San Francisco VA Hospital, treating patients with post-traumatic stress disorder and drug addiction. She passed her National Licensing and Certification Exam in March.



Jacqueline Brooke Plesset, daughter of Rochelle and Robert Plesset of Potomac, Md., and granddaughter of Robert and Shirley Kauffman, graduated cum laude from Cornell University with a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering. Jacqueline will be a PhD candidate in Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Pennsylvania.



Michael Rosenzweig, son of Barbara and Seth Rosenzweig of Wyomissing, received an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He was a Lauder Institute scholar and received a joint MA in International Studies, East Asia concentration. He will be working in the Los Angeles office of Base Food, Tokyo..



Alexa Saidman, daughter of Amy and Howard Saidman, graduated cum laude in May from Penn State University's Smeal College of Business with a Bachelor of Science in Supply Chain and Information Systems. She has accepted a job as a Supply Chain Analyst with Ferguson Enterprises, Newport News, Va.



Ben Ueberroth, son of Lisa and the late Bill Ueberroth, formerly of Wyomissing, graduated from Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit. His internal medicine/oncology residency will be at the Mayo Clinic -Arizona.

B'nai Mitzvot 5779



Joshua Nathan Brown, son of Lisa and Robert Brown, is celebrating his bar mitzvah on June 15 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Joshua is a seventh-grader at Exeter Junior High School. He enjoys science and math and plays the trumpet in the school band. Joshua also plays soccer for the junior high and like most boys his age, enjoys his video games.



Jed Samuel Hoffman, son of Seth and Joanna Katz Hoffman and grandson of Judith Kraines and Neil Hoffman, became a bar mitzvah on May 4 at Temple Menorah in Miami Beach. Jed excels at baseball and golf. Born in Philadelphia, Jed remains a diehard Phillies fan. Jed is a very caring person with a strong sense of fairness. He often advocates for others.



Danielle Hannah Radosh, daughter of Drs. Lee and Jodi Radosh, was called to the Torah for her bat mitzvah on Oct. 27, 2018 surrounded by family and friends. For her mitzvah project, she collected supplies to donate to the Animal Rescue League and helped take care of Therapeutic Riding Horses.

A spectacular Passover celebration by the beach

By Phyllis Dessel

My son Ian of Haifa, Israel, invited me to spend Pesach at a Majestic Retreat Resort in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. There are many such Pesach programs around the world for people who want to get away for the holiday and have all the preparation and cooking and cleaning done for them.

We selected this particular program because it leaned more modern and less ultra-Orthodox and had scholars-in-residence that appealed to Ian. There were about 650 guests booked at the hotel for the holiday. We met many interesting people from all over the U.S. Jeff Braverman was the Passover host. Rabbi Sion Salem, the Head Mashgiach, led our First Community Seder and gave Ian a rare behind-the-scenes kitchen tour. Our Second Seder was as guests of Professor Marc B. Shapiro with his very lovely extended family.

The first Seder dinner was tri-color gefilte fish, matzo ball soup and a choice of entrees that included glazed boneless short rib, rock cornish hen, pan-seared black skillet sea trout and portabello napoleon, and for dessert, Savoiar di Tiramisu. The food portions were beyond generous, and there was an interesting variety of wines.

Everyday there was a schedule of events taking place in the hotel. Speakers included Rabbi Dovid M. Cohen; Rabbi Yonatan Magazzinich; Dr. Erica Brown, whose lecture on Passover and Impossible Possibilities I attended; Professor Marc B. Shapiro, director and chair of the Weinberg Judaic Studies Institute at the University of Scranton; Dr. Joseph Shatzkes; Rebecca Brown; Dr. Jeremy Brown and many other interesting scholars.

Each day there were program activities and a culinary schedule, which included such treats as the



Highlights of a resort Passover in Fort Lauderdale included a beautiful beach and spectacular food.

morning tea room, a breakfast and lunch buffet, BBQ, dinner and the evening tea room. The tea room featured more than 50 jars and bowls filled with dried fruit, candy and nuts, a pastry table with cookies and cakes, fresh fruit, soft ice cream and smoothies and a selection of freshly made fruit-flavored waters. Salads, sandwiches and chips were offered to take to the beach or for travel.

The food provisions were overwhelming! The Breakfast Buffet included a variety of fish dishes, bagels, cheeses, salads galore, a waffle and pancake station, an omelet station, a pastry table, potato latkes, a fruit station, and so much more!

Lunch was also a buffet with a sandwich station, pasta bar, stir fry station, salad bar with an unbelievable variety of items, a fruit station where the fruit was cut up and customized to your preference, and just an



irresistible selection of delicious food. Dinner was a choice of delectable entrees with table service. It was a true feast at every meal!

The hotel pool was beautiful with lots of umbrellas for shade and a covered walkway to the beach, which was gorgeous, with crystal clear water. Towels and beach chairs were provided for all hotel guests. Daily activities ranged from lectures to jet skis on the beach. Evening entertainment featured movies, concerts, a casino night, an extreme magic show and much more. We toured The Bonnet House Museum and Gardens, a 1930's beach estate and enjoyed the Renoir Exhibit at the NSU Art Museum. The weather in Fort Lauderdale was perfect.

Best of all, it was pure joy spending the holiday with my son!

Oheb Sholom hosts event for collectors of postcards, ephemera



Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom hosted a Postcard & Ephemera Expo billed as the first event of its kind in the Reading area. Sellers and collectors from throughout the region turned out for the event, which served as a fundraiser for the synagogue. Photos courtesy of the Reading Eagle.

JCC offering trip to Auschwitz exhibition

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Available for seven months only, the special exhibit "Auschwitz. Not far away. Not long ago" has been receiving a lot of press since its opening in May at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. The JCC invites you to explore the exhibit on our bus trip on Sunday, Sept. 8.

The cost is \$50 per JCC member and \$60 for non-members and includes round-trip bus transportation, admission to the Museum of Jewish Heritage and a private tour guide for our group.

The most significant site of the Holocaust, Auschwitz was not a single entity but a complex of 48 concentration and extermination camps, at which 1 million Jews — and tens of thousands of others — were murdered.

This groundbreaking exhibition brings together more than 700 original objects and 400 photographs from over 20 institutions and museums around the world. "Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away" is the most comprehensive exhibition dedicated to the history of Auschwitz and its role in the Holocaust ever presented in North America, and an unparalleled opportunity to confront the singular face of human evil—one that arose not long ago and not far away. For the first



time, 74 years after the liberation of Auschwitz, a traveling exhibition dedicated to the historical significance of the camp is being presented to a U.S. audience.

Don't miss your opportunity to witness this history up close and see the exhibit described as "a stark reminder of hatred" by the Daily News New York. RSVPs are accepted through Aug. 1

to 610-921-0624. An exact schedule and final details will be sent to attendees in August.

For more information or questions please contact Amanda Hornberger at 610-921-0624 or amandah@jfreeding.org. Please note that all museum spaces are wheelchair accessible and assisted listening devices are available for the tour.

Documentary goes behind the scenes of 'Fiddler'

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Beat the heat and get your summer Jewish movie fix at a special screening of "Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles" on Wednesday, July 31, at 7 p.m. at Fox East.

This brand new documentary tells the origin story behind one of Broadway's most beloved musicals, "Fiddler on The Roof,"

and its creative roots in early 1960s New York, when "tradition" was on the wane as gender roles, sexuality, race relations and religion were evolving.

For the first time, intimate interviews with the show's creators reveal how the tremendous success and worldwide impact of "Fiddler" and its subsequent film

adaptation is most appropriately viewed through the lens of the social upheaval and change in mid-20th century America. Yet, as the film shows the true wonder of wonders and miracle of Fiddler is that audiences world-wide and for the last half century claim the story as their own.

The screening is sponsored

by Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks and Fox Theatres. Admission is \$8, and the film will be shown on Wednesday, July 31 at 7 p.m. at Fox East, 4350 Perkiomen Avenue, Exeter Township (next to Boscov's East). Tickets can be purchased at the theater beginning at 6:30 p.m. the day of the screening. Cash and checks are accepted.

