



Shalom06|21

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

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Violins of Hope coming this fall

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Adorned with Stars of David or identified by tags declaring “we were played by proud klezmers,, the Violins of Hope is a private collection of violins, violas and cellos that belonged to Jews before or during World War II. In a unique collaboration of community partners, the Violins of Hope exhibit is coming to Reading, in memory of those who died in the Holocaust as a testament to those who survived.

Jewish Federation of Reading and the Reading Symphony Orchestra are proud to present the Violins of Hope exhibit in Reading from Nov. 1-14. The instruments in the collection have been lovingly restored over the past two decades by master Israeli violin maker Amnon Weinstein. Weinstein’s son Avshi, the curator of the exhibit, will travel to Reading with the exhibit. This will be the first time it will be shown in Pennsylvania.

The instruments all belonged to Jews who played them before and during the war, in some cases even in Nazi concentration camps throughout Europe. For Jews enduring utter despair and unimaginable evil during the Holocaust, music offered haven and humanity. Though many of these musicians were silenced during the Holocaust, their voices and spirits live again through the instruments that Weinstein has restored.

The collection of more than 60 string instruments will be displayed at gallery sites at Alvernia University and the Goggleworks. A full schedule of community events includes lectures by Avshi Weinstein and Dr. James Grymes (author of a book about this special collection), film screenings, Shabbat and Havdalah services and the annual Kristallnacht



Remembrance Service, just to name a few. More events are being added, and a complete schedule will be announced this summer.

Musical events will be a highlight of the program and will include performances by the Friends of Chamber Music featuring a string quartet performing on instruments from the Violins of Hope collection.

On Saturday, Nov. 13, a Reading Symphony Orchestra will feature the string section performing on the Violins of Hope collection. Guest artists will be violin virtuoso Pinchas Zuckerman performing the Bruch concerto and his wife, cellist Amanda Forsyth, performing Bruch’s Kol Nidrei. The concert will conclude with Gustav Mahler’s heroic Symphony No. 1 in D Major. Zuckerman’s appearance is sponsored by Jewish Federation of Reading.

Educational opportunities for students of all ages are another major component

of the Violins of Hope exhibit in Reading. In partnership with our local school districts and colleges, the collection will be shared with students throughout Berks County. Holocaust education teaching trainings will also be offered in coordination with the ADL’s Echoes and Reflections team and the Berks County Intermediate Unit.

Our Violins of Hope steering committee is committed to using the exhibition as a vehicle for promoting peace and understanding. By fighting antisemitism, racism and hate through the stories of these violins and music, we hope to create change in our community that lasts beyond the length of the exhibit.

We look forward to sharing more details about the collection as well as educational and informational events in the coming months, including opportunities for support and participation by our wider community.

Come join us at annual meeting; tickets still available

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Tickets still remain for the annual meeting of Jewish Federation of Reading on Sunday, June 13, at FirstEnergy Stadium in Reading. Join us as we honor the volunteers who helped Federation adapt and adjust to the many challenges COVID brought to our community last year (see list on Page 3).

The meeting will begin at 4 p.m., and a kosher dinner buffet by Boscov’s will be available from 4:30 to 6:45. Game time is 5:15. Our group will be congregating at the Tower Health Pool Party Deck including the swimming pool, so be sure to bring your suits and towels! The Pool Deck is located just next to Phunland, which includes a moon bounce, fast pitch and other games for kids, available for an additional cost at the game. Social distancing and masks will be required, and only our group will have access to the Pool Deck.

Children 12 and under are free. Anyone over age 12 is \$5 per ticket for the kosher



buffet dinner, pool deck and baseball game. Reservations are required by Friday, June 4, to info@reading.org or 610-921-0624. Online registration is available on our website.

Free parking is available at the stadium and nearby lots. The R-Phils organization

will be following federal and state health and safety guidelines. Special travel assistance and accommodations will be available for seniors; please call Carole Robinson to confirm details. We hope community members of all ages will join us for this fun event!

Israel Book Club: ‘Shadow Strike’

By Moisey Schneider and Andi Franklin

“Shadow Strike” tells for the first time the story of the espionage, political courage, military bravery and psychological warfare behind Israel’s daring operation to stop one of the worst acts of nuclear proliferation. The author shows the power of Israel’s military might behind the daring operation to stop nuclear proliferation by Syria and North Korea. The book also reveals Israel’s diplomatic alliance with the United States.

The man responsible for preparing the airstrike was Major General Eliezer Shkedi, the son of a Holocaust survivor. Shkedi felt an obligation to do whatever it took to prevent Israel’s enemies from having the capability to threaten the very existence of the Jewish people. His father was a Hungarian Jew who managed to jump off a cattle car traveling from Budapest to Auschwitz.

Before the operation, Shkedi gathered the pilots in the briefing room and told them that their mission was to bomb a nuclear reactor in Syria. He said, “It is most important for the safety and security of the Jewish people and the state of Israel.” They were shocked but did not have time to think about it, one of the pilots recalled years later.

As they picked up their helmets and headed out to their aircraft for a last checklist of inspection, Shkedi stood at the door and

shook each airman’s hand. “I trust you and I believe in you,” he said. That was a moment the pilots would never forget.

At around 10:30 p.m., four F-151’s took off from the Hatzetim base and four F-161’s from the Ramon airbase in the Negev desert. The planes together were carrying around 20 tons of bombs. To infiltrate Syrian airspace without detection, the planes flew at an altitude below 200 feet, and the pilots maintained complete silence. The Syrians did not even see the planes coming. Within seconds each plane dropped two bombs, nearly 20 tons of explosives, over the nuclear reactor and destroyed it. Each plane checked in, and then the lead pilot broke radio silence. “Arizona,” he reported back to Tel Aviv, the code word for mission accomplished.

This book also brings to light Israel’s powerful military and diplomatic alliance with the United States. It reveals the many debates between President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. It tells of the diplomatic and military planning that took place in the Oval Office, the prime minister’s office in Jerusalem and inside the IDF’s underground war room beneath Tel Aviv. These two countries, at that time, were united in a battle to prevent nuclear proliferation, to defeat Islamic terror and to

curtail attempts to destroy Israel. The Bush administration had legitimate concerns that a strike against Syria would destabilize Iraq, but Israel felt an existential urgency. The author asks, had Israel not carried out this mission, what would the Middle East look like today?

Yaakov Katz asserts that today, Iran stands as one of the greatest threats to Israel and the global community. The danger is underscored by Iranian threats against small Satan-Israel and big Satan-USA. These threats must be dealt with. The U.S. now has the opportunity to create the greatest peace ever in the Middle East by stopping Iran’s ambitions, taking advantage of new global realities such as the Abraham Accords and Iran’s current economic weakness to insist on a deal that truly makes the region and the world a safer place. Iran must agree to a complete and permanent halt to its nuclear weapons program.

The author gives a glimpse into what makes Israel unique. It is a complicated country, threatened like no other, but it takes its role — the preservation of the Jewish people — seriously. It is the only country in the world that has eliminated two nuclear threats.

As the sage Hillel asked some 2,000 years ago, “If I am not for myself, who will be for me?”

A letter of thanks from Yemin Orde graduate

The following note was sent to Federation President Bill Franklin from a graduate of the Yemin Orde Youth Village, a program in Israel supported by local donations to the Jewish Federation of Reading.

Dear Bill,

My name is Natan Grynfogiel. I was born in Brazil, in a small town called Leme, to the only Jewish family in the whole city. At 14 years old, I got the opportunity to study at Yemin Orde Youth Village. There I completed my High School Studies and was introduced to Israeli society. Today I am a 5th year medical student at Bar-Ilan University in Safed.

I have many memories from my time at Yemin Orde Youth Village, but today I would like to tell about one of the first times that life implied to me that maybe my way should be helping people, or taking care of them. In my third year at the Village, a nonprofit organization established a holiday camp for young people with neuromotor and neuropsychic disabilities at the Village.

During the one-week camp, the students of the Village had the opportunity to be counselors to the campers. It wasn’t easy — as any person who works with neurologic patients, especially with kids — will agree. But it was one of the most enriching experiences I have had to this day. The experience taught me how to be sensitive to others with difficulties and to be grateful for what you have.

And, most important of all, this camp experience taught me that there are multitudes of people suffering, passing through very hard situations that they didn’t choose. And, even if you can’t solve their problems, helping them and making their lives a little easier, is a great opportunity and fulfilling.

Of course, today, as a 5th year medical student and as a future doctor, I have a lot more experience in helping



others. The experiences I learned while an instructor at Yemin Orde during this holiday camp I take them with me and use them every single day in the hospital. I am very grateful to Yemin Orde for providing me with such an experience as a high school student. I had no idea back then how important and useful that time would be for my career in the future.

At last, I would like to thank you for allowing this and so much other

experiences to take place. The Village is a wonderful place where hundreds of youth pass through numerous experiences every year.

This Village of Dreams would not be here for us if it weren’t for your help and support.

Thank you for your support and belief in me and all those youth and graduates of Yemin Orde!

Natan Grynfogiel, Safed, Israel.

Development

- Annual Campaign
- Women’s Philanthropy
- Maimonides Society
- Your Jewish Legacy
- Chai Circle
- L’Chaim Society
- Book of Life
- Letter of Intent



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Please visit ReadingJewishCommunity.org

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June ☆ Sivan-Tammuz	
 Shabbat Candle Lightings	 Torah Portions
June 4 8:12 p.m.	June 5/21 Sivan Shelach (Numbers 13:1-15:41)
June 11 8:16 p.m.	June 12/2 Tammuz Korach (Numbers 16:1-18:32)
June 18 8:19 p.m.	June 19/9 Tammuz Chukat (Numbers 19:1-22:21)
June 25 8:25 pm	June 26/16 Tammuz Balak (Numbers 22:2-25:9)

ZOOM WITH US!
June 12th at 10:00am

Tot Shabbat

Join Rabbi Michelson for a musical, story-filled interactive hour for children through grade 2. Members & non-members welcome. No registration required. Zoom link available at ohebsholom.org
This will be the final Tot Shabbat of the season.

Discussion of conflict must be guided by facts

By William D. Franklin
President

As I write this, Israelis and Palestinians are once again at war. However, there are differences. Hamas has fired more than 3,100 missiles targeting Israeli citizens in major



civilian areas. There is also rioting all over the country resulting in deaths and wounding of both Jews and Arabs, and synagogues and homes being set on fire. Cities such as Haifa, Acre (Akko) and Lod, which were known for coexistence, are now in flames.

If a lasting and just peace is to be achieved, facts will need to prevail. There are several issues where the narratives differ. These are some of the facts, as we know them now.

Issue: Jewish presence in Jerusalem and the Temple Mount.

