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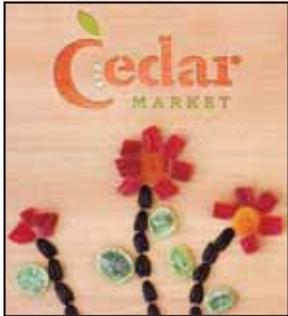
# Staycation Ideas! Pages 38-39

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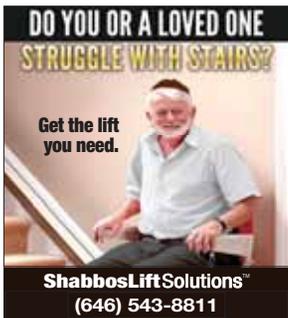
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## Israeli General Warns US Withdrawal From Syria Is a Red Flag

Former NSA Yaakov Amidror warns that US pullout from Syria endangers Kurds, empowers Turkey and sends troubling message to American allies.

(Arutz Sheva) Last week, the American Jewish Congress hosted a special Executive Briefing Call with Major General (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, former national security adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. This exclusive phone conversation, made available to the public, addressed such topics as President Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria, the role of Iran in the region, and Hezbollah activity on Israel's northern borders. The call was hosted by American Jewish Congress President Jack Rosen.

During his 36 years serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), Major General Yaakov Amidror

also served as director of the intelligence analysis division and as the military secretary for the minister of defense. Today, Amidror is a senior fellow at the Jerusalem Institute for Strategic Studies (JISS) and a distinguished fellow of the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA).

The American Jewish Congress hosts its executive briefing calls in order to connect its audience with significant players in U.S. and Israeli politics, the American Jewish community, and beyond. Previous briefings have featured members of Congress, journalists,

➔ CONTINUED ON P. 16



U.S. troops in Syria. (CREDIT: ISRAELNATIONALNEWS.COM).

## Highland Park & Edison Host Teaneck Officials



Mark Abraham, Orthodox Forum chair; Mohammed Hameeduddin, mayor of Teaneck; Elie Katz, deputy mayor of Teaneck; and Moshe Kinderlehrer, co-publisher of The Jewish Link, at the Jan. 12 Orthodox Forum event in Highland Park. (CREDIT: HARRY GLAZER)

See article on page 33

## MetroWest Plans Novel 'Hebrew School' Program

By Andrea Nissel

The Greater MetroWest community is launching a new Hebrew school called Kulanu. Kulanu, from the phrase "Kulanu Kedoshim," or "We are all holy," aims to provide Torah-based educational, spiritual and social programming to Jewish children in public school, including those who have left yeshiva, enabling them to feel more connected to their Jewish identity.

Recently, it has become apparent that many middle school and high school students in the MetroWest area are moving away from yeshi-



Kulanu co-founders (l-r) Moshe Glick, Ira Bloom and Larry Rein.

va education. There are a handful of reasons for this development, the most common being one of

➔ CONTINUED ON P. 32



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**Trump Signs Anti-Genocide Act, Anti-Semitism Resolution Into Law**

(JNS) U.S. President Donald Trump this week signed new bipartisan legislation committing the United States to preventing genocide, named in honor of Holocaust survivor and Nobel Prize laureate Elie Wiesel.

The Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act makes the prevention of genocide and other crimes a matter of national security, and aims to improve and increase the U.S. response to potential and emerging genocides.

It establishes a Mass Atrocities Task Force to provide training to U.S. Foreign Service officers on detecting early signs of atrocities and will mandate the director of national intelligence to report on atrocities in an annual crime report to Congress.

Trump also signed into law House Resolution 672, the Combating European Anti-Semitism Act of 2017, which expresses

the sense of the Congress that it is in America's national interest to confront anti-Semitism at home and abroad.

**Iran Launches First of Two Planned Satellite-Carrying Rockets into Space**

(JNS) Iran launched a satellite-carrying rocket into space this week amid fears from Israel and the United States.