Join us for a discussion of book on antisemitism

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Join us on Thursday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the JCC for a book discussion of "Antisemitism: Here and Now" by Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt. Immediately following the discussion, we will gather to watch Dr. Lipstadt discuss her book from her recent visit to the 92nd St. Y.

Dr. Lipstadt writes in her introductory note: "As horrific as the Holocaust was, it is firmly in the past...Contemporary antisemitism is not. It is about the present..."

Is today's antisemitism the same or different from what we have seen before? Where is it coming from: the right or the left?...It is about what many people are doing, saying, and facing now... the existence of prejudice in any of its forms is a threat to all those who value an inclusive, democratic and multicultural society.

According to a review from the Jewish Book Council, "Lipstadt's sweeping, accessible education on modern antisemitism is a welcome

starting point in dire times." In the book's opening note to readers, Lipstadt writes: "My attempt to explore a perplexing and disturbing set of circumstances is written with the hope that it will provoke action. What precisely that action is remains in the hands of the reader."

This book offers the community the opportunity to have a very interesting and impactful discussion. Copies are available at local public libraries, Barnes & Noble and Amazon. The JCC has

a few copies available to borrow. This presentation by Dr. Lipstadt and our discussion is the first of a series of educational programs being planned to help us better understand the sources of resurgent anti-Semitism, the BDS movement and other Israel delegitimization groups so we can better respond and contest their actions.

We hope many of you can join us for the book discussion and 92nd St. Y Program on June 6.

A celebration of Israel at the JCC



The community gathered May 8 at the JCC for Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut, a commemoration of Israel's Memorial Day and Independence Day. The program featured a speech by an Israeli military veteran along with music, dancing and Israeli foods.

92nd St. Y Programs

Game Nights

Community Shabbat

Reading Jewish Film Series

Great Decisions

Interfaith Mitzvah Day

Yom Ha'atzmaut

PJ Library

PJ Our Way

Leo Camp Lecture

Tech Tuesday

Yom Hazikaron

Art Exhibits

Yom Hashoah

Annual Meeting and Picnic

Purim Carnival

Richard J. Yashek

Memorial Lecture

Kristallnacht Remembrance

Youth Events

Purim Masquerade Party

Bridge

Chevra

Mahjong

Trips to NYC/Philadelphia

Lakin Holocaust Library

& Resource Center

Shabbat B'yachad

Community Calendar

Remembering the Holocaust and loved ones lost



The community gathered at the Highlands at Wyomissing May 2 for the annual Yom Hashoah observance. At left, Fleetwood High School teacher Sean Gaston discusses the importance of Holocaust education. At right, students prepare to read the name of victims of the Holocaust, each of whom had a connection to someone in Reading. Readers included Dani Radosh, Rachel Radosh, Alexandra Levin, Max Weiss, Simon Seesengood, Bella Karchevsky, Eva Karchevsky, Lena Bluestone, Ari Bluestone, Harry Weiss and Ari Levin.

Health impact of circadian rhythm a hot topic in Israel

ISRAEL21c.com

Far more than your alarm clock, what governs your wake-sleep cycle is the internal circadian clock regulating your whole body. This also affects hunger, thirst, body temperature, mood, hormone fluctuations and more.

Disturbances to the circadian rhythm, or to the genes that produce the rhythm, can cause problems from low productivity and insomnia to depression and diabetes. Some of the most common disturbances are night-shift work, artificial light and travel across time zones. This is a hot topic in Israel and beyond due to the “extreme importance of the circadian clock on many different processes in neurobiology and metabolism,” says biology professor Guy Bloch from the Hebrew University Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior.

Here are some significant Israeli contributions to understanding circadian rhythm.

1. Are you a night owl or morning lark?

Why do some people jump out of bed early and others reach their peak of energy only after dark? Eran Tauber at the University of Haifa’s Institute of Evolution studies the chronobiology of specially bred nocturnal and diurnal fruit flies to better understand the phenomenon. The research has many potential applications, from adjusting schedules for night owls to adjusting medication for each patient’s biological clock. After finding differences in the bacterial composition of the gut microbiomes of nocturnal and diurnal fruit flies, Tauber is collaborating with a lab at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology to check for similar differentiation in self-identified larks and owls.

2. Time meals to lose weight

If you synchronize mealtimes with your circadian rhythm you’ll get slimmer than if you eat the same type and amount of food without any schedule, regardless of whether the food is low-fat or high-fat. That’s one significant finding from the lab of Oren Froy, associate professor of neuroendocrinology and metabolism, and director of the Institute of Biochemistry, Food Science and

Nutrition at the Hebrew University. “In nutritional sciences we usually teach that energy consumed and energy expended equals your bodyweight but here we saw the timing factor was very important. If you synchronize with your circadian clock that controls all your systems, it makes sense.” Froy’s collaborative research has also shown better results if a weight-loss diet is structured with a large breakfast, medium-sized lunch and small dinner rather than a small breakfast and large dinner, even though the overall caloric intake is identical. In experiments relating to circadian rhythm and insulin resistance – a factor in both type 2 diabetes and polycystic ovary syndrome – a large breakfast and small dinner also was successful in reducing insulin resistance.

3. Mealtimes impact liver disease

Professor Gad Asher’s biomolecular sciences lab at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot came to a similar conclusion from studying the accumulation of lipids in the livers of mice without a functioning body clock. When the researchers restricted feeding to nighttime hours, the mice showed a dramatic 50% decrease in overall liver triglyceride levels.

4. Avoiding jetlag

Asher’s lab found that adjusting oxygen concentration in the air effectively reset the circadian clocks of mice subjected to a six-hour jump ahead in daylight hours. This suggests that airlines theoretically could vanquish jetlag by moderating cabin air pressure.

5. Best and worst times to medicate

The circadian clock causes fluctuations in hormones and enzymes throughout the day. Scientists rely on mouse studies to predict how those fluctuations affect our metabolism and the development of obesity, fatty liver disease and type 2 diabetes. A revolutionary organ-on-a-chip invented by Prof. Yaakov Nahmias, director of Hebrew University’s Grass Center for Bioengineering mimics the circadian rhythms of the human liver, heart, brain and kidney. Nahmias stated that, “We

are providing services to pharma and cosmetic companies that send us their molecules. We can tell them how the product works with the circadian cycle.” The technology can predict things like the best and worst times of day to take a drug, and how to control metabolism to overcome circadian rhythm disturbances such as night-shift work or travel.

6. Bees and babies

Studying the interplay between social behavior and circadian rhythms in bees gives Guy Bloch new insights into social biology. His Hebrew University lab has shown that social signals are important time-givers for animal circadian clocks and that bees’ social interactions and division of labor actually synchronize their internal clocks. For example, they observed that the circadian rhythm of “nurse” bees switches off while they are providing around-the-clock newborn care. This may be how all mammals manage infant care. “The clock genes in humans and bees are essentially the same. If we understand the mechanism we may be able to use the bee model to guide research in people,” says Bloch.

7. Timing of pollination

In 2017, Bloch and HUJ researcher Rachel Green published “Time is Honey,” showing how the interactions of the circadian clocks of bees and flowers affect the processes of pollination and flowering, which are critical to crop production and conservation.

8. The dark side of bone

Stem cells in the bone marrow follow daily cycles of light and darkness, according to a study published by researchers at the Weizmann Institute in collaboration with colleagues in Brazil and Canada. Adjusting the timing of stem-cell harvesting to these daily cycles may boost the success of bone-marrow transplants.

9. Circadian rhythm and diabetes

Melatonin is a hormone secreted only at night, yet it signals nocturnal species to wake up and signals diurnal species (like us) to go to sleep, says Professor Noga Kronfeld-Schor, chair of the Tel Aviv University School of Zoology and

head of its Ecological and Evolutionary Physiology Laboratory. “The biological clock is the same in nocturnal and diurnal animals but is translated in the opposite way.” Schor and international collaborators study the relationship between circadian rhythm and disorders, such as depression and diabetes. “Because we eat during the day, insulin should be produced during the day and glucose at night; everything has to be done at the right time. If you disrupt or de-synch the clock by working night shifts or eating at night it disrupts that homeostasis,” she says.