Professor Yitzhak Reiter and co-writer Dvir Dimant in their new book, “Islam, Jews and the Temple Mount,” present a comprehensive list of early Islamic sources that recognize the historical Jewish claim to Jerusalem, contrary to modern Muslim religious scholars who — in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict — deny any Jewish ties to the Temple Mount and promote the argument that no Jewish Temple ever stood there.

Muslim sources time and again describe history the same way Jewish sources do: the building of the First Temple on the Foundation Stone by King Solomon; its destruction by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar; the Babylonian exile; Persian emperor Cyrus the Great’s permission for the Jews to return to Jerusalem and build the Second Temple; and its destruction by Roman emperor Titus.

Moreover, not only do Islam’s most respected historians confirm the Jewish historical timeline, they emphasize that the reason Jerusalem and the Temple Mount came to be considered holy in Islam is that the sites were regarded as sacred in Judaism. This stemmed from their view of Islam as a continuation of Judaism, as well as having the common patriarch Abraham.

Until the Balfour Declaration of

1917, Muslim sources did not deny the Jewish connection to Jerusalem, they systematically confirmed it. However, in 1967, when Israel took control of the Old City during the Six-Day War, the narrative took a turn. Denial of any Jewish link to the Temple Mount became the prevalent argument. The fact is that Jews have a deep, ancient and recognized presence in Jerusalem and on the Temple Mount.

Issue: Israel’s plan to evict Arab residents in Sheikh Jarrah.

Bassem Eid, a Palestinian living in Israel with an extensive career as a Palestinian human rights activist, contends that the current war has nothing to do with Sheikh Jarrah. The pretext for the latest missile barrage and social media incitement is a legal dispute about four homes in Sheikh Jarrah, a community of 270 families. This had been a private matter between Jews who have a legal property deed from the 1800s and the residents of four homes who have lived there for decades and do not want to pay rent.

The fact is that this situation, which concerned only four homes, was scheduled for and should be handled by a local municipal court. But this is Jerusalem, where everything is seen in the context of the political situation.

Bassem Eid also asks who stands to gain from political violence now. He asserts that it is Hamas seeing a chance to seize the narrative and increase its own influence and control over Palestinians in Jerusalem.

Hamas is running a social media campaign calling for Palestinians to incite violence during demonstrations in Jerusalem and elsewhere. They are encouraging Palestinian youth to hurl rocks and makeshift bombs at police and civilians.

Hamas is trying to show the Palestinian people that it is the true protector of Jerusalem. The fact is, Hamas seeks the destruction of the State of Israel and is vying to take power in the West Bank to replace the Palestinian Authority.

Issue: Israel is an apartheid country.

Human Rights Watch accuses Israel of practicing apartheid. In making the accusation in an April 27 report, it

acknowledges that it has “detached the term apartheid from its original South African context.”

Rabbi Warren Goldstein, South Africa’s chief rabbi, recently replied that this is immoral. “Apartheid” has a sacred historical meaning, sanctified by the blood and suffering of millions of South Africans who were legally and institutionally oppressed and discriminated against on the basis of race.

Apartheid was a state-enforced national system of racial discrimination that manifested itself in a slew of oppressive laws aimed at obliterating the human rights of an entire race. Among these laws were the Population Registration Act, the Group Areas Act and the Separate Amenities Act. Black South Africans were denied the vote and equality before the law until 1994.

Within the borders of the state of Israel, all citizens — Jews, Arabs and others — have the right to vote and equality before the law. They participate side by side in elections, and Israeli Arabs hold high-ranking positions throughout the Israeli government, including the Knesset and the Supreme Court. After the recent election, an Arab-led party holds the balance of power in the Knesset, and it was an Arab judge that convicted former Israeli president Moshe Katzav.

No one who truly understands the systematic racism and denial of basic human rights that made apartheid infamous could, with any integrity, apply the term to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — a complex political, religious and cultural dispute concerning national identities. The fact is, in appropriating the word, Human Rights Watch presents a distorted picture of both South African history and the current reality in Israel.

Issue: Gaza

Gaza is often said to be sealed off and utterly destitute. Yet Hamas, which rules Gaza, seems not to have had too much trouble amassing a large arsenal, or to have many qualms about using it in a way sure to incur a heavy Israeli response. Bassem Eid says the tactics of Hamas are to house its arsenals in schools and mosques, set up headquarters in the basement of hospitals and fire its missiles from sites next to crowded apartment buildings and

hotels housing foreign journalists.

The idea is to keep Israel from returning fire or, if it does, reap the propaganda benefits from televised and tweeted pictures of wrecked buildings, human casualties and “disproportionate” Israeli-Palestinian death counts.

Once Hamas starts one of these rocket offensives, Israel has an obligation to protect its own people and degrade the threat by attacking the underground tunnels where weapons are made and stored and eliminate Hamas operatives. Israel warns building occupants an hour before the attacks to minimize civilians casualties. To avoid a ground incursion that would escalate the casualties for both sides, its aerial assault needs to be aggressive and last long enough to complete the job. The fact is that one side is doing what it can to protect civilian lives and the other side is doing what it can to endanger them.

Issue: Jewish and Arab relations

Despite what the media reports, I am told by many friends in Israel that there are groups of Arabs and Jews working together to calm the situation. Mothers in Lod, hospitals and emergency groups and others are working together and refuse to be enemies.

How you can help victims of terror

The Jewish Federation of Reading (JFR) is collaborating with the Jewish Agency for Israel’s (JAFI) Fund for Victims of Terror to relieve suffering in Israel.

The rocket attacks have caused extensive damage, terrible injuries, and loss of life. Millions of adults and children race for shelter each time the sirens sound.

Jewish Federations and our partners are already on the ground bringing humanitarian aid, including emergency grants to victims and their families, psychological counseling to all those affected, and support for first responders.

The Jewish Federation of Reading will match up to \$10,000 of our community’s contributions to support this important effort.

Stand with Israel. Help by sending a check to the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks or by donating on the JFR website: <https://www.readingjewishcommunity.org>

Thanks to our volunteers

The Federation annual meeting June 13 at FirstEnergy Stadium will honor the volunteers who helped Federation adapt and adjust to the many challenges COVID brought to our community.

Volunteers to be honored.

Cindy Balchunas	George Baclhunas	Sharon Berman
Linda Bloom	Jeff Bornstein	Sheila Bornstein
Stef Brok	Karen Checkamian	Paul Delfin
Irving Ehrlich	Michael Farrara	Sue Farrara
Ann Marie Ferguson	Sarah Flamholz	Andi Franklin
Mimi Gavigan	Raymond Gehring	Anzie Golden
Aidan Incledon	John Incledon	Pete Jacobson
Karen Kabakoff	Sam Kabakoff	Betsy Katz
Judith Kraines	Lin Langlois	Elliott Leisawitz
Sid Lempiner	Margo Levin	Will Levin
Jeanine Levy	Victor Lugo	Tom Mancuso
Haia Mazuz	Solange Mintz	Paul Missan
Debra Montenino	Tootie Moyer	Mary Neville
Mick Neville	Annette Peppard	Carol Perlmutter
Gordon Perlmutter	Jen Reilly	Tim Reilly
Mike Robinson	Nicholas Rossi	Tracy Rossi
James Rothstein	Nancy Russo	Pam Russo
Paul Schwartz	Ellen Schwartz	Ellen Schwickrath
Sharon Scullin	Jannine Shapiro	Joan Sherman
Oleg Umanov	Karen Wald	Andi Wallach
Corinne Wernick		Phil Yoder

Shalom

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



B'nai Mitzvot



Ari Benjamin Levin, son of Margo and Adam Levin, was called to the Torah as Bar Mitzvah on May 1 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. His Bar Mitzvah was delayed for nearly one year due to the COVID pandemic. Ari is in the eighth grade at Wyomissing Area Junior High School. He plays lacrosse year-round locally and for a club team in Baltimore. Ari volunteers at charities in the community, including Opportunity House, together with his mother.



Colin McManimen, son of Alex and Jessica McManimen, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on June 19 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Colin is finishing seventh grade at Cocalico Middle School, where he plays football, wrestles and plays lacrosse. He is also a member of Boy Scout Troop 4318. He enjoys sports, fishing and building campfires.



Nathan Asher Stein, son of Scott and Samantha Stein, became a Bar Mitzvah on April 24 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Friends and family attended virtually. Nate is finishing eighth grade online and hopes to attend high school in person in the fall. He enjoys role playing games and video games online. As a mltzvah project, Nate chose to support Wikipedia and Fair Trade Certified businesses.

Our graduates



Jared Baksic, son of Marla and Steven Baksic and grandson of Judy Schnee and the late Jack Schnee, is graduating from LaSalle University cum laude with a B.S. in Business Marketing and a minor in Philosophy. Jared was a member of the sales marketing team, ultimate frisbee team and sales club and was a nonprofit researcher. Jared accepted a position as an account executive for Fundera by NerdWallet in New York.



Rebecca Balchunas, daughter of Cynthia and George Balchunas, will be receiving a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Development and Programming from the University of Delaware in August. She lives in Birdsboro and works at the Good Shepherd Learning Center in Douglassville, caring for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years old.



George Balchunas, son of Cynthia and George Balchunas, received a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh on May 4. Before COVID-19 shut down the campus, George played the bass in the university's orchestra and jazz band.



Luke Berger, son of Amy White Berger and Lee Berger, graduated with high honors from Wyomissing Area Junior/Senior High School. He played four years of varsity tennis and was co-captain of the team in his senior year. He will attend Alvernia University in the fall and play tennis for the Golden Wolves.



Rebecca Nicole Bub, daughter of Ivan and Paula Bub, graduated as a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Queensland, Brisbane Australia in December. She is employed by Greenslopes Private Hospital in Australia.



Evan Cardinal, son of Adrienne and Jeffrey Cardinal and grandson of Elaine and Robert Backer, graduated from Albright College with a Bachelor of Arts in political science/international relations (theatre minor). He was president of Hillel and World Affairs Club, student manager at the Student Center Desk, public address announcer for baseball and softball teams as well as a radio host at WXAC 91.3 FM. After graduation, Evan will begin a year of AmeriCorps volunteer service in Pittsburgh before attending a master's program in public policy and management at Carnegie Mellon University.



Sarah Erlikh, MD., daughter of Oleg and Dr. Tatyana Erlikh, recently celebrated her graduation from Penn State College of Medicine. She is excited to continue her training at Tower Health Reading Hospital for her transitional intern year and at Indiana University for her residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Sarah completed her undergraduate degree in the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State University. After residency, Sarah plans to sub-specialize in pain management.



Elan Fox, son of Don Fox and Tali Fox, graduated with honors from the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University. Elan works as an intern at the Wilson Center, a DC think tank, and at Edlow International, a nuclear energy shipping firm. This summer, Elan will be interning at the Truman Research Institute in Israel, researching energy geopolitics in Europe and the Mediterranean.