However, although the rocket carrying the Payam satellite successfully passed its first and second phases, it did not reach "necessary speed" in the third stage of its release, Iranian Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi told state television.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani announced earlier this month that the regime would be launching two satellites into space "using our domestically made rockets" within the coming weeks.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned weeks ago about the Islamic Republic activating space-launch vehicles, which officials and experts contend is a cover for the regime's ballistic-missile ambitions.

Pompeo said that such a launch would violate U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231, which adopted the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. "It calls upon the Iranian regime not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons," he said.

**Fmr. Intelligence Chief: Gravest Threat Facing Israel Is 'First Northern War'**

(TPS) "The gravest threat we face is not the third Lebanon war, but the first northern war—simultaneous conflict with Hezbollah in Lebanon, Syria and Iran, which Hamas in the south is likely

to join," warned IDF Maj-Gen (res.) Amos Yadlin.

Speaking this week while presenting President Reuven Rivlin with the 2019 Strategic Assessment from the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) that he currently heads, Yadlin noted that "Israel of 2019 is a strong country; the IDF is extremely powerful and deters our enemies. The challenge is to take this strength and use it to reinforce the correct policy."

The INSS research highlights the major political and diplomatic issues facing Israel in the near future. On the list of leading threats by severity, the INSS's 2019 Strategic Assessment includes war with all the enemy forces and on all fronts in the north: Iran in the Golan Heights, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Syrian regime, military conflict in the south with Hamas in Gaza, and a deterioration of the situation in Judea and Samaria.

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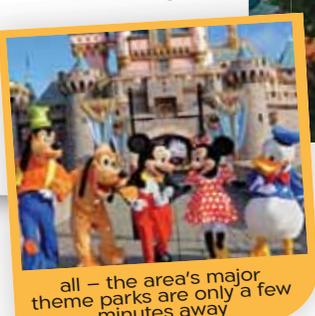
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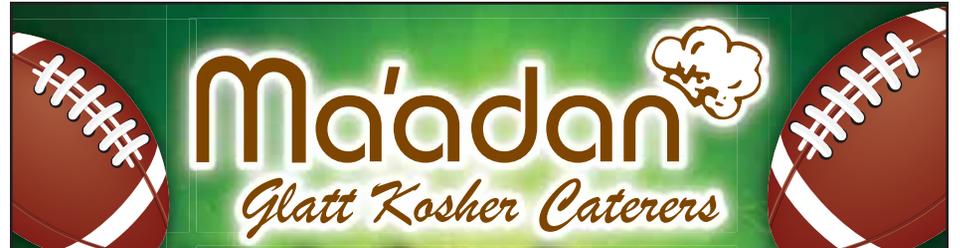