Light pollution also messes up the circadian clock. “The system relies on the reliability of daylight to synchronize our bodies to the day-night cycle and to seasonal changes, but since we use artificial light the signals aren’t reliable anymore,” she explains. “So we see circadian rhythm disruption becoming common and causing medical problems and sleep disturbances in humans, animals and plants exposed to artificial light. We see birds that lay eggs at the wrong time of the year or stay awake at night; we see some animals experiencing disruption in the timing of reproduction or hibernation.” Her lab is experimenting with different light spectrums and intensities at night to reduce artificial light’s harmful effects on various species.

10. Corals and bacteria

Professor Oren Levy of Bar-Ilan University’s Intermarine Institute discovered two photoreceptor genes called cryptochromes that synchronize spawning in corals and other marine organisms. Light pollution confuses the synchronization.

But it’s not only light-sensitive organisms that have circadian rhythms. A 2016 study from the labs of the Weizmann Institute showed that even gut bacteria display circadian rhythmicity. Wiping out mice’s gut bacteria with antibiotics eliminated normal toxicity fluctuations in their livers. The implication is that researchers should also be considering the activity of bacteria in relation to when we take drugs.

Response to horror reminds us goodness will always prevail

By Rabbi Yosef Lipsker
Chabad Center of Berks County

While transferring our Passover kitchen items to storage just a mere few weeks ago I turned on my dormant phone that, in following Jewish tradition, had been off for 48 hours.



Instantly, my heart sunk, my soul was punctured, my mind froze. Not again, not another Pittsburgh, not another Jerusalem, not another Paris. It did happen again. This time at my sister Chabad center in Poway, Calif.

Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein is only a couple of years older than me, and we grew up together in New York. His center in Poway, like our Chabad center here in Reading, was molded with love and joy by our beloved mentor Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe. It's a place where Judaism comes alive, where smiles are contagious and where

Judaism's 3,000-year-old wisdom is taught with depth and practicality. Our centers the world over are staffed by rabbis and rebbetzins, couples who are devoted community leaders, who, together with their children, build homes for all to celebrate, no strings attached, no judgment ever passed.

It was into this sacred space that a 19-year-old terrorist brought death and horror. It was yet another attempt of evil trying to crush the infinite happiness and holiness that radiates from Jews and Judaism. My uncle, a general in the Israeli army, survived many wars as he fought for the survival of his people in our eternal homeland Israel. Growing up, hearing his stories, I never thought that this hatred would be expressed so violently in my beloved America. Sadly, it was.

As blood was gushing from Rabbi Goldstein's fingers, before the ambulances even made it to the horrific scene at the synagogue, he stood up on a chair outside his Chabad Center

and proclaimed to his heartbroken congregation "Am Yisroel Chai", meaning "the Jewish nation is alive."

After undergoing extensive surgery, he beseeched America to introduce a "moment of silence" into our schools, so that America's children would have a daily opportunity to contemplate their Creator and the meaning of life, which would help guide them to live a happier, more fruitful life.

President Donald Trump, Gov. Gavin Newsom, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and so many other leaders reached out to Rabbi Goldstein and supported the Jewish community at large. We have seen an outpouring of love and support from so many, expressing America's true colors. We have seen the best that America and the

American way of life has to offer. Yes, we have bad apples everywhere, but Jewish Americans and all those who love our country and its founding principles, will not be deterred. The Egyptians, Romans, Greeks, Byzantines, Ottomans, Spaniards, Bolsheviks, Third Reich, and every other entity that tried to destroy us are gone, remaining only in sad history books, and those who've sought religious freedom and spread light, are thriving. Am Yisroel Chai.

Rabbi Goldstein gave me a total transformation of darkness into light, of tragedy into a time of inspiration. I will think of Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein's courage and faith, which will serve as a reminder to me that, ultimately, goodness will always prevail.

Am Yisroel Chai!

All Around the Town

Mazel Tov to **Anneliese Bateman** on the birth of great-grandson Jusick Alexander Adkins.

Mazel tov to **Carol Greenberg** on the birth of her grandson Cohen Max Greenberg.

We love good news about members of our community! Please share it by emailing Marknem@aol.com or calling the JCC office at 610-921-0624.

Until next time: Shalom!

Obituary

Walter R. Brandt, 78, of Blandon. Walter graduated from Ryder University with a bachelor's degree in business and was a senior buyer for Boscov's for 37 years, retiring in June 2017. He is

survived by his wife, Randi; his children, Holly, wife of Harry Zinn; Russell Brandt and his wife, Frances; and Alyssa and Ashley Brandt. Other survivors include his 10 grandchildren. He was a loving father figure to Grace Batista and Elijah Velazquez.

LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034

Friday, June 7: Shabbat service, 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 8: Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

Fridays, June 14, 21 and 28: Shabbat services, 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, June 15: Josh Brown Bar Mitzvah, 10 a.m.

Sunday, June 22: Mia and Marissa Jacobs Bat Mitzvah, 10 a.m.

CHABAD CENTER OF BERKS COUNTY (610) 921-0881

Saturday mornings: 9:30 a.m.; Friday evenings: 6:30 p.m.

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE (610) 374-1763

Weekly services Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.; Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.

CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH

Were I God

By Nancy J. Knoblauch

Thou hast withdrawn all thy wrath; thou hast turned from the fierceness of thine anger.

—Psalm 85:4

Were I God
I think I would
spend the Sabbath
unknowing the bad things
as they are and
as they have been
and of the catastrophes
yet to be —
contemplating the good
the dark night's
solemnity, sleeping,
the day's
light breaking as
in the beginning
when I am most powerful

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Making challah and enjoying fellowship at Chabad



Chabad's "Bake a Difference" event provided a beautiful way of having a wonderful time with others while baking challa from scratch. The breads at right were baked during the program and were donated to Opportunity House..

Do you remember?

By Tootie Moyer

Hi everyone, here are some more of my memories, see if you remember:

- Apples, oranges and bananas were 5 cents each – not one dollar.
- Bread and milk were delivered to your home.
- You had to crank up to start a car (way back).

• You couldn't wear a bathing suit on Atlantic City's board walk, today you can wear anything.

• Do you remember these entertainers?

Jackie Cooper, Irene Dunne, Rosalind Russell, ZaSu Pitts, Lana Turner
Do you remember – oh my goodness, I can't remember anything else- so I

wrote a poem for you:

*I am writing this poem to all of you,
Over the age of 80 which includes me too.*

We remember what we want to keep in our head,

We remember what I said and what you said.

But most of all we think about our life long ago.

When everyone in America prayed that every WWII "G.I. Joe",

Will come home safe to his kids and wife,

and start living again to an ordinary life.

We remember the G.I. Bill that gave service men a trade,

the government paid for the sacrifice our men and women made.

We all remember bad times, but we remember good times more,

Remember fun and laughter, so you don't get sore,

smile, smile, smile and say hello to everyone you see,

you will be much happier and so will they, you will be

smiling to yourself and be so happy you will see.

I know this because after 95 years, I am still smiling most of the time. I will close with a hug and kiss to you from a "youngster." I promise I will remember more the next time I write a column.

It's Holiday Time! It's Family Time!

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Tisha B'Av

Keshet Zion Synagogue

555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Our observance will include:

Saturday, August 10, 2019

Seudah Mafseket—8:30 p.m.

The chanting of Eicha - (The Book of Lamentations) to follow Havdalah

Sunday, August 11, 2019 —No Service



*Fast begins: Saturday, August 10 at 8:04 p.m.
Fast ends: Sunday, August 11 at 8:33 p.m.*

JFS helps the Jewish needy in Berks County

By Sari Incledon

The *Forward* recently published "We Need to Talk About Jewish Poverty," an opinion piece by Jane Eisner. It made an impression on me. For the last 25 years I have worked for JFS and helped numerous people who were not able to make it on their own. It is true that American Jews are generally more affluent and economically stable than other groups. But in Berks County, like in other parts of our country, the social safety net does not always protect people when sudden unemployment, divorce, drug addiction, mental health issues and other unforeseen



circumstances leave them destitute and needing help. Fortunately, JFS since its inception, has been there for at risk individuals and families.