Our graduates



Rachel Gabrielle Jeffers, daughter of Gerald and Susan Jeffers, graduated from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education (PK-4) and a minor in Educational Technology. She served as a student teacher at North Penn School District and starts teaching full-time in 2021.



Jeremy Kramer, son of Roban Kramer, is graduating with honors from Franklin & Marshall College with majors in Chemistry and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and a minor in theatre. He has accepted a graduate assistanceship in the PhD chemistry program at UNC Chapel Hill. He went to Hebrew School and was a Bar Mitzvah at Temple Oheb Shalom.



Molly Nemirow, daughter of Geraldine and Mark Nemirow, is graduating from Exeter High School. Molly is an award-winning soprano and veteran of many community and school theatrical productions. She is a member of the National Honor Society and many school clubs. Molly will major in vocal performance and math at Wagner College.



Andrew Primack, son of Pam Charendoff and Jonathan Primack, is graduating from Lancaster Country Day School. Andy founded the Berks Service Club, played Varsity Basketball and will be giving the student address at graduation. He plans to attend the LeBow School of Business at Drexel University this fall.



Rachel Reyner, daughter of Peter and Eleanor Reyner, graduated from Rutgers Law School. After she takes the bar exam in July, she will be clerking for a Superior Court judge in Ocean County, N.J.



Harry Weiss, son of Mark and Tracy Weiss, grandson of Jack and Teri Lefkowitz, is graduating from Wyomissing Area High School. Harry served as class Vice President for four years, was inducted into the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society and was a member of the soccer and baseball teams. He serves on the Youth Advisory Board for the Youth Volunteer Corps. Harry will be a Presidential Scholar at Dickinson College in Carlisle.

The Fabergé Secret by Charles Belfoure



**Monday
June 7th
7 p.m.
via Zoom**
Registration required.

To register, visit:
www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org/home/literatour

**Literatour Berks is a program of Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks
in partnership with Exeter Community Library.**



Anti-hate summer reading program to start this month

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks in partnership with local nonprofit partners the Exeter Community Library and Bring the Change announce the formation of a new Anti-Hate Summer Community Reading Program (AHSCRP).

The program is the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from Berks County Community Foundation as part of its You Are Here grant cycle.

AHSCRP will create conversation, discussion and action around books on topics such as hate, racism, diversity and how to be an ally to marginalized communities focusing on tweens, teens and adults.

Each group will read two age-appropriate books throughout the summer in conjunction with twice-monthly discussions on the topics and themes found in each book. These books will also help nurture discussions on diversity, hate and racism among parents and children.

At the gatherings a local moderator will help lead discussions and conversations about the book and its relevancy to life in Berks County. This initial conversation will allow participants to discuss the book, learn from one another and ask probing questions before speaking with the author. These first local conversations will also allow the groups to discuss the relevancy to life in Berks as

well as brainstorm how to put the ideas from the readings to action locally.

The second virtual gathering for each book will include an author visit, which provides readers a unique opportunity to learn about the writing process and goals of the author. For younger readers especially, the ability to meet an author, specifically an author of color who may look like them or help them connect to topics and issues in a new way, is highly impactful.

Authors for AHSCRP were chosen not only for their high-quality work but also as a diverse group representing varying viewpoints and experiences. Celebrating the diversity in Berks through these various authors and their books allows a wide spectrum of area residents to see themselves in the works.

The culminating event for all participants will be a large, communitywide author visit from Jason Reynolds. He is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author, a Newbery Award honoree, a two-time National Book Award finalist, an NAACP Image Award Winner and the recipient of multiple Coretta Scott King honors. Reynolds is also the 2020-21 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.

In addition to offering each book selection in print book, audio book, e-book and e-audio form, librarians from ECL will work with each

publisher to create a guide to each book. The guide will provide relevant background information, discussion questions and sources for more information on topics covered in each book. Guides will help answer many questions or concerns of parents, especially if the titles are unknown to them.

In order to bring the reading and discussions full circle, the program will include a social action component. Throughout the summer the community will be encouraged to drop off donations at ECL and JFR to benefit Helping Harvest. At the end of the summer the group will gather to pack the food to be donated. By tying together the themes in the books read over the summer and the discussions with the diverse group of authors with a hands-on service project to combat local hunger, our goal of creating lasting change and positive impact in our community will be better met and achieved. Participants will be reading, talking and doing, which will help reinforce the tenets of fighting hate and racism and creating positive change in Berks County.

A full schedule and book list will be announced on June 1. Look for further details on the JFR and ECL websites (www.readingjewishcommunity.org or www.berkslibraries.org/branch/exeter

Artificial intelligence ramps up speech therapy

ISRAEL21C.ORG

About 1.5 billion people globally deal with voice, speech, or language impairments. For therapy to be effective, it must be supported by consistent at-home practice, and that is one of the myriad ways AI can help.

Speech language pathologists (SLPs) use games and props to engage children in their sessions. TikTalk's cloud-based virtual assistant brings that aspect home, motivating kindergartners to sixth graders to practice the articulation skills they are learning in speech therapy consistently and accurately.

TikTalk is geared specifically to children with speech-sound disorders such as articulation and phonological processing disorders, says Nir Gamliel, US head of business development at TikTalk2me, the company that developed TikTalk.

The platform incorporates eight customized video games to play on a tablet, programmed by the SLP to encourage practicing the target sounds and providing real-time or follow-up feedback.

"In therapy you establish the sound and teach the child how to make the sound. Where we get stuck is practicing," says Sandra Laserson, an Ohio-based SLP who helped the Jerusalem development team create TikTalk. "Being with the therapist 30 minutes a week won't do it. The time available for therapy to be successful is limited by the child's motivation and the parent's financial and emotional resources. At the same time, children have little inclination or opportunity to accurately practice their speech sounds outside of therapy. This solution improves both of those issues.

"The results of our pilots with about 60 kids in Maryland and Ohio confirm that," she says. "With this system, you assign a customized home practice quickly and easily through a portal. The child has a choice of games and no matter which one is chosen, what you have programmed for them is incorporated into the game in a different way."

Practiced sounds are recorded and stored in the cloud so the SLP can monitor progress and adjust accordingly. Parents can also receive the recordings to follow their child's progress. The company's cofounders, Raphael Nassi and Benzi Treger, come from a background in AI and speech recognition.

TikTalk was launched commercially in

January to agencies, private-practice SLPs and school systems on a monthly or yearly license basis. "Parents can ask their SLP about it," says Gamliel. The 10-person Israeli team is developing additional games for other kinds of speech-sound disorders and for kids who speak languages such as Spanish.

A successful Israeli pilot of TikTalk in four preschools in Ma'aleh Adumim is under evaluation at the Education Ministry for possible nationwide rollout, says Shay Beyski, customer success director.

"After several months, the SLP using the system said she saw the enthusiasm and motivation of the kids. Even the preschool director saw that kids who did not want to participate in speech therapy sessions before now want to do it," he says.

Novotalk began in 2014 as an online companion to Hadassah University Medical Center's fluency-shaping program for people who stutter.

The on-demand platform enables clients to practice 24/7 at their own pace and allows therapists to monitor progress and tweak the exercises.

Gradually, Novotalk expanded into an accessible and affordable self-directed speech therapy program for stuttering and other types of speech-language disorders. "The concept of self-directed means you're not dependent on the availability of clinicians," says Novotalk Chairman Zohar Beeri.

The system's AI uses collected data on each user's practice sessions to adjust the difficulty of the exercises, and the clinician also can do that manually. Automatic feedback is provided to each user. Novotalk supports a variety of speech programs at Hadassah in Jerusalem and has an exclusive joint venture agreement with Mount Sinai Health System in New York "to commercialize innovative speech and language solutions to address the therapeutic needs of patients with speech impairments in the United States and Canada."

"We focus for now on chronic conditions," says Beeri. "About four out of five kids who stutter in childhood no longer stutter by age 14. We focus on the 1% that continues from 14 and up, and we also have a pilot at Hadassah for younger children."

One of the pioneers in applying AI to speech

therapy is Amplio (formerly NiNiSpeech), founded by biomedical engineering PhD Yair Shapira, father of a son with a stutter. In 2015, Amplio debuted a mobile health solution to help people who stutter maintain fluent speech and to allow SLPs to monitor their success in everyday settings. "We started from stuttering and expanded to various speech-language disorders and then to dyslexia and then to entire special populations — a \$100 billion annual market in the US. In Israel, that includes occupational and physical therapy and psychological counseling."

The Haifa-based company, rebranded as AmplioSpeech and then simply Amplio, offers a digital platform serving children and their parents, therapists, educators, clinicians, and administrators in the special-education market in the U.S. and child-development market in Israel — both onsite and online. "Every professional has a digital hub that they use daily, and Amplio is that platform in child development and special education," says Shapira.

The platform's AI, natural language processing, personalization algorithms, big data and machine learning technologies help clients maximize outcomes and help professionals track individual performance and manage back-end aspects including resources, scheduling, compliance reports and insurance reimbursement.

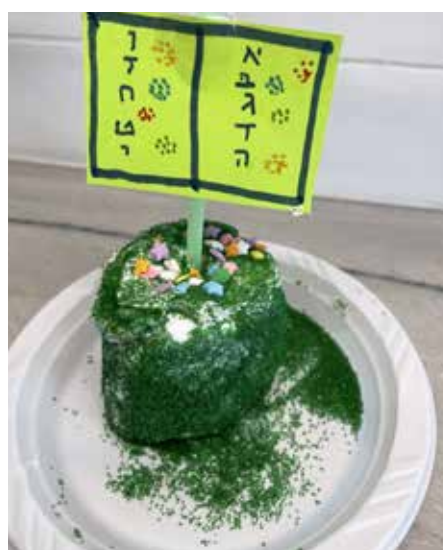
"Mastering skills requires constant stimulation and practice, particularly for struggling learners. Technology is the key to give them more focused, higher-intensity interventions, which is strongly correlated with progress," Shapira explains. "This past year has been difficult for all students, and particularly devastating for students with special learning needs," he adds. "Our platform's blended learning model allows educators to address learning loss at an accelerated pace."

Amplio is licensed by hundreds of school districts in 14 states. Some, including Texas, use Amplio's platform to manage all speech, language, and dyslexia therapy programs statewide. The company develops its own products to incorporate on the platform or licenses disorder-specific products —which could theoretically include programs from TikTalk or Novotalk.

Some sweet Shavuot events

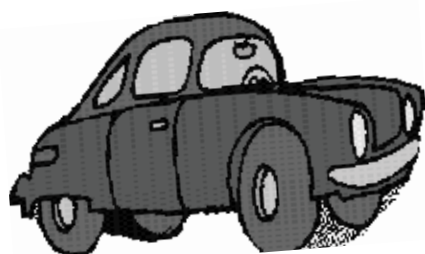


Chabad's Shavuot ladies cooking class yielded delicious results, including mini cheesecakes. Other favorites were chocolate rugelach crust cheesecake and a spinach cheese star.