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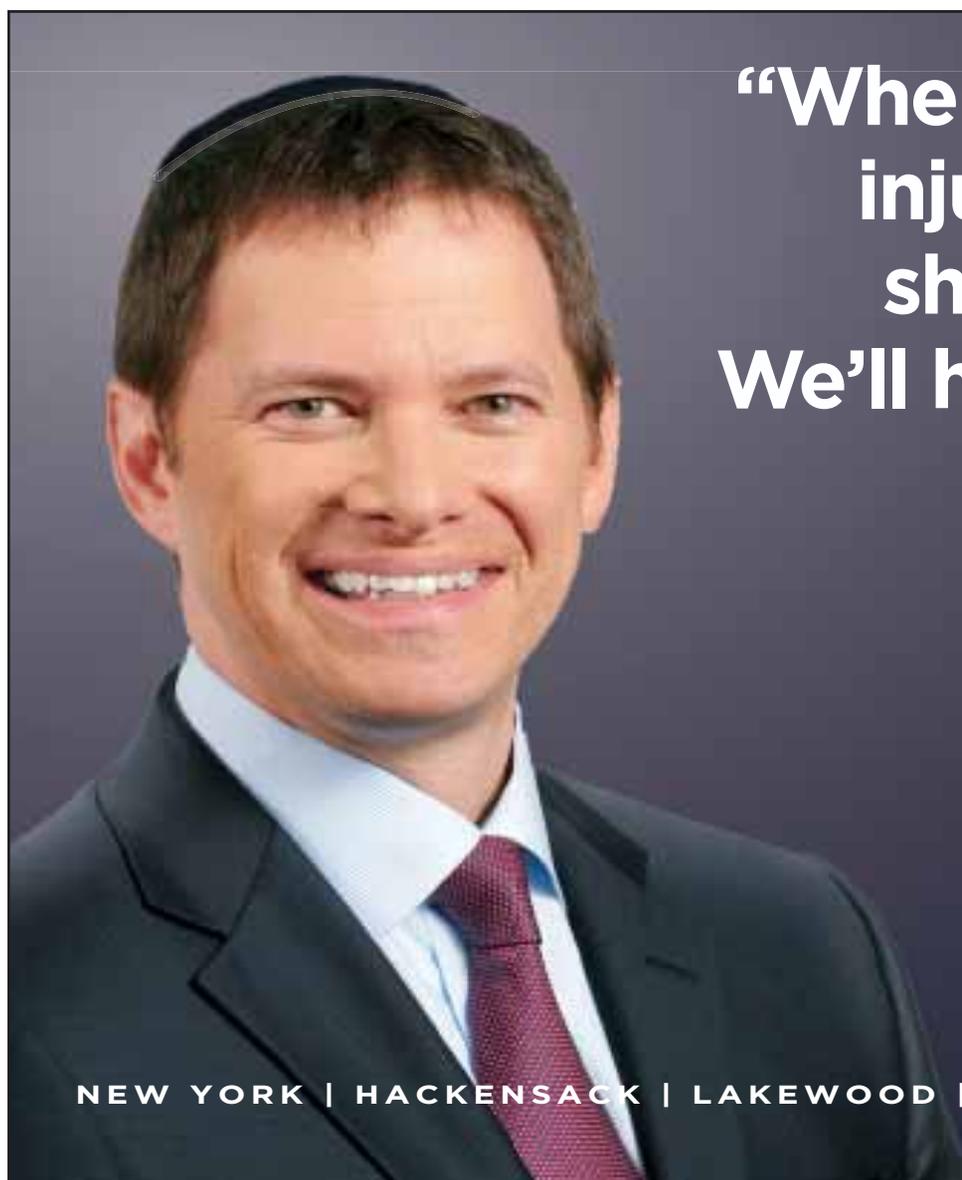
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# Democrats Were Right to Pull Away From Women's March

Louis Farrakhan.

A man who would compare Jews to "termites" and refer to Hitler as a "great man" and Judaism as a "gutter religion."

How much connection to the Women's March does anyone need from Louis Farrakhan to viscerally understand that this is a movement gone awfully bad?

This is who the so-called Women's March "leaders" hitched their wagons to while questioning Jewish women leaders for not speaking out on a historically dubious claim of slave ownership among Jews. All of this is part of Farrakhan's mantra.

So now, we learn that the Democratic

National Committee has joined many other like-minded groups in disassociating itself from the Women's March and its branding. The march, itself, is scheduled for January 19.

The Jewish Democratic Committee of America rightly spoke in favor of groups that have disaffiliated from this year's Women's March.

How can any person of civility march in lockstep with the Tamika Mallorys of the world who find themselves in sad synchronization with the Nation of Islam's sick brand of anti-Semitism?

Mallory, the co-leader of the Women's March, when pressed to disavow her affili-

ation with Farrakhan, has repeatedly talked around the issue, yet her connection to the Nation of Islam's Goebbels-like hate speech is all over social media.