Eisner wants us to face "the fact that not all Jews are well-educated, economically, successful, politically powerful, culturally assimilated and solidly middle class (or wealthier)." A communal professional told her, "there's a tremendous sense of denial in the Jewish community about how many Jews truly need help." Our Jewish media tends to celebrate Jewish success and concentrate on Israel, anti-Semitism and intermarriage. All are important topics, but as a result many of us are not aware of the struggles many Jews face here and throughout the United States.

We are fortunate that many families provide support to help their needy

relations. But there are still people who don't have family who can help them. Some are disabled, some are seniors on a fixed income and some are working at low paying jobs, others seek employment, often unsuccessfully. We are proud to have been able to save people from becoming homeless or have their utilities shut off.

But we do more. We help them to be self-sustaining. We work with clients to find solutions. We help them apply for subsidized housing, food stamps, Medicaid, VA benefits. And for those who are able to work, we help with references, resumes, and referrals to possible work opportunities. Generous yearly gifts from the estate of Dr. Irvin and Beatrice Shaffer and your gifts to the Reading/Berks Jewish Federation make it possible for us to help Jews who need help in Berks County.

Jewish Family Service

- Food Pantry
- Friendship Circle
- Counseling Services
- Transportation
- Financial Assistance
- Hospital and Home Visitations
- Living with Loss
- Information and Referral
- Case Management
- Holiday Programs

Pet therapy at Friendship Circle



Friendship Circle enjoys an afternoon of pet therapy with Debbie Greusel

Jewish Family Service holds community Seder



Jewish Family Service held its annual community Passover Seder at the Manor at Market Square. Clockwise from top left: Mariette Jacobson; Edith Mendelsohn; Sylvia Wenger; Ethel Engel, and Mae Levy

Better Together and JCHS conclude school year

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner

Reading Jewish Community High School

For the final session of the 2019 year, JCHS celebrated in both regular classes and our Better Together session, with learning and a special dessert snack.

In our course on “Traditional Jewish Values and Modern Media,” Rabbi Dov concluded this year with scenes from “Stand and Deliver,” a film based on students who overcame obstacles in order to earn AP course credits because a teacher believed in them. That was my intended message to them.

Our Jewish tradition emphasizes “Talmud Torah k’neged kulam,” Jewish study and learning is of primary importance, and that message has been demonstrated by our students and their families over the years of JCHS.

Our students thankfully didn’t face the economic, cultural and social obstacles of the East LA teens in the movie. But they did face the incredible challenges for teens and parents to travel from so many widespread communities, traveling through various seasons and for long distances. It was a constant challenge for each student to juggle their unusually busy schedules and school and extra-curricular programs, and family calendars. Teens, parents and community deserve kudos for what we have achieved.

We then had a special session of “Jewish Food: Fact or Fiction,” taught by Barbara Lerner. As she wrote for the students:

“When we covered the artisanal Brooklyn mashup of babka ice cream, we started wondering . . . who else is making ice cream with our favorite classic Jewish flavors? We decided to cover ice cream and gelato producers that sell in markets nationwide, and flavors that reminded us of Israeli markets or Jewish holidays or comfort foods.” These include:

- Ben & Jerry’s nondairy ice cream: These pareve treats are perfect for people who keep kosher or are sensitive to dairy.
- Haagen Dazs Toasted Sesame Brittle has a flavor reminiscent of halvah.
- Talenti Black Cherry gelato is the sweet cousin of Hungarian sour cherry soup.
- Talenti Toasted Almond gelato is right up there with almond macaroons or mandelbrot.
- Steve’s Wildflower Honey Pistachio vegan ice cream features not one but two of our favorite Israeli flavors. Plus, it’s pareve.
- Steve’s Coconut Macaroon ice cream: Perfect for Passover and Shavuot.
- Jeni’s Splendid Ice Cream’s Pistachio and Honey: This flavor is right out of the land of Milk and Honey. Which leads us to . . .
- Three Twins Land of Milk and Honey: Creamy ice cream was made to become a vehicle for honey. Plus, 1% of all sales of this flavor supports research to help the honeybee.
- Three Twins Dad’s Cardamom: A spice that’s ubiquitous in Israel is at center stage for this intriguing ice cream flavor.
- LaLoo’s Goat Milk Black Mission Fig:



Jewish Community High School and Better Together participants enjoy a video together.



Rabbi Dov leads the final day of classes at Jewish Community High School/Better Together.

enjoy one of the seven species in this all goat milk (no cream) ice cream.

To bring our year of Better Together to completion, we addressed changing attitudes regarding abortion and Jewish law.

We then finished our year, watching a “Koolulam” video from last year’s Israel Independence Day. “Koolulam” is a social-musical initiative aimed at strengthening the fabric of society. The project centers around large groups of non-professionals coming together to form a collaborative musical creation. Koolulam brings together people from all walks of life to do one thing: stop everything

for a few hours and just sing – together.

Rabbi Dov distributed the Hebrew, English translation and transliteration in order to be able to “sing along.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxzR9Z-kG6Q>

The song was “Al Kol Elah,” composed by Naomi Shemer, whose words speak to our constant hope that peace can come to the world, that we can build decent and respectful societies and we can anticipate humanity living together in justice, in dignity and equity – someday, and soon.

May the summer and the coming year bring peace and fulfillment to us all.

Jewish Education

Camp Scholarships



Israel Trips

Jewish Community

High School

Lakin Preschool

Better Together

June Iyar-Sivan	
 Shabbat Candle Lightings	 Torah Portions
June 7 8:13 p.m.	June 1/27 Iyar Bechukotai (Leviticus 26:3-27:34)
June 14 8:17 p.m.	June 8/5 Sivan Bamidbar (Numbers 1:1-4:20)
June 21 8:19 p.m.	June 15/12 Siva Naso (Numbers 4:21-7:89)
June 28 8:19 p.m.	June 22/19 Sivan Behaalotecha (Numbers 8:1-12:15)
	June 29/26 Sivan Shlach (Numbers 13:1-15:41)

Join us for the final Tot Shabbat!
June 8th at 10:00 am

Tot Shabbat

Members and non-members are invited. No registration is required. Tot Shabbat services are held Saturday mornings at 10:00 am at Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing unless noted. Please call the Temple office with any questions, 610.375.6034.

A musical, story-filled, interactive hour for children through grade 2. Bring your family & friends to celebrate with Rabbi Michelson & stay for a pint-sized one of juice, challah, fruit, & child-friendly treats!

Praying for the victims of Poway shooting



The community gathers at the Chabad Center to pray for those attacked at the Chabad of Poway synagogue in California. The event included speeches from local community leaders, a candle-lighting ceremony and a video message from Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein of Chabad of Poway. Photo by Jeremy Drey courtesy of Reading Eagle.

Israeli UN ambassador's speech goes viral on social media

From online news sources

Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon's recent speech to the international body's Security Council has taken on a new life online as translations into different languages have propelled the "biblical speech" well beyond the walls of the United Nations building. Since then, translations into Spanish, Polish, French, Portuguese and Turkish have swept the internet.

On Israel's Independence Day in May, CNN brought Danon on to discuss the speech, in which he reiterated the Jewish state's historical and moral claims to the country that many local Arab residents would like to see as Palestine.

"From the book of Genesis; to the Jewish exodus from Egypt; to receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai; to the gates of Canaan; and to the realization of God's covenant in the Holy Land of Israel; the Bible paints a consistent picture. The entire history of our people, and our connection to Eretz Yisrael, begins right here," Danon stated at the UN Security Council in New York.

His speech contains references to the Balfour Declaration of 1917, the League of Nations mandate of 1922, and the United Nations charter of 1945. Danon said they all legitimize Israel's right to self-determination.

"The speech has resonated thanks to

the strength of the truth," Danon said when asked to react to the speech's popularity. "Its success has been welcome news as we conveyed to the world the strength of the eternal connection between the Jewish people and the Land of Israel."

In the speech, Danon put forward four pillars on which peace would be based in the future. This includes: Palestinians recognition of Israel as a Jewish state; an end to Palestinians incitement; regional cooperation and acceptance of Israel's security needs.

The 1948 armistice lines that marked the end of the Independence War, "were never considered international borders. They were simply lines designating the end of the first battle in the Arab war against Israel," Danon said. "It was the Arabs who insisted that the armistice lines would not be permanent borders," he added.