Look what we made. Oreos cheese cupcakes, marshmallow Mt. Sinais and beautiful paper flowers - all at Chabad's Shavuot kids class.

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The environmental impact of batteries



By Solange Israel-Mintz & Andi Franklin

Batteries use mixtures of chemical elements designed to meet power and performance needs of different devices. Some are hazardous, some not. Some use materials that are considered critical minerals by the US Geological Survey. Therefore, they are economically and strategically important to the U.S. and have a high supply risk for which there are no easy substitutes.

These types of batteries need to be recycled, and the materials recovered to ensure they will be available in the future. But how do we know which are hazardous or critical and should be recycled or which can be thrown in the trash? Pennsylvania does not have state battery regulations in place; federal requirements apply.

Most batteries need to be recycled. This applies especially to rechargeable batteries but can also apply to some single use ones. As a general rule, alkaline and zinc-carbon batteries can be disposed of in the regular trash. This is because they no longer contain mercury. Common alkaline and zinc-carbon batteries include 9 volt, AA, AAA, C, D.

Call2Recycle (a 501 c4 nonprofit) is a product stewardship program providing no-cost battery and cellphone recycling. It is funded by battery and product manufacturers committed to recycling.

Automotive batteries:

Automotive lead-acid batteries power cars, lawnmowers, golf carts, etc. They may contain up to 18 pounds of lead and about 1 gallon of corrosive lead-contaminated sulfuric acid. EPA recommendations are to return lead-acid batteries to the battery retailer or local hazardous waste collection program. Do not put them in the trash or municipal recycling bins.

The biggest environmental issue with lead-acid batteries is the lead. Ingestion of lead is especially dangerous to children and their brain development. In the 20th century most applications that used lead, like paint and gasoline, were eliminated. Today, approximately 85% of lead use is for lead-acid batteries. These batteries are recyclable. However, lead exposure is still taking place in the mining, processing and recycling. A World Health Organization report stated that lead recycling is a significant source of environmental and human exposure in countries where it is poorly regulated and often improperly processed without the needed technologies to control lead emissions.

Electric vehicles use lithium-ion batteries. The issue here is that except for small electronics, car batteries have not been used for a long enough time to have reached their life expectancy. The recycling rate is less than 5%. Though lithium isn't a toxic heavy metal and therefore not as bad as lead-acid, batteries do contain metals such as cobalt, nickel and manganese, which are toxic heavy metals. These must be mined and there can be pollution, environmental damage, and socio-economic harm as a result. Companies such as Tesla and Panasonic



are working toward removing cobalt as part of their batteries. This will go a long way to reducing the problems associated with the growing use of lithium-ion batteries.

Obituaries

Melvin D. Brownstein, 94, of Wernersville. Mel was born in Philadelphia and served in the Navy during World War II. He was a social worker for Jewish Community Centers in Philadelphia and Chicago and went on to teach as a professor of social administration at Temple University for

20 years. Mel enjoyed snow-showing, ping pong, classical and jazz music and Jewish and political history. He is survived by his children: Ted Brownstein and his wife Christine of Florida, Carl Brownstein of Washington state and Ruth Brownstein and her spouse, Loretta Pellissier, of Washington state, there are also six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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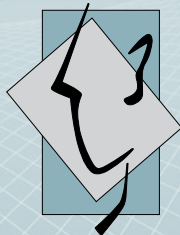
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It’s time to face grim facts on rising U.S. antisemitism

By Michael Freund

If you look ever so carefully, after taking a step or two back to gain some distance and perspective, you will see it. It might appear blurry at first, somewhat amorphous and not readily identifiable, like a dot on a screen that hardly seems to warrant much attention. But instead of going away, it grows ever larger and more threatening, as more blips join the fray, suddenly transforming that tiny speck into a mass that

That, my friends, in a nutshell, is an apt description of rising antisemitism in the United States. If you put aside the wishful thinking and denial that so often colors our perspective, and take a cold, hard look at the facts, then the conclusion that something is wrong — terribly, awfully wrong — is simply inescapable.

Antagonism and loathing towards Jews, a hatred seemingly as old as the Jewish people itself, is sadly spreading like wildfire across the civic and social horizons of America, seeping into everything from politics to popular culture. It is time to be worried. Very, very worried.

If you do not believe me, just look at the data. Simply put, the numbers speak for themselves.

On Nov. 16, the FBI released its annual report on hate crimes across the United States, compiling statistics from 15,588 law-enforcement agencies across the country. The document makes for sobering reading. It found that whereas 20.1% of hate-crimes in America in 2019 were religiously motivated, over 60% of such attacks targeted Jews. This marked an increase of 14% over the previous year. In other words, even though Jews barely account for 2% of the U.S. population, they are the target of 6 out of 10 of all crimes driven by religious hatred.

This harrowing tidbit, of course, only represents those incidents that we know about and that people bothered to report. And there are compelling reasons to believe that the scope and extent of anti-Jewish acts in the U.S. is actually far worse. Indeed, just a few weeks before the FBI report was published, the American Jewish Committee issued its first-ever State of Anti-Semitism in America on Oct. 16. It offered a revealing glimpse of just how bad things have gotten.

An astonishing 88% of Jews said that antisemitism is either somewhat of a problem or a very serious one in the U.S. and 82% believe that Judeophobia has worsened in the past five years.



Toppled Jewish headstones – 170 in total – vandalized in Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery in St. Louis in 2017

And yet, a whopping 76% of Jews who were on the receiving end of antisemitic verbiage or violence admitted that they did not report any of the incidents to authorities. So as grim as the statistics are regarding the increased targeting of Jews, they do not tell the full story, which is clearly more appalling than many of us would like to believe. Another recent survey, released by the Anti-Defamation League, confirmed this, finding that 63% of American Jews — nearly two-thirds! — said they had personally experienced or witnessed antisemitism in the past five years. At the same time, 59% of those questioned said that Jews are less safe now in America than they were a decade ago, while 49% said they are fearful of violent attacks against synagogues.

So not only is antisemitism clearly on the rise from sea to shining sea, but we only have a faint idea of its magnitude and breadth. And it is not only the numbers that are troubling. Unlike other forms of bigotry against ethnic or religious groups, which are usually confined to one side or the other of the political spectrum, antisemitism is a great unifier in that both left-wing and right-wing

extremists deploy it with glee.

While they might disagree on just about everything else, there is one subject on which both white nationalists and black supremacists seem to concur: hatred of the Jews. In a sense, then, antisemitism is the most combustible form of hatred out there, one that can sweep up large and disparate swathes of the population.

Add to this the tepid reaction with which antisemitism is often greeted by the larger population as compared to other forms of bigotry, and you have the makings of potential calamity.

Consider the following:

- Last July, a US television personality named Nick Cannon, who hosts a popular program called “The Masked Singer,” was interviewed on a podcast, and spewed forth the vilest forms of Jew-hatred imaginable. Declaring that antisemitic speech is “never hate speech,” he insisted that blacks are the “true Hebrews” whereas Jews are phonies, and then ranted about how Jews control banking “and everything, even outside of America.” Had his remarks been directed against Hispanics, Asians or just about anyone else, it would have meant the end of his career. But after going on a brief “apology tour” and muttering a few words of regret, his fame remains undiminished.

- A month ago, Meyers Leonard, a player on the Miami Heat, was caught using an antisemitic slur while playing a video game online, referring to an opponent as a “kike bitch.” He was promptly suspended for a grand total of one week and levied with a \$50,000 fine, which considering the fact that he is earning \$10 million this year on the basketball court, is unlikely to make much of a mark on his psyche. He continues to be a popular player.

And on and on it goes. Back in February, NBC was forced to pull an episode of its medical drama “Nurses” after a scene portrayed Orthodox Jews in a hateful light, and Saturday Night Live” performer Michael Che accused Israel on air

of vaccinating only “the Jewish half” of its population. Both Che and the writers for “Nurses” remain at their posts.

Viewed in isolation, it is easy to dismiss each of these incidents as insignificant. But when considered as a whole, they should be keeping American Jews up at night. As Meghan McCain, the late Sen. John McCain’s daughter, recently pointed out, “Antisemitism is still the last form of passable bigotry in America.” She also offered a spot-on rhetorical question, one that Americans, and especially American Jews, need to confront: “Why do we, as Americans, seem to find more forgiveness in our heart for antisemitism than we do racism of any kind?”

I do not write these words gleefully, and I am certainly no alarmist. I am proudly pro-American and cherish the freedom and opportunity that the country gave my forebears and me. But the sharp rise in antisemitism across the US, combined with the violent attacks that targeted synagogues in Poway, Calif., and Pittsburgh, as well as a kosher market in Jersey City, N.J., cannot and must not be ignored.

The sad truth is that all the millions of dollars that have been poured into education, promoting tolerance, and combating antisemitism have failed to stem the surging tide of hatred, one that seems poised to grow still worse. If Jewish history is any guide, then what the future may hold for American Jews is hardly encouraging. Perhaps, we like to convince ourselves and others, America is different. Perhaps it is one station of the Exile that will prove to be the exception, offering Jews a long-term respite from persecution and fear. But if the storm clouds on the horizon are any indication, it may be time for American Jews to start rethinking their prospects. Before it is too late.

The writer is founder and chairman of Shavei Israel (www.Shavei.org), which assists lost tribes and hidden Jewish communities to return to the Jewish people.

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Continuing the conversation

By Carole Robinson

The mental health of people of all ages has been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is crucial to remove the stigma associated with mental health problems, which often prevents people from seeking help.



In conjunction with Mental Health Awareness month, Literatour Berks and the Blue Dove Foundation hosted the program “#Quieting the Silence” on May 13. The idea was to “quiet the silence and get the conversation going and to encourage people to ask for help when they need it.” The conversation was moderated by psychologist Dr. Paul Delfin of DGR Behavioral Health and Rabbi Yosef Lipsker of Chabad of Berks County and the Caron Foundation.

The Blue Dove Foundation was created to help address the issues of mental illness and addiction in the Jewish community and beyond. Due to the stigma attached to mental illness, people are not comfortable talking about it. The Blue Dove “#Quieting the Silence: Personal Stories Book” allowed individuals the opportunity to tell their stories involving mental illness and addiction. It is their hope that these personal accounts remind people “they are not alone and to work toward eliminating the shame and stigma many feel around these topics.”

Jennifer Greenberg, one of the book’s contributors, shared her heartbreaking story with Literatour Berks. She spoke of her life with her husband, Adam, a seemingly perfect life with normal accomplishments and challenges. Although Adam suffered from severe depression and anxiety, he kept his mental illness a secret because he did not want to be judged. Adam refused to speak to anyone about his problems; even Jennifer was unaware of his mental health struggles for many years. Adam

courageously overcame his depression and suicidal thoughts for 20 years.