We support the will and strength of women to march for causes in which they believe. But to exclude Jewish women or to single out Jewish women as not being able to participate sends a message that the left in this country seems headed to. And for Jewish women, it should lead to a question of just where the Democrat Party in particular finds itself as we head from the mid-term elections towards 2020. You might not be as welcome as you think.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### An Act of Free Will

Beshalach is the culmination of Pharaoh's directive to let Bnei Yisrael leave Mitzrayim. It must be noted that the Torah identifies this as a leaving by means of "shelach," a term of free will as in the parsha of the meraglim, when God says to Moshe "shlach lecha," denoting that the sending of the spies was a "free will" decision on Moshe's part. So too Pharaoh reached a level of "shlach," letting Bnei Yisrael leave out of his own voluntary free will.

Up until Beshalach, Pharaoh uses the language of "lechu" when he tells Bnei Yisrael to temporarily leave Mitzrayim and serve their God. Lechu is a forced directive, as we find by Avraham where God commands him "lech lecha." Similarly, in this case, Pharaoh was doing this out of forced will and not free will.

Though God still hardens Pharaoh's heart in the last instance, when he pursues the nation of Israel to the sea, we do nevertheless see an act of free will by Pharaoh in being meshalech Bnei Yisrael from Egypt. This could be a frame of reference to understand his capacity of doing teshuva, and ultimately, in his final rule, leading Nineveh to do teshuva.

Steven Genack  
Passaic

### Work With President Trump

Like him or not, Donald Trump is the duly and fairly elected POTUS. The Democratic leadership is apparently unable to internalize this fact. Their hatred is engendered by their crushing disappointment over the humiliating defeat of the entitled "Messiah," ending the dream of continuing power. Political power is their obsession. This "trumps" all sense of responsibility for the welfare of our beloved country. They are determined to pursue the fantasy of undoing the results of the election of 2016.

They are totally committed to the destruction of the POTUS. They are delusional in their belief that he and his administration are not legitimate. They will oppose any policy that has his "fingerprints." Sad for them and sad for us.

It is long past time for them to acknowledge the results of 2016 and get on with the task of genuine governance. They must negotiate with the POTUS with the aim of promoting our safety and welfare.

Jerrold Terdiman, MD  
Woodcliff Lake

### Leftist Does Not Mean Secular

I could not help but laugh when I read the letter to the editor by Marc Sapin from River Edge ("Differing Approaches to Secular Jews," January 10, 2019). There is not a single word in my letter ("We Are Our Own Worst Enemy," January 3, 2019) of which he speaks that even mentions "secular Jews."

Perhaps Mr. Sapin equates all leftist self-hating Jews with secular Jews but that is his problem, not mine. He is also very clearly not a regular reader of The Jewish Link, for if he were he would have read several of my letters in which I condemn the ultra-right charedi Jews for failing to credit and give thanks to the non-Orthodox and secular Jews who fought so vigorously in 1947/48 and who worked so hard before that to build up what has become the very successful state of Israel. And for that matter, who defend Israel today as part of the IDF.

Perhaps Mr. Sapin should dig a little deeper into the facts before he makes comments about a letter or its writer and he should certainly not put words into a letter that are simply not there. If he re-reads the letter he will find words like "leftist" and "progressive," but never secular.

Clearly he thinks that all secular Jews are also leftist and progressive and anti-Israel. Thank God he is wrong. I do, however, now know where he stands.

Rabbi Bob Mark  
Clifton, NJ

### How Torah and Science Mesh

I always enjoy Ben Rothke's very insightful book reviews, including his latest one on the sometimes perceived conflict between the Torah's description of Genesis and current scientific theories. As a scientist, I never thought there was a conflict, and was instead amazed at the agreement

between them. I think the problem came about because it took scientists thousands of years to explain what the Torah so accurately described some 3,000 years ago. And in addition, making the adjustment in time scales, where one may reasonably equate three million man days with one God day, even both time frames become similar.

Let's start with day one, when the Torah talks about God creating the heavens and the earth, which was unformed and void, and God says, "Let there be light." This is not the light of the sun, which came later. This is in amazing agreement with current scientific description of the Big Bang, which formed the universe. Cosmologists compare the Big Bang to a massive super-nova explosion, which is the brightest light that occurs in the universe. In fact, remnants of the Big Bang can still be measured today as microwave background radiation after over 14 billion (man) years. There is no conflict between Torah and science.