"Because these lines are not borders, the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, to this day, do not cross any international borders. They are built on strategic land for Israel's security and, as agreed by the parties in the Oslo Accords, would be classified as final status issues," he concluded.

On the issue of security, he noted that Arab leaders had chosen violence long before settlements were built. The Palestine Liberation Organization was established in 1964, three years prior to the Six Day War in 1967.

"What did they need to liberate

before 1967? And in 1964, not a single settlement existed in Judea and Samaria, and our right to exist was still rejected," the ambassador said.

Palestinian Ambassador to the UN Riyad Mansour, who spoke before Danon, said that it was the Palestinians who had a historic and legal right to the land.

In a follow-up interview to his UN speech, Danon told CNN's Becky Anderson that he didn't see territorial compromise as an intelligent way towards peace.

"The fact is Israel withdrew from Gaza completely in 2005, we don't have any so-called settlements, no occupation in Gaza," Danon said. " Hamas took over a few months after we left Gaza, and today look what happened. Hamas is committing a double war crime, targeting the Israeli civilian population while hiding behind the poor people in Gaza"

An ambassador since 2015, Danon previously served as Deputy Defense Minister.



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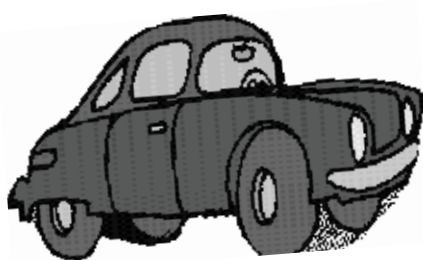
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Number of Arab engineering students doubles in 6 years

From online news sources

The number of Arab students in Israel studying for undergraduate degrees in engineering and computer science has doubled in six years, Israel's Council for Higher Education reported. In 2012, about 1,850 Arab students majored in these fields and in 2018 their number reached 3,780.

The percentage of Arab students studying in these fields also grew by 50 percent — in 2012 only 8 percent of all students enrolled in these degree programs were Arabs, while in 2018 Arabs students made up 12 percent of the total. About 60 percent of the Arab students in these fields are studying in Israel's public research universities, while the rest are studying in private colleges.

"The impressive figures testify to the great success of the revolution in making higher education accessible in Arab society," said the chairwoman of the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education, Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats. "Today we see the Arab students learning and excelling on all the campuses in Israel." Zilbershats said the CHE will continue to work to encourage the tens of thousands of Arab students to rise to the challenge and study professions that are in high demand in Israel's economy.

The number of Arab university students in general rose by 80 percent in the past seven years, reaching 47,000 in 2018,

compared to only 26,000 in 2011.

Another general trend is the growth in the number of students majoring in high-tech fields, including electrical engineering, telecommunications engineering, software engineering, optical engineering, computer science and mathematics. Over the past six years the number of students in these fields has risen by about 30 percent and is now 34,660. During the present academic year, for the first time, more students registered for engineering programs than for the humanities — which for years were the most popular majors in Israel.

The Council for Higher Education set a goal of increasing the number of students in so-called high-tech professions over the next few years in general, and for Arab students in particular. A steering committee reporting to the Planning and Budgeting Committee worked on the matter and published its recommendations in August.

As for specific recommendations concerning Arab students, the committee recommended a few directions, including investing in improving high school math, science and language studies for Arab students.

Among the other recommendations were conducting a program for outstanding Arab students, in which they would be exposed to high-tech fields, and increasing the number of



scholarships for Arab students enrolled in doctoral programs, partly to create a larger pool of Arab academic faculty members.

The committee's report said most of the outstanding students from the Arab community study medicine.

The Council for Higher Education has already implemented a number of these recommendations, including a program for encouraging higher education among Arab high school students. The Council is also making public relations efforts to change the negative image in Arab society concerning studying in pre-college preparatory programs. In addition, academic institutions now receive funding

to run programs to reduce the dropout rate for Arab students.

The Council recently presented a list of majors in which Arabs students are underrepresented. The steering committee which deals with the issue of increasing the number of Arab students, called this goal a "national necessity." The list of fields in which scholarships are available includes psychology, economics, math, communications disorders, social work and veterinary medicine. The committee has also called to increase the number of Arab students studying music and art, which is currently very low.

Tel Aviv researchers discover path to new epilepsy treatment

From online news sources

The adaptation of a known drug for the treatment of multiple sclerosis could help epilepsy patients, a new study by researchers at Tel Aviv University has revealed.

The potential breakthrough, which may help patients with epilepsy and other brain disorders who do not respond to available treatments today, is based on the discovery of a new mechanism that regulates and ensures the stability of brain activity.

While most researchers have previously looked for malfunctions in the regulation mechanism that may be perceived as a "thermostat" of neural activity, restoring the neural network to its original set point after every event that increases or diminishes activity, Tel Aviv University researchers led by Professor Inna Slutsky now argue that the set point itself deviates from the norm among epilepsy sufferers.

The findings were published on in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Neuron*.

"The concept of homeostasis has a long history in physiology... While much effort has been directed to understanding neuronal homeostasis, we still don't know how activity set points are regulated in neural circuits," said Professor Slutsky of Tel Aviv University's Faculty of Medicine and Sagol School of Neuroscience.

"The instability of neural activity in

various parts of the brain is a main element in a wide range of brain disorders, including epilepsy, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's."

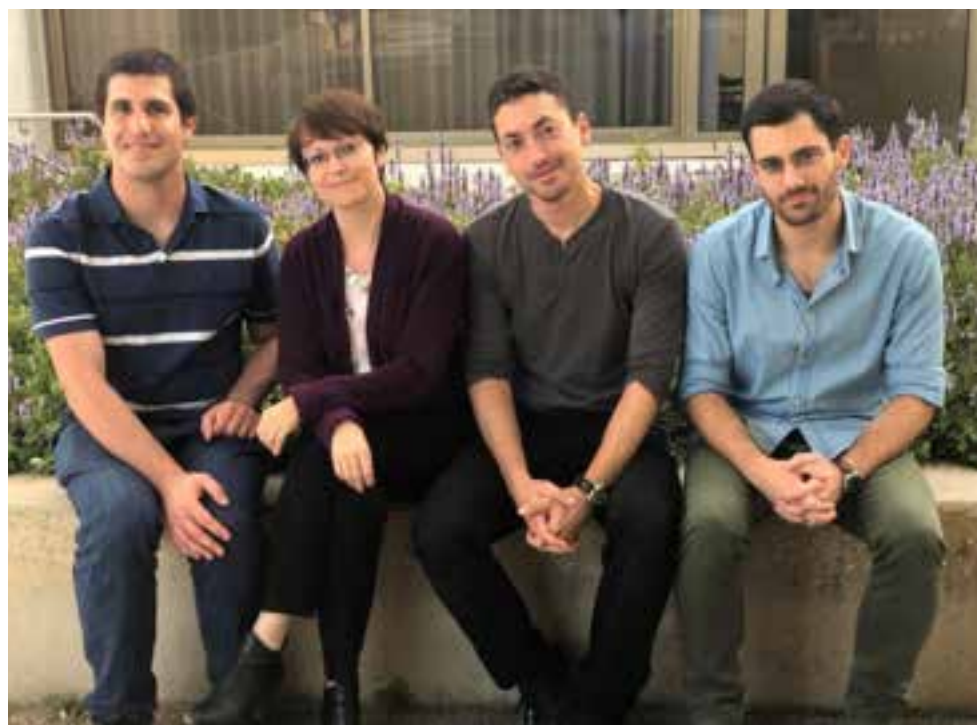
Since metabolic homeostasis is critical for maintaining normal brain function, and epilepsy is characterized by significant changes in metabolic activity in the brain, the researchers applied a computational model for mapping metabolic processes in cells, a method developed and extensively applied in cancer research by the laboratory of Professor Eytan Ruppin.

Using genetic data of epilepsy patients, researchers "turned off" each metabolic gene in the model to search for the gene whose silencing would bring the defective metabolism closest to normal.

One of the leading candidates discovered through this process was the gene DHODH, known to be active in mitochondria — organelles serving as the power station of all living cells.