In Jennifer’s words, “Despite being surrounded by family and friends, Adam suffered alone and in silence.” Adam committed suicide 4 ½ years ago after losing his job. Jennifer acknowledges, “I can’t change the past, but I can affect the future. I can help you and your loved ones recognize the signs: withdrawal, anger, sleeplessness, mood swings, strong desire to keep up the appearance of everything being great, keeping secrets of major life events. I wasn’t alone. Neither are you. If you suffer from anxiety or depression or other mental health issues, it’s not something to be ashamed of. Don’t keep it a secret. It’s not weakness; it’s a disease. This is something real; you can’t shake it off. It won’t go away. Let other people help.”

Jennifer’s story opened the conversation. Dr. Delfin offered, “Talking about it and sharing eases the burden.” Rabbi Lipsker added, “Open up the channel for people to talk. Say something positive. One kind word can make a difference. When people lose hope, that’s when things happen.”

One listener asked, “As a parent, how do we encourage boys to be comfortable sharing emotions?” Dr. Delfin advised, “Don’t punish boys for showing emotions. We have to model this. We have to be kind, be honest, say what we feel, ask for what we want, and remember we don’t always get everything we ask for.” Lisa Ziv of the

Blue Dove Foundation suggests discussing with your son who he would feel comfortable opening up to, even if that is not you or an immediate family member. It empowers him to take care of his mental health when he is ready.

Many other questions followed. “How do you help someone who says no-one can help?” The panel’s advice is to continue listening and show that you care. “What can we say to someone who loses a family member to suicide?” Jennifer’s answer, “There’s nothing you can say to erase the pain. I love you. I care about you. I’m here for you.”

“What should you say to someone struggling with depression?” Lisa recommends asking two explicit questions. “Do you want to kill yourself?” If the answer is yes, “Do you have a plan?” It is OK to have suicide ideation, but if a person has a plan they need immediate help. They need to be taken to the closest emergency room for a psych evaluation.

The conversation concluded with a final question “Where can someone go for help?” Attached is a list of resources.

Hopefully these resources will encourage anyone in our community to seek help and stop the stigma associated with mental health problems. In the words of Glenn Close, “What mental health needs is more sunlight, more candor, and more unashamed conversation.” Let’s keep the conversation going!

Mental Health Resources

- National Mental Health Hotline Numbers: <https://thebluedovefoundation.org/national-mental-health-hotline-numbers/>
- Suicide Awareness & Support: <https://thebluedovefoundation.org/suicide-awareness-and-support/>
- Service Access & Management (SAM) for Berks County: www.sam-inc.org/pa/contact-us/berks.html
- Greater Reading Mental Health Alliance: <https://grmha.org> 610-775-3000
- NAMI Berks County PA: <https://namiberkspa.org> 610-685-3000

JewishFamilyService

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

Some good news arrives with spring



Some in-person Jewish Family Service activities returned in May, including Friendship Circle, top, and Mah Jongg, shown here with players Lila Shapiro, Jane Goodman, and Margaret Soyferman. At right, Paulo Kuczer accepts a box lunch for Shavuot courtesy of JFS volunteers.

Rain can't stop Olivet food distribution



Despite the constant rain, Jewish Family Service volunteers, including Sarah Flamholz, right, provided food to 175 households at the Olivet Food Pantry in May.

Muslim historians confirm Jewish ties to Jerusalem

From online news sources

The book "Islam, Jews and the Temple Mount" is bound to cause an uproar in the Muslim world. It presents a comprehensive list of early Islamic sources that recognize the historical Jewish claim to Jerusalem, contrary to modern Muslim religious scholars who — in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict — deny any Jewish ties to the Temple Mount and promote the argument that no Jewish Temple ever stood there.

Fifty-four years after the unification of Jerusalem and the establishment of Israeli control over the Old City, Professor Yitzhak Reiter, and co-writer Dvir Dimant hold a mirror up to this prevailing Muslim narrative. According to the book, Islamic leaders deny canonical Muslim historical works that date back to the 7th century, a few decades after the death of the Prophet Muhammad, and state that the very reason Islam came to regard the Foundation Stone situated in the center of the Dome of the Rock as holy is because of the knowledge that the Jewish Temple stood there.

It is all in there. Muslim sources time and again describe history the same way Jewish sources do: the building of the First Temple on the Foundation Stone by King Solomon; its destruction by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar; the Babylonian exile; Persian emperor Cyrus the Great's permission for the Jews to return to Jerusalem and build the Second Temple; and its destruction by Roman emperor Titus.

Moreover, not only do Islam's most respected historians confirm the Jewish historical timeline, but they also emphasize that the reason Jerusalem and the Temple Mount came to be considered holy in Islam is that the sites were also regarded as sacred in Judaism. This stemmed from their view of Islam as a continuation of Judaism, as well as patriarch Abraham and other figures in Scripture.

In their book, Reiter, an expert on Islamic, Middle Eastern and Israeli studies, and Dimant, a graduate of the Shalem Academic Center in Jerusalem and a research assistant at the Truman

Institute for Peace Research, present Jewish and Islamic sources side by side and reveal an undeniable resemblance between the two.

Islam, Jews, and the Temple Mount shows that until the Balfour Declaration of 1917, not only did Muslim sources not deny the Jewish connection to Jerusalem, but they systematically pointed it out and confirmed it. However, in 1967, when Israel took control of the Old City during the Six-Day War, the narrative took a drastic turn, and denying any Jewish link to the Temple Mount became the prevalent argument.

From then on, Muslims turned their backs on a vast and rich Islamic literature that confirms the Jewish connection to the Temple Mount. In the 10th century CE, Muhammad ibn Jarir al-Tabari, perhaps one of the most well-known and respected historians in the Muslim religious world, described how God prevented King David from building the Temple because he had blood on his hands, and therefore the task was assigned to his son, Solomon. His description is almost identical to that in the Jewish source, the Book of Chronicles.

In the 11th century, Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Wasiti, who served as the preacher of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, described how King Solomon had difficulty opening the gates of the Temple and only succeeded in doing so after mentioning in prayer the name of his father. The story appears almost word for word in the Babylonian Talmud.

In the 14th century, Arab historian Ibn Khaldun in his canonical work, Muqaddimah, also noted how King Solomon built the Temple in the fourth year of his reign. His description of the inauguration of the Temple is identical to that of Kings I, Chapter 6.

In the 15th century, historian Mujir al-Din from Jerusalem also mentioned how the Temple was built by King Solomon, and so did many after him. Almost always, the description in Muslim sources was similar to that of Jewish scripture.

The most important thing, Reiter and Dimant told *Israel Hayom*, "is that the

Al-Aqsa Compound, or as Jews call it, the Temple Mount, be acknowledged by [modern] Islam as the site of two Jewish Temples, and most importantly, Solomon's Temple. "Islam has adopted the Jewish and Christian tradition in this matter, and in medieval times it did not try to deny the fact that the Dome of the Rock symbolizes the continuation of Solomon's Temple. One could go as far as to say that Islam was proud of this," they said.

"Some scholars even noted that certain customs and ceremonies that took place outside the Dome of the Rock and even inside, during the Umayyad dynasty, were similar to those that used to take place in the Jewish Temple."

Dimant added that one of the best sources to look at when one wants to learn about the traditional Muslim narrative regarding the Jewish connection to the Temple Mount is the Quran. "The sources we quote in the book have a special significance; in that they do not deal with history. It shows how deeply rooted the subject of the two Temples and the Israelites was among Quran commentators."

Reiter said he often met with Palestinians and Muslims from other Arab countries who were convinced that the Jews made up the story of the First and Second Temples after the establishment of the modern state, for political and national reasons. "Moreover, it became clear to me that senior Arab public leaders and academics are not familiar with their historical sources that have described for centuries the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and the history of Israelites in Jerusalem and the Land of Israel," he said.

Throughout the years, when it came to negotiations over Jerusalem, the Israeli government did not use the sources Reiter and Dimant quote in their book. "The goal was to maintain a diplomatic and political debate, without bringing in the religious aspect," explained Reiter, who served as deputy advisor on Arab Affairs for three Israeli prime ministers.

Once Begin asked for the exact verse in the Quran that says that the land of Israel was promised to Moses, Reiter

recalled. "But then we found out that one of the commentators on the Quran explained that although the Jewish nation is connected to the Holy Land, they do not merit it because of the sin of the Golden Calf."

"It just so happened that last week I read a biography of Muhammad that was written several decades after his death. The prophet, the book said, met with tribe leaders from the city of Medina, who studied with Jews and would often meet with Jews. He asked them about the Jews and their beliefs, and they told him, among other things, that Jews believe in one God," Reiter said.

"The connection between Islam and Judaism existed from the very beginning of Islam. Islam has always seen itself as a continuation of Judaism. The Quran is full of stories of [Jewish] prophets. The Yusuf surah in the Quran is almost identical to the story of Joseph and his brothers in the book of Genesis. And this is just one example."

Some contemporary leaders, Reiter and Dimant explained, acknowledge that there was once a Jewish Temple on the mountain but claim that it was a small, short-lived structure and, therefore, the Jews have no rights to the site today. According to them, the Jews of today have no connection to those Israelites. For many Muslims, "Judaism is the backbone of Zionism and they see the religion as a threat to Islam and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and they choose to address this threat by rewriting Muslim history on the one hand, and Jewish history on the other."

Early Islamic sources, Reiter and Dimant concluded, "fully or almost fully accept the Jewish tradition and span over hundreds of years, almost from the early days of Islam all the way to the 20th century.

"We claim that those who deny the Jewish connection to the Temple Mount due to political purposes inadvertently undermine the Islamic legitimacy to Al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock, and the credibility of essential sources written in Arabic, which are the classics of Islam and its culture and identity."

Medical staffs at Israeli hospitals show solidarity

Israel21c.org

Medical staff at hospitals throughout Israel have come together in solidarity to call for peaceful coexistence and cooperation between Jewish and Arab medical personnel during trying times.

Staff at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer, Rambam Medical Center in Haifa, Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya, and Emek Medical Center in Afula, have all taken part in initiatives to try to promote unity.

At Sheba, the staff which consists of both Jewish and Arab doctors and nurses, came together for a special assembly to stress the importance of solidarity and cooperation in times of crisis.

Israeli pop star Miri Mesika also came to express her solidarity with Sheba's staff efforts, as did presumed presidential candidate Miriam Peretz, who lost two sons during their service in the Israel Defense Forces.

"You see things that hurt you, I see

things that hurt me. Restraint. Restraint and self-control are what's needed at this time," Peretz told the medical staff at Sheba on Thursday.

Standing next to an Arab staff member named Lena, Peretz praised her professionalism and dedication.

"When Lena is treating a patient, she puts aside her religious identity, she puts aside her 'team', and all that matters to her is to be professional, and to be a human being," said Peretz.