On day two, the Torah describes the formation of heaven and earth. The current scientific explanation is that the primordial soup formed at the Big Bang evolved into the universe as we know it now, through subsequent condensations and accretions, first into subatomic particles then lighter atoms like hydrogen and helium, then into heavier atoms, and then gasses, liquids and solids. Finally, these coalesced into larger bodies (some so large and hot that they ignited as stars) and galaxies. All these within the vast void of space. Again no conflict.

On days three, four and five, the Torah describes the separations of the water on earth into oceans, the sprouting of vegetation on the land and finally the formations of life as we know it, first from the seas, and then coming onto the land. Amazingly, even the chronological sequence of events is generally in agreement with current scientific theories, except for the apparent transposition of the events of days three and four. In the Torah, day three describes the earth and vegetation, and day four describes day and night. These seem to be reversed, but since the Torah is not

# JEWISH LINK

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just a book of history, but also of laws, ethics and great literature, it often describes events out of strict chronological order, depending on their content. No real conflict.

On day six, we see the coming of man himself. This completed the Torah's narrative. All that remained was to wait 3,000 years for the scientists to develop their theories to verify it.

Max Wisotsky, PhD  
Highland Park

# When Faith Goes Out of Fashion



By Jonathan S. Tobin

On New Year's Day, a law banning Jewish religious slaughter went into effect in the Flanders region of Belgium.

But as far as the legislators who passed the legislation and the voters who support them, this abridgement of the religious freedom of the Jews of Antwerp is a small price to pay in exchange for a measure that they think is kinder to animals.

Like efforts to make it harder for Jews to observe their religious traditions elsewhere in Europe—a list that includes not only attacks on kashrut, but also efforts to ban circumcision—there's little doubt that anti-Semitism can be blamed for the enthusiasm for such initiatives. But the response from supporters of laws that take aim at kosher slaughter or other practices that fashionable European opinion deems beyond the pale is that unenlightened behavior doesn't deserve protection. Flemish legislators take the position that if Jews want to practice their religion they can do so, but only in such a manner that doesn't impinge on the majority's ideas about how to behave.

That's a standard for religious liberty that you'd think most American Jews and the groups that represent them would be morally bound to oppose. The notion that the

majority has the right to tyrannize the minority and to force religious believers either out of the public square or underground is antithetical to both the Constitution of the United States as well as the principle of support for minority rights that has always guided Jewish community policy.

But while such groups might rally to the defense of Jewish religious liberty if a Flanders-style kashrut ban was attempted on these shores, you'd be wrong if you assume that they are willing to defend other religious communities. To the contrary, liberal Jewish organizations are taking the same attitude toward Catholics and other conservative Christians when it comes to the state impinging on their religious freedom that is meted out to European Jews.

An example of this disturbing trend of Jewish support for the idea of "religious

freedom for me but not for thee" arose this week when two separate federal district judges ruled against the Trump administration in cases involving its rules for the administration of the Affordable Care Act. The administration had carved out an exception to the contraception mandate that was imposed by President Barack Obama's health-care legislation. The rule allowed religious employers to be allowed to opt out of the requirement that they pay for insurance that covered both abortion-inducing drugs and other more conventional forms of contraception.

The Trump rules followed the example set by the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the case of *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* in which the objections of the owners of the chain to being compelled to pay for services that violated their religious beliefs

were upheld. The court said that the First Amendment's free exercise clause protected business owners from being forced to violate their faith simply because Obama thought free contraception was more important than religious freedom.