"The DHODH gene codes for the DHODH enzyme, which is inhibited by a known drug for multiple sclerosis called Teriflunomide," Slutsky said. "So we decided to test the effect of this drug on brain cells."

When Teriflunomide was added to healthy brain cells in a laboratory for a prolonged period of time, a lower level of cell activity became permanent, unlike the effect of most inhibiting



Tel Aviv University researchers, from left, Nir Gonen, Professor Inna Slutsky, Boaz Styr and Daniel Zarihin.

substances that reduce cell activity for a limited time, following which the former level of activity, around the initial set point, is subsequently restored.

"These findings led us to suspect that the DHODH affects the set point itself. This means that, contrary to common belief, we do have the ability to change the set point of neuronal activity," Slutsky said.

"In other words, a drug targeting the DHODH enzyme can actually 'correct' the abnormal set point, bringing it to a normal level. This may well be compared to changing the temperature in an air conditioning thermostat, to set it at a comfortable level."

When researchers investigated the effect of Teriflunomide in two mice models for epilepsy — an acute model inducing an epileptic seizure immediately and a genetic chronic model of Dravet Syndrome, which causes severe epilepsy in children and is resistant to most existing treatments — the results were encouraging.

In both models, researchers observed that brain activity returned to a normal level and recorded a sharp decline in the severity of epileptic seizures. Viewing the mitochondria in the brain cells of the mice under a microscope, researchers found that Teriflunomide had significantly reduced abnormally high levels of calcium — a known feature of many brain disorders.

"We discovered a new mechanism responsible for regulating brain activity in the hippocampus, which may serve as a basis for the future development of effective drugs for epilepsy," Slutsky said.

"We also assume that the same phenomenon — an abnormal set point regulation — may very well be found in neurodegenerative diseases characterized by anomalous levels of activity in various parts of the brain, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. In a new study, we are now testing the effectiveness of our approach for treating Alzheimer's."

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BDS movement a cleverly disguised campaign to destroy Israel

By Alex Titus and Alexander Khan

Don't be fooled by talk of 'social justice' and 'human rights.' The movement is anti-Semitic to its core.

Outrage ensued on social media and university campuses across America this past week when it was reported that the U.S. government had denied prominent Palestinian activist Omar Barghouti entry into the country. Barghouti had planned to come to the U.S. to promote the highly controversial Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement he co-founded.

BDS supporters claim that they want to put economic pressure on Israel to reach agreement on a peaceful and fair solution to its conflict with the Palestinians, and their message has found increasing traction in the U.S. The controversial Democratic representatives Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar have lent the movement high-profile support. *The New York Times Magazine* recently published a pro-BDS cover story written by a highly controversial political journalist. Altogether, 31 universities have passed BDS measures since 2015, and, since 2005, 127 such measures have been considered.

The truth is that many of the students and activists who support the movement have been duped into thinking they're supporting a noble cause. In fact, BDS is little more than a ploy established and run by radical anti-Semites who deny Israel's right to exist and seek to destroy it.

You don't need to take our word for it: Let Barghouti speak for himself. He believes that Israel is an illegitimate state. At a 2013 event in Norway, he referred contemptuously to "self-determination for Jewish settlers in Palestine, which I categorically oppose. Never in history was a colonizing community ever allowed self-determination ... colonizers are not entitled to self-determination." He later went on to make his meaning crystal clear. "A Jewish state in Palestine, in any shape or form, cannot but contravene the basic rights of the land's indigenous Palestinian population and perpetuate a system of racial discrimination that ought to be opposed categorically," he said. "Definitely, most definitely we oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine. No Palestinian — rational Palestinian, not a sell-out Palestinian — will ever accept a Jewish state in Palestine."

Barghouti also isn't afraid to play up anti-Semitic tropes. He has portrayed the Jewish people as puppet masters and manipulators to rally troops to his cause. He once claimed during a talk at Wayne State University that Jews "know how to bully, how to intimidate. ... Congress is bought and paid for by the Israel lobby." Such talk echoes Rep. Omar, who in 2012 tweeted that "Israel has hypnotized the world," and earlier this year touched off a fierce backlash after claiming that U.S. support for Israel was "all about the Benjamins, baby," invoking the anti-Israel crowd's favorite boogeyman, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), for good measure.

Speaking of which, evidence about the funding and connections of BDS is quite damning. Activists attempt to claim that it is a grassroots-funded movement, but that is unequivocally false. According to Canary

Mission, a nonprofit watchdog group, BDS has received significant financial contributions from organizations such as American Muslims for Palestine, which has direct ties to Hamas, the Palestinian terror group backed by Iran. The attorney general of Arizona even publicly linked BDS to Hamas in a court filing earlier this year.

In short, BDS isn't a civil-rights movement; it's a smart, sinister marketing campaign designed to spread anti-Semitism and delegitimize and destroy Israel. It cannot be allowed to go unchallenged, especially given its increasing popularity in the U.S. America supports its friends, and we have no greater Middle East friend and partner than Israel. Honoring that partnership demands a firm rejection of Barghouti and his ghoulish cause.

Alex Titus is a policy adviser at *American First Policies*. Alexander Khan is an incoming student at Harvard Law School.

Growing vegetables for those in need



The Social Action Committee of Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom continues its work on a garden to raise vegetables for Helping Harvest, formerly known as the Greater Berks Food Bank. From left are volunteers Marj Shearer, Mike Schiffman, Mimi Gavigan and Sara Jo Long. Jeff Lupowitz also took part but is not pictured




Shavuot Celebration

Saturday Night, June 8, 2019 - 8:15 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Study Session One:	8:15-9:00
Maariv & Havdalah:	Food & Coffee: 9:00-9:30
Study Session Two:	9:30-10:15
A Second Food & Coffee Break:	10:15-10:30
Study Session Three:	10:30-11:15

Sessions will be taught by Dr. John Inledon, Dr. Jennifer Koosed, Dr. Robert Seesengood

Study Session One: "The Construction of Jewish-Israeli Identity: The Others Within Us" with Dr. John Inledon
Study Session Two: "A New Torah: Poetry After the Shoah" with Dr. Jennifer Koosed
Study Session Three: "It's a Bird! It's a Plane! It's ... Jews in Post-War American Comics and Graphic Novels: Representation and Cultural Contribution" with Dr. Robert Seesengood

<u>Sunday, June 9, 2019</u>	<u>Monday, June 10, 2019</u>
9:30 a.m. Shavuot Services	9:30 a.m. Shavuot Services
Kiddush to follow	(including Yizkor)
	Kiddush to follow

There is no charge. Reservations are recommended and would be helpful in order to accommodate everyone who is attending. Thank you!



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The Israeli army unit that recruits teens with autism

From online news sources

For eight hours a day, E., 21, sits in front of multiple computer screens in Tel Aviv, scanning high-resolution satellite images for suspicious objects or movements. As a decoder of Israel's complex and often heavily civilian battlegrounds, he's been critical in preventing the loss of life of soldiers on the ground in several different situations, his officers say.

For many people, combing through each millimeter of the same location from various angles would be tedious work — but E., who is on the autism spectrum, describes the job as relaxing, “like a hobby.”

E. (he requested his full name be withheld to comply with army protocol) is a corporal in the Israel Defense Force's “Visual Intelligence Division,” otherwise known as Unit 9900, which counts dozens of Israelis on the autism spectrum among its members.

The relationship is a mutually beneficial one.

For these young people, the unit is an opportunity to participate in a part of Israeli life that might otherwise be closed to them.

And for the military, it's an opportunity to harness the unique skill sets that often come with autism: extraordinary capacities for visual thinking and attention to detail, both of which lend themselves well to the highly specialized task of aerial analysis.

Geraldine Dawson, the director of the Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development, says that beginning early in life, autistic children may compensate for lagging social development by developing stronger-than-average perceptual skills, excelling in visually- and systematically-oriented activities such as puzzles or drawings.

“People with autism often talk about thinking in pictures, rather than categorizing information according to language,” she explains. “They tend to think less in a holistic form, they're integrating lots of pieces into a whole, and they're much more likely to see the finer details of something.”