At Rambam Medical Center in Haifa, the mixed staff launched a joint social media campaign showcasing Jews and Arabs working together, displaying messages of peace in Hebrew and in Arabic.

In a special message to the staff, Rambam Director General Dr. Michael Halbertal stressed the importance of solidarity and cooperation, urging them not to lose sight of the hospital staff's main goal — helping people.

In his letter, he wrote: "Rambam is a

hospital where members of all sects and religions work side by side to achieve one single goal — helping our patients heal, and making their stay as easy as possible.

"I strive, hope, and believe that Rambam, as a family consisting of many different individuals, will remain a bastion of sanity inside this complex reality around us, just as we have proven to be during all the difficult challenges we've faced together in recent years. We built a special home here, which we maintain as a harmonious and inclusive place, which I personally, am proud to be a part of."

Staff at Nahariya's Galilee Medical Center, which is home to Jewish, Arab, Muslim, Christian and Druze staff, put their thoughts into a video clip calling for unity, set to the song, "Ein li Eretz Aheret," (I have no other country).

The medical center is the largest hospital, and the largest employer, in the Galilee region of northern Israel. It is run by Prof. Masad Barhoum, who was the

first Arab doctor to be selected director of a government hospital in Israel.

"We hope our video will help promote a message of peaceful coexistence, tolerance, and brotherhood among all and that calm will return as soon as possible," the hospital said in a statement to ISRAEL21c.

Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Bedouin and Circassian staff at Emek Medical Center in Afula also gathered for a group photograph outside the hospital's Emergency Rooms, to take a breather from the chaos and to show their unity.

"What you see is the Emek answer to blind hatred and what you can't hear is their singing," said Larry Rich, Director of Development at the hospital. "It's loud and it's joyous, accentuated with pain and trepidation, and with every Middle Eastern accent you can think of."

"If we don't focus on these little flickering sparks of people doing something right, then we risk being swept away," he added.

Beautiful and fun Lag B'Omer at Chabad



Virtual event to share story of local Holocaust survivor

From Federation staff

Stacy Seltzer, granddaughter of Esther and Sid Bratt, will share her grandmother’s story at an online event June 9.

“Luck Through Misfortune — Our GG’s Story” will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, June 9, at 8 p.m. as part of 3GNY’s WEDU Wednesdays series.

Esther Bratt was born in 1929 in the “Jerusalem of Lithuania,” Vilna. During the World War II, she survived the Vilna Ghetto, Hakapeh Labor Camp, and in the small cellar of a local farmer. She had many sliding doors moments that could have changed her story (and that of her family).

A winter jacket, her parents’ intuition, courage, a love for life, and much luck led to her survival during the hardest years of her life. She was liberated in 1944 by the Russians and immigrated to the United States in June of 1946.

Stacy will be joined by Esther for the Q&A portion of this program.

To register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y2tmcjyy>

3GNY is an educational nonprofit organization founded by grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, the last living link to those who lived through that era. It seeks to preserve the lessons and legacies of the Holocaust by educating

diverse communities about the perils of intolerance and to provide a supportive forum for the descendants of survivors.

To accomplish its goals, 3GNY creates forums where members meet, learn, connect and share ideas. Founded in 2005 with a group of six, 3GNY’s membership now exceeds 2,000. It offers diverse programs, including museum tours, film screenings, theater engagements, discussion groups, book readings, visits and dialogue with survivors, Shabbat dinners, Jewish cultural events, intergenerational gatherings, genealogy workshops and field trips.

Learn more at 3gny.org.



Stacy Seltzer

The unexpected history behind Jerusalem’s street names

From online news sources

Countless roads throughout Jerusalem are named after important figures in local and Jewish history. While there are obvious ones such as Herzl Street and Balfour Street, many names on street signs pay tribute to lesser-known personalities. Here are 10 streets in Jerusalem named after influential individuals of the past.

1. Ben Yehuda Street

This pedestrian street, a hub of food, shopping, and art, is named after Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, the Hebrew lexicographer credited with reviving the spoken Hebrew language. He was born in a Lithuanian village and began learning Hebrew in his early childhood. After being inspired by historical revivals of other classical languages, Ben-Yehuda became a staunch Zionist. He moved to Palestine, where most residents spoke Ladino, Yiddish, or Arabic. He began introducing his plan to reintegrate spoken Hebrew into society.

Ben-Yehuda’s three methods of revival were “Hebrew in the Home,” “Hebrew in the School” and “Words, Words, Words.” The Jewish people were able to remain connected and rooted in their historical and biblical language because of his influence.

The street bearing his name is a bustling, entertaining destination that offers many attractions, including a giant duck in the middle of the street and colorful murals on shop walls. On this street, Ben-Yehuda’s legacy is remembered in every conversation spoken in Hebrew between Israelis and tourists alike.

2. Nissim Behar Street

Behar was another crucial figure in reviving spoken Hebrew in Israel. A student of Ben-Yehuda, he was singled out from a young age because of his natural skill in language studies. After furthering his education in Constantinople and Paris, Behar returned to Jerusalem and became the founding headmaster of a local branch of the Paris-based Alliance Israelite Universelle, where he introduced a new method of teaching Hebrew. In 1901, he was sent to represent the Alliance in America. There, he founded the National Liberal Immigration League to advocate against laws that limited immigration. The list of his involvements with various Jewish and secular organizations is a lengthy one.

Nissim Behar Street in the Nachlaot neighborhood is one of Jerusalem’s most colorful. Yellows, pinks, and blues paint the aged walls. It holds onto the spirit of older days in its blend of commercial and residential life. Though the street is located only a few blocks from the energetic Machane Yehuda Market, the artistic vibe makes it feel as if it exists in its own bubble.

3. Queen Shlomzion Street

This street is named to honor the memory of the Judean queen who ruled

from 76-67 BCE. Queen Shlomzion (Salome Alexandra) was one of only two women to lead the ancient empire and sought to make peace while in power. She settled the disputes between the Pharisees and Sadducees that permeated her kingdom during her husband Alexander Jannaeus’s rule. Her successes in strengthening the borders and towns of Judea resulted in her title of Shlomzion, which translates to “peace of Zion.” It was often said that during her rule, rain only fell over Judea on Shabbat, so as not to disturb the residents’ work during the rest of the week.

Shlomzion (also spelled Shlomziyon) HaMalka Street hosts a multicultural blend of food and traditions. During a short stroll down this tree-lined street, one can find a French café, two Mexican restaurants, a burger spot, a hole-in-the-wall falafel stand, and bookstores selling literature in more than five languages. It is easy to imagine how proud the queen might be if she walked down this street today; she, a woman who used her power to resolve conflict between battling cultural groups, knew quite well the importance of coexistence.

4. Ben Maimon (Rambam) Boulevard

Moshe Ben Maimon, also known as Maimonides or by the acronym Rambam, is widely regarded as the medieval age’s greatest Jewish philosopher. He played an enormous role in codifying Jewish law, which he accomplished through his publication of Mishneh Torah. Ben Maimon also earned respect from both Jewish and Muslim communities after writing Guide of the Perplexed, a theological text that explored the intersections of rabbinical Judaism and rationalism.

The street named after Ben Maimon is also significant in Israel’s history. It borders the Prime Minister’s Residence, and as such is often filled with political activists. As you walk down this grandiose boulevard, there is a sense that you are walking in the very spot where history has been and continues to be made. With ornate statues atop buildings, there is an atmosphere of dignity and esteem; thus, it mimics Ben Maimon’s reputation itself.

5. Beruriya Street

Beruriya is mentioned multiple times in the Babylonian Talmud and other ancient texts. Whether she was real or fictional has been debated, though the stories surrounding her name are exceptional. She was a scholar who displayed great intelligence since her childhood. In fact, the Talmud describes how Beruriya studied 300 topics of Jewish law every day.

Due to her profound knowledge, the sages of her time frequently consulted her, and she was one of the few women given authority in this compendium of Jewish law. She was even seen as more intelligent and wiser than her brother, a



In 1923, the British military governor of Jerusalem named intersecting downtown streets after King George V and Hebrew lexicographer Eliezer Ben-Yehuda.

rare exception to the patriarchal structure of the Talmud. Although Beruriya is often only recognized for her connection to the famous men in her life (including her husband and father), she is noteworthy in her own right.

6. Sultan Suleiman Street

Located in the Muslim Quarter of the Old City, this street commemorates a historic sultan who ruled over the Ottoman Empire from 1520-1566. The ruler is commonly referred to as “Suleiman the Magnificent” because of his long-lasting reign and his military and cultural achievements. Suleiman expanded his empire’s geographical boundaries through frequent wars against neighboring countries, including Persia, Greece, and Egypt. The sultan also made impressive domestic advances; these included the construction and decoration of mosques, aqueducts, bridges, and other infrastructure.

The street named after the sultan is the largest, most bustling road in the neighborhood and boasts the lovely Palms Plaza alongside many historical monuments.

7. Huldah the Prophetess Street

Huldah was one of seven female prophets of Israel, most known for the prophecies she delivered after the Torah was rediscovered in Solomon’s Temple during the reign of King Josiah (around 640-610 BCE). She told the men who approached her for counsel that God would “bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants — all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read”.

A rabbinic legend maintains that Huldah opened a school for girls in Jerusalem where she taught how the word of God must be applied to a woman’s life. Huldah’s influence on Jewish history and Israel is still present today; an entrance leading to the Temple Mount is referred to as the Huldah Gates in the Mishnah, which states that “The two Huldah Gates to the south are used for entering and leaving” (Middot 1:3).

8. Salah a-Din Street

Salah a-Din, the figure after whom this street in East Jerusalem is named,

remains one of the most significant Muslim figures and heroes. He was a Sunni Kurd who lived from 1137-1193, when he died in Damascus. He was the founder of the Ayyūbid dynasty and sultan over Egypt, Syria, Yemen, and Palestine. In 1187, he captured Jerusalem from the Christian Crusaders at the Battle of Hattin. This conquest marked a turning point in control over the Middle East. After proving himself as a military and political leader, Salah a-Din has been widely regarded as one of the most consequential figures in history; Dante went as far as to describe him as a “virtuous pagan.”

9. Ibn Ezra Street

Abraham Ibn Ezra of Spain was one of the most significant biblical commentators of the Middle Ages. He also was a poet, astrologist, scientist, and Hebrew grammarian. His most famous contribution to biblical analysis was his close reading of the text’s grammatical and literal meaning.

The street named after this famous figure is a quiet haven of homes and families in the Rehavia neighborhood. By simply walking down this residential street, one would never know just how acclaimed its namesake is.