But liberal Jewish groups like the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, the National Council of Jewish Women and the Bend the Arc coalition denounced the court for protecting both the owners of Hobby Lobby, as well as the Little Sisters of the Poor, an order of Catholic nuns who were similarly compelled to pay for practices that offended their beliefs. The same trio was appalled when Trump's Department of Health and Human Services put in the religious freedom exception to

➔ CONTINUED ON P. 14

## Weather Forecast

<b>FRI</b>	January 18	
AM Showers, 42°/26°		
<b>SAT</b>	January 19	
PM Snow Showers, 36°/30°		
<b>SUN</b>	January 20	
Snow to Wintry Mix, 33°/15°		
<b>MON</b>	January 21	
Mostly Sunny, 24°/7°		
<b>TUE</b>	January 22	
Mostly Sunny, 29°/20°		
<b>WED</b>	January 23	
Sunny, 36°/25°		
<b>THU</b>	January 24	
PM Snow Showers, 35°/27°		

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# Can Modern Orthodoxy Survive the Smartphone Generation?



By Ezra Epstein

For years, Modern Orthodoxy has fought hard to allow elements of secular culture into the Torah world. Modern Orthodoxy must now face a new challenge, unparalleled by any other in its history.

Once upon a time, most American Jews were able to set up their own barriers of how much influence non-Jewish culture could have on their children—how much and to what extent it could enter their homes. Television programming, monitored by the once strict Federal Communications Commission, was kosher, and inappropriate books, magazines and movies were difficult for children and young adults to access. In other words, parents, and on a larger scale, communities, had the ability to set up their own, custom-made filters between Jewish and non-Jewish society, keeping out bad influences while welcoming all the positive things secular society had to offer.

Obviously, this system wasn't perfect. Kids and certainly teenagers can always find ways to get into trouble. But this can be said of any time period and social circle and is nearly impossible to prevent. So, parents and communities did their

best to selectively benefit from non-Jewish culture, which—when done right—was a physically and spiritually safe way to live.

Unfortunately, as society changes, negative cultural influences can sneak into Jewish society without the consent of parents and community leaders. Even when they are alert and proactive, decisions are often made for them before they get the chance to voice their opinion.

Moreover, individuals may disagree with their neighbors about whether or not a particular aspect of secular culture should be embraced by Jewish society, and become frustrated when everybody else accepts it as the norm and they can no longer do anything about it. Such frustration is likely to occur if the modern world becomes increasingly immoral and spiritually dangerous, creating more causes for conflict.

When Modern Orthodoxy encounters such turmoil, it must then make a decision—to distance itself from certain aspects of secular society or to accept them—and then must be prepared to deal with the repercussions of either choice. For a while, this system worked pretty well.

Fast forward to 2019, when smartphones allow nearly every yeshiva high school student to enter into any virtual reality that an unsupervised teenage brain could hope for. By far, the primary threat

posed by the modern world to Modern Orthodoxy is technology, specifically smartphones with unmonitored internet access for teenagers. The very influences that Jewish parents fight hard to keep their children away from are visited by many teenagers in the privacy of their own bedrooms on a nightly basis.

Many if not most Torah-observant parents would be horrified by the idea of their children going to parties with alcohol and drugs, and visiting bars with non-Jewish friends. Yet, many of their children are doing those things right now in their bedrooms, with their fictional, televised non-Jewish friends.

This exposure results in Jewish teens who are under the same influences as average American public school students. And this results in Jewish teens who act and talk and think like average American public school students, at least when their parents aren't looking.

When you have a generation of young adults who visit the same places and mimic the lifestyle of average American public school students, it is nearly impossible for them to simultaneously live as Torah Jews. Every parent who spends tens of thousands of dollars annually on yeshiva tuition acknowledges this. Unfortunately they don't acknowledge this when they hand their child his first smartphone.

But it gets worse: the availability and accessibility of offensive media on the internet is so undeniably widespread that any parent with a son or daughter who has unmonitored internet access and denies the strong probability that their son or daughter is falling victim to viewing explicit content is in complete denial of the overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Any parent who remains confident in their child's ability to make proper decisions under the covers, at night, when nobody else is watching, should at least consider the fact that advertisements and pop-up ads seek out and lure even the most innocent of victims.