Those finer details are the nuts and bolts of the elite Unit 9900, whose soldiers act as eyes on the ground for highly sensitive operations, analyzing complex images delivered in real time from military satellites around the world.

But for many of the unit's autistic soldiers, the more daunting challenge is learning to communicate and socialize with their peers.

E. — who, like many of the autistic soldiers in the unit, is considered “high functioning” and attended special-education program within a mainstream high school — says his adolescence was characterized by a general sense of “floating around,” both socially and academically. He had a hard time listening in class, though he performed well on tests.

His sense of isolation was exacerbated by the special aide who accompanied him during the school day.

“It's not fun at that age to have someone always watching over you, when you just want to hang out with the guys,” he said.

But his biggest setback came in 12th grade, when he received an exemption letter from the army.

In Israel, military service is compulsory for all 18-year-olds following high school, though exemptions are issued on a number of grounds, including residence abroad, religious reasons, or physical or mental disability.

In 2008, the country ended the practice of issuing blanket exemption notices for autistic Israelis and instead began accepting them on a case-by-case basis, typically for secretarial roles or voluntary civil-service positions in hospitals and schools.

None of these options interested E., who had decided he would enlist only if he could have a more typical experience.

But later that year, his school was visited by representatives from Ro'im Rachok (Hebrew for “seeing into the future”), a program that helps students with autism prepare for enlistment in the IDF. When they mentioned the two previous cohorts of autistic Israelis who had successfully served as image analysts, E. recalls, he became convinced that he could find a meaningful position as a soldier.

The pre-army course consists of three phases, beginning with a rigorous selection process: Students undergo tests and interviews to ensure that they have the skills to successfully analyze images, that they can adjust to the army's rigid structure, and that they pose no risk to themselves or to their operations. Of the dozens of applicants this year, 12 candidates made the cut. (They can also choose to withdraw if the process proves too onerous.)

The second phase is carried out in conjunction with the health-profession department at Ono Academic College, which hosts the satellite-image analysis course at its campus in central Israel.

During the three-month course, which runs three times a year, Unit 9900 commanders train the applicants using non-classified aerial maps. The students also meet frequently with a team of therapists who help them learn to adjust to new trials and stresses, from the responsibility of the work itself to figuring out how to take the bus from home to the army base.

These three months are considered the program's “honeymoon phase,” when the candidates are full of excitement and motivation to learn. The organizers also encourage candidates to use the time for introspection, helping to foster discussions on the students' futures as independent adults and their moral positions regarding the military, says Tal Vardy, a co-founder of Ro'im Rachok.

In the final three-month phase, Vardy says, the applicants continue their professional training and therapy sessions on an army base in Tel Aviv, and decide if they are ready for enlistment.

Those who do enlist have the choice to opt out after the end of each year, or complete the typical required term of service. In Israel, men serve three years and women serve two; although Unit 9900 is coed, Ro'im Rachok has had just one female soldier to date (researchers estimate that there are up to three times as many men on the autism spectrum as women).

E., who connects strongly with the army's structured atmosphere,



says he plans to apply to stay on permanently. But regardless of how long they stay, many of Ro'im Rachok's graduates depend on the connections and skills they build in the army to help them achieve independence once they leave it. Especially in the intelligence fields, military service is often a pathway to jobs in Israel's booming tech sector. This is particularly advantageous for young people with autism as they approach the so-called “bloody 21,” the age at which almost all government-funded programs for autistic Israelis, like subsidized transportation and assisted-living services, are cut off.

* * *

Some research suggests that the rare visual capabilities required for Unit 9900 may come more easily to the autistic brain. A 2011 study, for example, found that childhood autism was two to four times more prevalent in the Dutch technology hub of Eindhoven as in other Dutch cities of similar size, support for a possible link between autism and scientific ability. Other people have observed a similar phenomenon in Silicon Valley.

“A growing body of research is showing that autistics outperform neurologically typical children and adults in a wide range of perception tasks, such as spotting a pattern in a distracting environment,” Laurent Mottron, a psychiatry professor at the University of Montreal, wrote in a 2011 column in *Nature* magazine. He added that most people with autism “outperform in auditory tasks (such as discriminating sound pitches), detecting visual structures, and mentally manipulating complex three-dimensional shapes.”

Israel, like many developed countries, has experienced a continuous uptick in autism cases over the past decade and a half.

Between 2004 and 2011, the number of Israelis on the autism spectrum increased fivefold, with 1,000 new diagnoses per year, according to a survey released by the country's Social Affairs Ministry.

But autism still carries a heavy stigma among Israelis. Autistic children are frequently suspended from schools for misbehavior, and the Knesset Education Committee has found that because there are no official special-education guidelines for autistic students, some teachers have requested that they receive stronger medication before they're readmitted into class.

Partly as a means of reducing this stigma, Ro'im Rachok points to its

soldiers as examples of what young people on the spectrum are capable of when they have the appropriate support systems. Efrat Selanikyo, an occupational therapist at Ono, says that she and her colleagues help to create one such support system by implementing strict and clear guidelines for the training phase of the program.

“For their [own] good, we maintain a strong sense of discipline, but we also need to prepare them for a reality in which things change very drastically,” she says.

At first, some have trouble following the rule that forbids them from discussing the unit's activities with outsiders. But Selanikyo has also seen participants take the rules so seriously that they refuse to tell their parents anything about their experiences, their new friends, or their work.

In response to calls from anxious parents suddenly in the dark about their children's lives, Selanikyo now sends weekly emails with updates on the participants' progress and wellbeing.

But she and her colleagues also help the participants take steps towards self-sufficiency and independence, one of the most important being their mastery of Israel's public-transportation system.

Selanikyo and the occupational therapists use the bus system as a lesson for other potential small crises: When a bus is off schedule, for example, they teach students to defer to an alternative plan rather than descend into panic.

Several Israeli transportation companies have partnered with Ro'im Rachok, and allow the participants to ride for free, despite the fact that they are not yet soldiers (active members of the military are eligible for free trips).

The organizers of Ro'im Rachok are currently working on plans to expand beyond Unit 9900. Future applicants will be able to train for additional intelligence units of the IDF, in roles like quality assurance, programming, and information sorting.

This growth, they believe, will help the program continue its secondary mission of integrating people with autism into mainstream Israeli society.

“When the whole neighborhood suddenly sees their neighbor, a boy on the autism spectrum, coming home on Friday in uniform,” Selanikyo says, “and hears that they can also continue in these fields into civilian work—it naturally has an enormous influence.”

Israeli hospital performs first live vein transplant

From online news sources

You've heard of heart transplants, kidney transplants and bone-marrow transplants.

Now doctors at Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem have added a new type: the vein transplant. And it saved the life of 60-year-old Israeli Avi Yavetz.

Yavetz suffers from peripheral vascular disease (PVD), a blood-circulation disorder that causes the blood vessels outside the heart to narrow and become blocked.

In one of his legs, the veins and arteries were obstructed and blood wouldn't flow. An amputation was a near certainty — an unfortunately all too common occurrence in PVD patients.

Yavetz did have an artery and veins inside the leg that could restore blood flow.

But he was missing a vein large enough to connect the artery with the smaller veins; because of his past surgeries for his PVD, none

of his veins were in good enough condition.

What if someone in his family could donate a vein? That was the "crazy idea" that came to Prof. Ron Carmeli, chief of vascular surgery at Hadassah.

All four of Yavetz's children quickly offered to supply a vein for their father.

Carmeli subsequently removed a long vein extending from 27-year old Snir Yavetz's groin to his foot, before surgically implanting it into the elder Yavetz.

Vein transplantation has been done before — but only from a corpse. "A donation from a living person — and another family member in our case — is the first of its kind," Carmeli said.

Two weeks later, the vein is functioning and Yavetz's leg "is safe from amputation," Carmeli said.

Yavetz is not out of the woods entirely. "The treatment of this patient is the same as every



Avi Yavetz, left, received a vein from his son Snir, right, at Hadassah University Medical Center, Jerusalem, in the first-ever live vein transplant.

transplant patient, just like someone who has undergone liver and kidney transplantation," Carmeli points out.

Yavetz will need to take drugs to prevent rejection of the new

organ and be carefully monitored by medical staff.