10. Binyamin mi-Tudela St.

Benjamin of Tudela (Spain) traveled across the world in the 12th century to various Jewish communities to observe and write about their demographics and lifestyle. His ventures spanned from France to Constantinople to Syria to Northern Africa; he visited over 300 cities and provided information that historians and scholars rely on to this day. His observations were published in his book Travels of Tudela, which has since been translated from Hebrew into dozens of languages. Not only is this street in the Rehavia neighborhood named after him, but so is a street in Spain in the town in which he was born. Binyamin mi-Tudela Street is a romantic, curved road. It offers a few food options but is mostly lined by residential buildings and does not offer the intrigue of anything reflective of its namesake’s adventures

How to make a vegan shawarma, anywhere in the world

From online news sources

Every time I go back to Israel I am excited to capture all the sounds, smells and flavors of the Middle East in a pita. To be honest, nothing beats the nostalgic shawarma in a pita when it comes to Middle Eastern street food.

This dish is made from meat cuts that are stacked with spices on a spit and roasted slowly as they turn. Shawarma is believed to have originated in Ottoman Turkey or elsewhere in the Levant, the historical geographical term referring to the Eastern Mediterranean region of Western Asia.

What if I tell you that you can relive the experience (to some extent) even if you are vegan now? Living as a student in California, I knew I had to reconnect to my Mediterranean roots and bring in fresh, organic and delicious food to my community, to give a hint of what Israeli cuisine is like. As an old Israeli saying goes: "If you don't do it with love, don't do it at all." I started an Israeli student club and in an attempt to be as inclusive as I can to my dietary-restricted friends, I wanted to give them the experience of beloved authentic food in a vegan twist. I tried various spices, cooking times, and

methods and came up with this recipe.

My vegan shawarma is easy, super affordable, nutritious and delicious. It is based on young jackfruit. This bombastic fruit is grown in tropical areas but can be purchased fresh in stores and canned at Trader Joe's. It tastes similar to chicken shawarma and using my spice blend it will almost feel like the real deal. I recommend eating it with pita bread, hummus, and any side salad you favor.

Vegan shawarma **4 servings**

Ingredients

- 2 cans of young jackfruit
- 1 can of garbanzo beans (chickpeas)
- 1 yellow onion, sliced to half-moons
- 2 cloves of garlic
- Bunch of parsley
- 6 tbsp of extra virgin olive oil
- 3 tbsp of paprika
- 2 tbsp of cumin
- 1 tbsp turmeric
- 1 tbsp of cayenne or smoked paprika
- 1 tbsp of coriander seeds, crushed
- 1 tbsp of white pepper



- 1 tbsp of salt
- Process:
1. Cut jackfruit into smaller slices (a bit chunkier than pulled meat)

2. Cut onions to half-moon slices and garlic to thin slices

3. In a bag, mix the jackfruit, garbanzo, onion, garlic, and all the spices. Let marinate for at least 30 minutes.

4. Heat oven to 400 degrees.

5. Spread the marinated jackfruit on parchment paper on an oven tray and bake 30-40 minutes, depending on how you like it.

6. Add some chopped parsley on top. Take a pita and spread it with some tahini and your favorite shawarma add-ons and put jackfruit shawarma on top.

7. Bete'avon (hearty appetite)!

Mutual trust fuels this Arab-Jewish startup

Israel21c.org

It is not unusual to find the Jews and Arabs of Jerusalem side by side in stores, buses, and trains, working together in hospitals and studying together in institutions of higher education.

It is quite unusual, however, to find a Jewish and Arab duo who are close friends and startup cofounders.

That is what makes Hesham Taha and Avi Israel's story so intriguing — and so hopeful for a shared future in this city of 936,000 people, 62% of whom are Jewish and 38% of who are Arab.

Their company, Teramount, connects optical fibers to silicon chips, enabling the transfer of terabytes of data at the speed of light for applications requiring high bandwidth, such as 5G networks, cloud computing, data-center infrastructure, and machine learning-based applications.

The details are scientifically complex, but these two have years of experience working in applied physics.

Taha said, "We know each other a long time."

During his PhD studies at Hebrew

University in 2002, Taha was working in a lab where Israel was an undergraduate assistant.

Though the men are not far apart in age — Taha is now 45 and Israel is 43 — Israel had entered university after three years of military service and another year of traveling abroad. Their shared interest in physics research led to a warm working relationship.

When Israel finished his PhD, he joined Taha working at Nanonics Imaging, which makes advanced scanning probe microscopy systems.

"We did many travels together to conferences and to customers," Taha says. "We often had to share the same room, or got stuck in the same airport, and our friendship deepened.

"We had many discussions about life and our families and how we see coexistence in this small piece of land. This is how you develop thoughts about the situation from a different perspective. We had trust in each other."

Hebrew has always been their common language.



Teramount cofounders CEO Hesham Taha, left, and CTO Avi Israel

"At my previous company I was a senior employee and the only Arab," Taha says. "Many of the employees were American immigrants and I spoke Hebrew better than they did," he adds with a laugh.

"In 2014," Taha continues, "Avi raised an idea that we both were aware of from our work about how to connect optics to chips. We saw great potential. I decided to leave my job a year after him, and we started Teramount."

Israel recalls, "I had a vague thought about how the microelectronic revolution would be applied to optics and communications. I needed a counterpart to help me refine it, so I talked to Hesham. We're both men of science and knew the problem before we could identify the market."

It was not long before the market materialized.

To move innovation smoothly into the future, multinationals such as Intel and Cisco must overcome the data bottleneck that existing photonics are not reliable or scalable enough to solve.

Teramount's answer to this problem is now in the commercialization stage, working with leading vendors in the semiconductor (chip) industry.

The team of eight is expected to double by the end of the year.

"We are very confident that our unique approach is general enough to fit many

needs," says Israel.

In 2015, the Israel Innovation Authority launched a fund supporting startups with an Arab founder, offering a low matching requirement as an enticement for outside investors.

"Getting this grant was the main trigger for initiating Teramount, because deep-tech is relatively high risk for investors," says Taha. "Also, many Arab founders did not have a previous exit and are making their first attempt. Such governmental support definitely motivates the ecosystem and supports Arab people building startups."

Israel is CTO and Taha is CEO.

"I had the privilege of choosing my own boss," Israel says. "I knew I wasn't ready to be a CEO; I'm too drawn to the technical part. Hesham is more eloquent and very experienced."

The cofounders emphasize that their mutual respect and trust for one another, personally and professionally, is what makes their partnership tick.

"Our families often socialize. Hesham's son and my daughter were born about a week apart," says Israel, whose daughter attends the bicultural Hand in Hand school in Jerusalem. "Our friendship is a benefit but it's about knowing the whole person."

"The trust and confidence you must have in a cofounder takes some of the risk off the table."

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A radiologist examines breast X-rays after a cancer prevention medical check-up at the Ambroise Pare hospital in Marseille, France.

New Israeli technology can destroy cancerous tumors

From online news sources

Israeli medical device company IceCure has developed a new technology called ProSense, which it says has proven extremely effective in treating women with breast cancer, the company announced.

ProSense was created to find a non-surgical and less invasive alternative which can destroy tumors by using cryotherapy technology. It utilizes a probe that is inserted into the tumor and freezes it by lowering its temperature, leaving the healthy tissue around it while

alternating between freezing and thawing the specific area of the tumor.

The technology has been referred to as a breakthrough device by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which officially recognized the innovation as having the capabilities to save lives. CEO of Technion UK, Alan Aziz, stated that "invasive surgery was the only possibility for removing tumors, but IceCure researchers are looking to put those old methods on ice."

Around 700,000 people die of breast cancer every year.



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All Around the Town

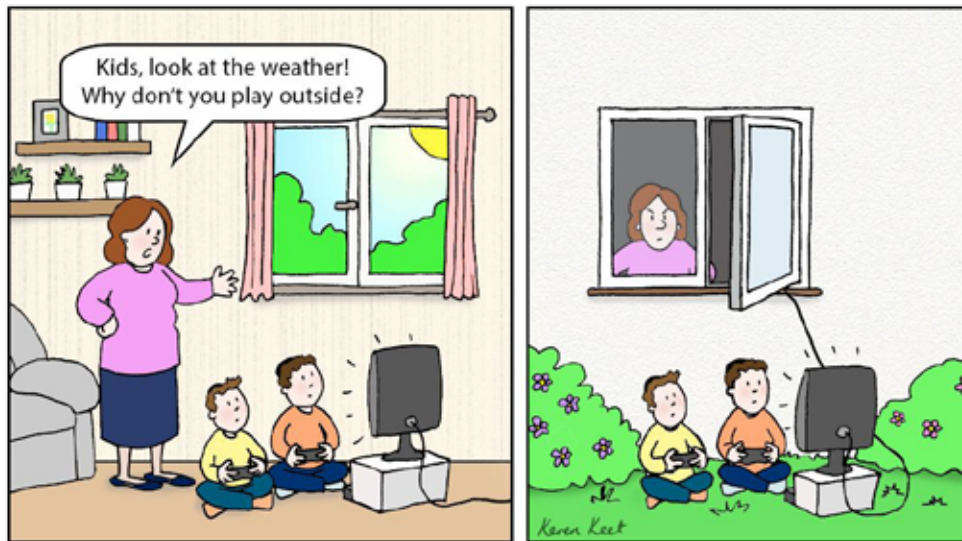
Mazel tov to **Michelle Taylor**, CEO of Taylor Logistics, LLC, for being featured as a local female trailblazer in "Women2Women" spring 2021 magazine.

Mazel tov to **Molly Nemirow** on winning scholarships from the Reading Choral Society and Reading Musical Foundation, and to **Audra Nemirow**

for being inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Delta Phi honor societies at Hofstra University. They are the daughters of **Geri and Mark Nemirow**.

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

Until next time: Shalom!



Wanted: Good News!

Share your simchas with the community.
Just call the Federation office or email Marknem@aol.com.

Studying Shabbat at CHS



CHS recently learned about Shabbat and had a challah baking session on Zoom.

Join Us In -Person or via Zoom
We As Observe Tisha B' Av 2021/5781

Saturday, July 17, 2021 at 8:30 p.m.



Our observance will include:

*The chanting of Eicha -
(The Book of Lamentations)*

*Contact KZ for Zoom link:
keshertzionoffice@gmail.com*

Sunday July 18, 2021 (No Service)

Kesher Zion Synagogue

555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610



*Fast begins:
Saturday, July 17 at 8:45 p.m.*

Fast ends: Sunday, July 18 at 8:45 p.m.