And let's be honest about the filters: Do we really know that they're working? While filters are a great way to protect one's child from the dangers of harmful online content, teens who discover how to get around weak filters don't subsequently inform the filters' programmers. Even parents who install strong filters on their child's phone but don't update and monitor them run the risk of their child finding ways to circumvent them.

While all these issues are obvious to members of the smartphone generation like myself, most parents are failing to keep

➔ CONTINUED ON P. 13



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## FROM THE DESK OF A YESHIVA STUDENT

### Smartphone Generation

CONTINUED FROM P. 10

up with today's world of technology. What adults fail to realize is that today's technology has transformed the world into a radically different place from the world they grew up in.

Fortunately, some are catching on. One local parent of a 12-year-old boy wrote to The Link about the dangers of social media platforms such as Snapchat, the importance of installing internet filters on children's devices and the need for parents to talk to their children about internet safety.

In response to this article, Yavneh Academy of Paramus, New Jersey, launched the Yavneh Parent Technology Suggested Guidelines to help parents create safe limits on their children's internet usage. Yavneh also asked its parents to work together to enforce a unified device shut-off time at night for each grade, to avoid the risks of leaving children unsupervised with their devices during late hours.

This is certainly progress. But let's do more.

We need a critical mass of parents saying no to unmonitored internet access for their children. Parents need to get back in the driver's seat and be unafraid to set house rules for internet usage. Allowing a child to freely access the internet is as dangerous for his brain as allowing him to drive a car without a license is dangerous for his body. Parents can start Facebook and WhatsApp groups to create a strong alliance of people determined to keep their children safe from the dangers of unmonitored internet usage.

Schools can follow the example of Yavneh Academy by educating and encouraging both parents and students about the dangers of unmonitored internet usage, providing support to switch to filtered or supervised internet. One way schools can do this by taking advantage of organizations like The Digital Citizenship Project, which seeks to help yeshiva students use the internet responsibly. In addition, schools can provide incentives for students to install filters on their phones, or to trade in their smartphones for basic phones.

Shuls can assemble their congregants on a Sunday afternoon and sponsor tech experts to check and help install filters on their children's phones, just like they sponsor sofrim to check their mezuzas.

Let's work together. If we all put in the effort, we can be confident that Modern Orthodox teens will grow up to proudly carry on the legacy of the Jewish people and make the same smart choices their parents made when raising their own children.

Ezra Epstein is a yeshiva student and a madrich at Aish Geshet. He can be reached by email at ezraepstein@gmail.com. For more of his articles, visit his blog, "Brick Wall," at ezraepsteinbrickwall.blogspot.com.

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## OP-ED

### When Faith Goes Out of Fashion

CONTINUED FROM P. 9

the ACA's contraception mandate, and is now among those celebrating the successful legal efforts of a group of Democratic state attorney generals who challenged the new rule.

Given the precedent set by the Hobby Lobby ruling, it is likely that the lower-court decisions will be overturned when the Supreme Court eventually considers these cases. Moreover, this attempt to chip away at religious freedom by liberal federal judges will only harden the resolve of conservatives to stick with U.S. President Donald Trump no matter what else is going on with his chaotic administration because the stakes in the battle to control the judiciary overshadow just about every other issue.

But what's really troubling here is not so much the partisan divide on judges as it is the willingness of so many Jews to treat religious liberty as being of less importance than their desire for free contraception, let alone the war on everything connected to Trump.

Just as Europeans shouldn't have to be Jewish to understand that threats to Jewish practices ultimately diminishes the rights of everyone—believers and non-believers alike—so, too, should liberal American Jews remember that if the rights of the nuns of the Little Sisters of the Poor

are unworthy of protection, the same thing can be done to Jews.

Even if they don't believe that the Constitution guarantees a right to free contraception (an entitlement that was unknown in this country prior to the debate over the law popularly known as ObamaCare) as opposed to a general right to use it, the vast majority of Americans aren't offended by the ACA's contraception mandate. But you don't have to share the religious convictions of the Hobby Lobby owners or the Little Sisters to understand that protecting their rights ensures our own. Yet because the Little Sisters' beliefs are unpopular, liberal Jewish groups and politicians like Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro (an active member of the Jewish community), who is pursuing the legal challenge to the Trump administration, think their rights can be trashed with impunity.