But if the results remain good, Carmeli is optimistic. "I am sure this breakthrough will save many others in the future."

U.S. to U.N.: You yourself rejected withdrawal to 1967 lines

From online news sources

The Trump administration is challenging the United Nations' claim that Israel must withdraw to the pre-1967 lines, in an opinion piece two of its top officials published in *The Wall Street Journal*.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Ambassador to Israel David Friedman argued that the historic Security Council Resolution 242 — which the international community often cites as the basis of its claim that Israel is required to relinquish all territory it acquired during the June 1967 Six Day War — bolsters the international legitimacy of the Trump administration's decision to recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in 1967.

Their argument, however, could also be applicable to the West Bank, which Israel captured from Jordan in 1967. Speculation is high that the Trump peace plan, which is expected to be released in early June, would allow for Israel to retain control of all the settlements located in Area C of the West Bank.

Arguments about Resolution 242 — passed in November 1967 — have often centered around a single sentence, which calls for the "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict."

Those who believe the West Bank is occupied argue that the resolution speaks of a full withdrawal, whereas others say that the use of the word "territories" rather than the phrase "the territories" implies that Israel has to withdraw from only some, but not all, of the territories.

Pompeo and Friedman focused their argument on the issues of security, saying that Resolution 242 allows for Israel to retain territory acquired in the 1967 war for security reasons. "It provides that Israel would withdraw from some — but not necessarily all — territory captured in 1967 in keeping with that objective," Pompeo and Friedman wrote in the opinion piece.

Israel's former ambassador to

the UN Dore Gold said a security rationale for retaining territory "is even stronger in the West Bank" than it is on the Golan. The previous claimant to sovereignty in the West Bank was Jordan, which acquired the territory during the 1948 War of Independence, Gold explained. The claim was recognized only by Pakistan and Great Britain, he said.

In contrast, many countries recognized Syria's previous standing on the Golan, even though Syria was an aggressor in the 1967 war, Gold said.

He pointed to the letter President George W. Bush wrote to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in 2004 about the terms of a peace deal with the Palestinians.

In that letter Bush stated that, for security reasons, Israel is not required to fully withdraw to the pre-1967 lines. Bush also used as his rationale Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, passed after the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

"As part of a final peace settlement, Israel must have secure and recognized borders, which should emerge from negotiations between the parties, in accordance with UNSC Resolutions 242 and 338. In light of new realities on the ground, including already existing major Israeli populations centers, it is unrealistic to expect that the outcomes of final status negotiations will be a full and complete return to the armistice lines of 1949, and all previous efforts to negotiate a two-state solution have reached the same conclusion," Bush wrote.

In *The Wall Street Journal*, Pompeo and Friedman wrote that "President Trump's Golan proclamation [in March] is entirely consistent with Resolution 242." Syria was the only warring party in the Six Day War to ignore the resolution in 1967, they explained. Syria later signed Resolution 338, which made 242 applicable to all, they added. Resolution 242 calls for every country to live "within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force."

Israel has given back 88% of the territory it captured in 1967. But with regards to Israel and the Golan

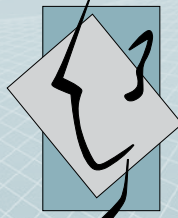
Heights, Pompeo and Friedman believe that Syria is a different story.

"In word and deed, Damascus has for 52 years rejected the negotiating framework of Resolution 242," the two officials wrote. "It has maintained a state of war with Israel since Israel became independent in 1948," never allowing Israel to live in secure borders without threat. "By affirming Israel's sovereignty over the Golan

Heights, the president has afforded Israel the only secure and recognized boundary that can exist under the circumstances — the objective of Resolution 242."

Friedman and Pompeo added that if Israel does not maintain control of the Golan Heights, Bashar Assad or Iran will take control, giving the world a choice: "a dictator of a nonfunctioning state or a peaceful and democratic ally."

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In memory of:

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Marcelle Hoffman (Mara Winn's mother) – Carol and Bernie Gerber
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In memory of:

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Walter Brandt – Glenn and Gaye Corbin

Harry & Rose Sack Fund (adult programming)

In memory of:

Albert Diamond – Albert and Nancy Sack

Israel gets its first interprofessional, student-run community health center

From online news sources

The Technion's Rappaport Faculty of Medicine has established "Ruach Tova" (Hebrew for "Good Spirit"), an interprofessional student-run community health center in the City of Haifa. The center offers services free of charge, catering to a local urban population that has difficulty obtaining medical treatment, whether due to lack of means or special status, including at risk, homeless, and LGBTQ youth.

The first educational-social initiative of its kind in Israel, the center connects medical students at the Technion to the urban fabric and to the population it will serve in the future.

The center is operated by medical students from the

Technion under the close supervision of volunteer doctors and in collaboration with various health professions: nurses, social workers, and various caregivers. Student participation is anchored in the curriculum of the Faculty of Medicine and other faculties involved.

With a wonderful team, the center is headed by Faculty of Medicine Professor Ruti Margalit, a physician with extensive experience in community medicine who knows the model and has led influential academic and medical initiatives in the United States, India, and Africa.

Health is a basic human right. We are working to make it accessible to all," said Professor

Margalit. "When a person is provided with basic needs – food, shelter, health, personal security – she is able to look beyond, be productive, and contribute to the surrounding community and its development.

Participating students experience empowerment, enrichment, and firsthand leadership opportunity as they take part in the development and management of this significant project."

"Such centers have been operating for the past decade in the United States, Canada, and Europe but in Israel this is the first center of its kind, and we hope to give it a unique Israeli character and help establish similar

centers around the country," she continued. "Hundreds of doctors, nurses, social workers, artists, and of course medical and other students joined the project."

The "Ruach Tova" Center is located in the Hadar neighborhood of Haifa, a city known for its openness and co-existence.

The center operates in coordination with the City of Haifa, HMOs, local health and welfare offices, hospitals, non-profit organizations, and other entities operating in the field.

As part of the interprofessional work that characterizes it, Ruach Tova will be redesigned and renovated by students from the Technion's Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning.

EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE
 by Jordan B. Gorfinkel • www.jewishcartoon.com



Israeli tech provides drinking water to Sierra Leone kids

Water pollution is one of the leading causes of death in the west African country of Sierra Leone, where average life expectancy is just 56 years.

Now, St. Joseph School girls in the capital city of Freetown can easily access safe drinking water thanks to Israeli technology in the form of an atmospheric water generator from the Israeli-based firm Watergen.

The GEN-350 can produce up to 900 liters of water per day from the humid air of Africa.

The atmospheric moisture is purified through an internal water-treatment system.

The unit needs no infrastructure except electricity from the power grid or from a generator, according to Watergen.

Watergen President Michael Mirilashvili's efforts to make fresh, pure water available around the globe earned the company a place on the World Economic Forum's list of the world's top technology pioneers in 2018.

Based in Rishon LeTzion, the

company was founded in 2009 by entrepreneur Arye Kohavi and maintains two factories in Israel.

Meanwhile Miami-based Watergen USA has a factory in South Carolina.

The GEN-350 in Sierra Leone was purchased by a group of donors and a local NGO from SL Watergen, a national Watergen distributor.

"Watergen USA is pleased to work with SL Watergen, which has worked with various government officials in Sierra Leone who have made clean, drinking water a priority for the new government," said Yehuda Kaploun, president of Watergen USA.

"We thank the president, vice president and the Ministry of Water, all of whom worked with us to facilitate this project," Kaploun said. "The government is extremely pleased and looks forward to working with SL Watergen's team to place many more of these units throughout Sierra Leone."

Kaploun noted that Watergen is currently operating in many



Girls at St. Joseph School in Sierra Leone crowding around to see their new GEN-350 water machine.

African countries, "and even more announcements about other countries in Africa using our machines and technology will be forthcoming."

In Sierra Leone, approximately half the population has no access to clean drinking water, and fewer than three-quarters of urban dwellers have a safe-drinking water supply available, according

to officials.

Sierra Leone's water sources, which primarily consist of ponds, unprotected wells and freestanding water, have been contaminated by mining as well as chemicals used in the agricultural industry.

Water-borne infections and parasites can cause typhoid fever and hepatitis A.

JEWISH FEDERATION



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