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Contributions as of May 14

Jewish Family Service

In honor of:
Sari Incledon’s compassion and ongoing support – Bernard and Temah Copelovitch

In memory of:
Edith Mendelsohn – Amy Hollowbush
Joshua Kastenbaum – Cheryl and Eric Farber

JFS Food Pantry

In memory of:
Michael Levin (Adam Levin’s father) – Andy and Laurie Waxler
Joshua Kastenbaum – Richard and Mindy Small

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In memory of:
Ernestine Urken (Vic Hammel’s mother) – Carol and Bernie Gerber

Honorials and Memorials

Contributions may be made to the following Funds:

- Federation Jewish Community Campaign
- Jewish Family Service
- Leo Camp Lecture Fund
- JFS Food Bank
- JFS Taxi Transportation Program
- Holocaust Library & Resource Center
- Doris Levin Fund
- PJ Library Fund
- Harry & Rose Sack Fund
- Evelyn Thompson Fund

Michael Levin (Adam Levin’s father) – Debbie and David Goldberg
Joshua Kastenbaum – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Anzie and Edward Golden

Evelyn Thompson Memorial Fund/Lakin Preschool

In memory of:
Birth of Susan and Alan Weisberg’s grandson – Andy and Laurie Waxler

Holocaust Library & Resource Center

In honor of:
Sid and Esther Bratt’s 70th Anniversary – Helene and Henry Singer

All about Israel’s Iron Dome missile defense system

Israel21c.org

The current round of violence between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip erupted with a literal boom as rockets were fired from the Palestinian coastal enclave toward Jerusalem.

They set off rocket attack sirens that have become the soundtrack of the past week, accompanied by the booms of Iron Dome, the air defense system whose interceptor missiles have been regularly blowing up incoming rockets and turning the night sky into a bizarre, firework-like display.

Although Iron Dome has been in use since 2011, it is this most recent conflict that has exposed its amazing capabilities to the Israeli public. As heavy rocket fire reaches multiple and widespread locations across the country, many citizens are breathing much easier knowing that they are under the protection of this wonder.

Here is everything that you need to know about it.

1. At first, many were skeptical

When Brig. Gen. Daniel Gold first proposed his idea for Iron Dome, he faced strong criticism that required a lot of nerve to overcome. Luckily, he managed to convince the country’s top brass of the advantages of his concept of air defense.

“My incentive was saving human lives,” he told ISRAEL21c a few years ago. “I saw what was going on and I said to myself, with all the technology that

exists in Israel we must use it to protect human life. We will find a way. It always takes the political and military echelons a long time to think about what they want to do, and in the meantime we started to create a solution.”

One of the reasons so many people were skeptical about Iron Dome was the type of threat that it was meant to protect from — short-range and low-tech rockets.

According to Rafael, the defense-sector corporation that developed it, Iron Dome works against mortars, artillery shells, rockets, unmanned aerial vehicles, helicopters and more. In fact, the current conflict saw Iron Dome intercept a UAV, the first operational interception of its kind in the world.

2. It’s made up of three parts

Iron Dome batteries include radar, a control center and interceptor missiles. The radar recognizes when a rocket is launched, while the control center quickly calculates its flight path. If it estimates that the launch will prove dangerous, the interceptor missiles are launched to detonate the rocket before it gets too close to its target, resulting in streaks of light and deafening booms.

3. It’s quite compact

Each Iron Dome launcher holds 20 interceptor missiles that each weigh 200 pounds and is 10 feet long. Slender though they are, you wouldn’t guess it from the sound the system emits when a missile is launched, which is more reminiscent of a fighter jet taking off.

4. It covers extensive range

Iron Dome has a range between 2.5 and 40 miles. This means it can intercept rockets launched out of the southern Gaza Strip heading for the border areas and as far away as the outskirts of Haifa, which is much farther north.

5. It’s not the only thing protecting Israel’s skies

Iron Dome is supplemented by an aerial defense system called David’s Sling, which operates against cruise missiles; and by Arrow, which targets more sophisticated ballistic missiles.

6. The success rate is phenomenal

Iron Dome’s accuracy is said to be near 95%. This means that the combination of Iron Dome protection and following guidelines on what to do during an attack has saved many, many lives in Israel. In fact, it’s a game changer.

7. It works come rain or shine

Iron Dome can work in all weather conditions.

8. It’s pretty costly

Each battery reportedly costs \$100 million dollars, and each interceptor missile around \$50,000. All this, while the rockets it detonates only cost a few hundred dollars to produce. And yet, time has shown the huge impact of the system, not only in terms of saving lives but its protection of infrastructure.

9. It comes accompanied by alerts

When rockets are launched into Israel, a rocket siren alert is blasted throughout the area in danger. The alert

announces “Color Red, Color Red,” which is then immediately accompanied by the booms of Iron Dome. Together, these noises have become the horrible soundtrack of recent weeks.

10. There’s a land version and a sea version

Iron Dome can protect people and infrastructure on land and at sea. One version can be loaded onto trucks and placed in desired locations near communities or important facilities, while the other can be positioned atop Israel Navy ships to safeguard infrastructure such as offshore gas rigs.

11. The U.S. has Iron Domes

The United States confirmed in 2019 that it purchased Iron Dome batteries, which it planned on stationing in conflict zones outside of its borders. Britain, meanwhile, has purchased Iron Dome’s control center.

12. It’s award-winning

The developers of the Iron Dome won the prestigious Israel Defense Prize back in 2012 for their work.

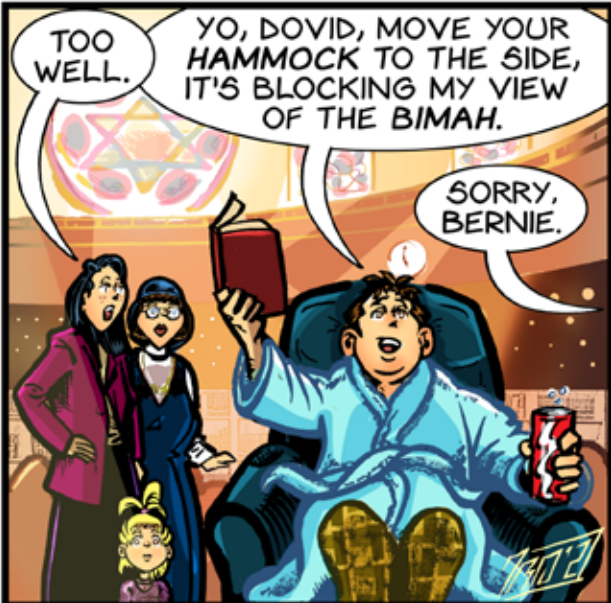
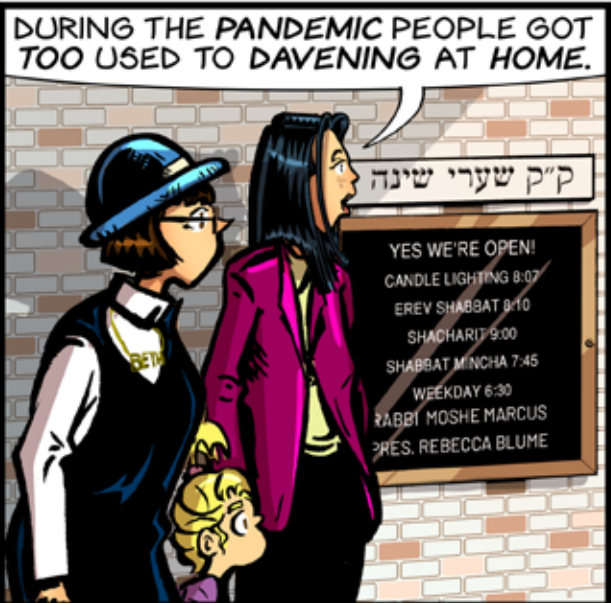
13. You don’t need a lot of muscle to operate it

According to Iron Dome’s developers a few years ago, they created the system with its future possible handlers in mind.

This means that it can be easily operated by an average woman soldier standing 5-foot-2 feet tall and weighing about 100 pounds. And it probably is — all Iron Dome battalions include female soldiers.

EVERYTHING’S RELATIVE

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Lakin Preschool enrolling children for fall

Lakin Preschool, located at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom in Wyomissing, offers preschool through Pre-K programming for babies, toddlers, and children up to age 6. Enrollment has begun for the 2021-22 term.

For more than 50 years, Lakin Preschool has built a reputation as a center of excellence for preschool education, emphasizing self-confidence, independence, cooperation, and problem-solving skills. The program integrates Jewish holidays and traditions but welcomes children of all backgrounds and religions. The value of good deeds, caring for one another, and education are reinforced in all classes.

Classes are tailored to each developmental preschool stage, including: Sprouts (12-24 month olds), Little Stars (2 year olds), Discovery (3 year olds), Adventurers (4 year olds) and Pre-Kindergarten.



Lakin Preschool Enrollment Form 2021 -2022

Please fill out a Lakin Preschool Enrollment Form for each child you are enrolling. If there are any questions, please call Judy Synnamon at 484-332-5981 or e-mail at judy@lakinpreschool.com.

Date of Application: _____

Child's Last Name: _____ Child's First Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ Gender: _____ Age as of September 1, 2021: _____

Name of Parent(s) with whom Child resides: _____

Street Address: _____ Apt #: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary contact's daytime phone number(s): _____

Primary contact's e-mail address: _____

1. Check class

2. Check days will be attending

Annual
Advertised
Tuition Rate
(No Deposit or
Discounts

Annual Tuition
ACH Payment
(less Deposit,
ERD & ACH)

Monthly
ACH Payment
(less Deposit,
ERD & ACH)

*Most economical option; other payment options on reverse side

☐ Pre k ☐ Adventures	☐ 5 days/week	\$3,236.00	\$2,842.00	\$316.00
	☐ 4 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,826.00	\$2,456.00	\$273.00
☐ Discovery	☐ 5 days/week	\$3,236.00	\$2,842.00	\$316.00
	☐ 4 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,826.00	\$2,456.00	\$273.00
	☐ 3 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,332.00	\$1,992.00	\$221.00
☐ Little Stars	☐ 5 days/week	\$3,236.00	\$2,842.00	\$316.00
	☐ 4 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,826.00	\$2,456.00	\$273.00
	☐ 3 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,332.00	\$1,992.00	\$221.00
	☐ 2 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$1,723.00	\$1,420.00	\$158.00
☐ Sprouts	Semester 1 (Starts September 12) Wednesdays	\$190.00	\$190.00	
	Semester 2 (Starts January 16): Wednesdays	\$190.00	\$190.00	

Please note Lakin Preschool's Enrollment Policy:

- A \$200.00 deposit is required with this Enrollment Form which will be credited to your tuition bill. Families who make their deposit before March 31, 2021 will receive a 3% Early Registration Discount (ERD).
- \$50.00 of the deposit is non-refundable except in the event of illness (as verified by a physician); moving out of town; or if approved by the Director.
- Tuition is to be paid monthly by check, ACH transfer or credit card before the first of each month. An additional 3% discount is provided when you authorize payments to be automatically deducted from your checking account, i.e. Automatic Clearing House (ACH) payments (noted as on fee schedule above). See back of form for full fee schedule and all payment options.

I have read the above and understand Lakin Preschool's Enrollment Policy. I agree to pay all fees due.

Signature: _____ Date: _____