You may think that what's happening in Europe can't happen here to American Jews. But if the Little Sisters can have their rights restricted because their faith is considered unenlightened or unfashionable, anything is possible. If the First Amendment's protections don't apply to Catholics and conservative Christians, when push comes to shove they won't be there to shelter Jews either.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor in chief of JNS—Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter at @jonathans\_tobin.

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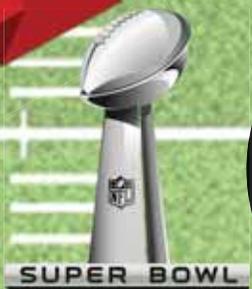


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**Withdrawal From Syria**

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

and diplomats, including U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman.

The discussion focused largely on President Trump's recent decision to withdraw American troops from Syria and the implications this policy move might have on Israel. Major General Amidror highlighted the complexity of the power balance in Syria, and how a withdrawal of American forces may be in Iran's favor.

"The decision of the Americans to pull out means that the whole Kurdish area will be under threat from Turkey," General Amidror explained. "And the question is: Is it good for the Middle East or is it bad for the Middle East? The more the Turks will be inside Syria, the less willing Assad will be to get rid of or to contain or to limit the Iranians, because it is a balance between these forces, and we don't know what the reaction of the Russians will be."

He added that the withdrawal will likely throw off U.S. allies who were not prepared to be left on their own. "It's very bad for allies who cannot defend themselves," he said. "Israel is in a unique situation because we decided in '48 that Israel would build its capability to defend itself, by itself... Other allies who did not make this decision or cannot make this decision, or found themselves in a different situation like the Kurds and some Arab countries,

they are hesitating, and they don't know how to react to this decision."

Discussing the subject of American foreign policy decisions being unpredictable, including for allies, Mr. Rosen said, "I think the [democratic] system maybe is being tested, but so far it seems to be holding up... That means all the planning and all the deals you can make—regarding Syria, Iran, everything else—can be blown up post any election, in Israel and in America. So it's a little bit of an unstable time."

General Amidror sees Iran as the key reason behind many of the challenges facing the region. This also includes the threat posed by Hezbollah, an Iranian proxy, on Israel's borders with Lebanon and Syria. The discovery and destruction of Hezbollah terror tunnels by the IDF sends a strong message to Hezbollah and Iran: "[The tunnels] gave them their guarantee that, in the case of a war, they would have something that might change the situation to their side... The fact that we succeeded to neutralize these tunnels means that Hezbollah understands that (a) they lost a very important card and (b) that they are more exposed than they thought they were."

Although it is a gradual process, General Amidror is optimistic about thawing relations between Israel and Sunni Arab nations and cooperation to resist Iran. In today's Middle East, "Arab states understand that for their benefit—not for the

sake of the Palestinians and not for the sake of Israel—for their benefit, for their interest, they have to have a different kind of relations with Israel."

The American Jewish Congress is grateful to General Amidror for offering his expertise and insight into this issue, rooted in his remarkable Middle East security

career. The geopolitical landscape of the Middle East is complex and constantly shifting; in this time of rapidly accessible information and misinformation, conversations like this take on the important role of providing deeper understanding to the public straight from the sources that matter.

**Orayta Students Enjoy a Snow Day in Jerusalem**



RKYHS alum Jonathan Kirsch of West Orange (second from left) prepares for his years in the cold at Binghamton University by enjoying the winter storm in the Old City with his Orayta friends, including Frisch alum Avi Fried (second from right).

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# AvalonBay Teaneck to Open Leasing Office in June

By Elizabeth Kratz

Ron Ladell, AvalonBay's senior vice president, was recently in touch with The Jewish Link to share details on the upcoming opening dates for AvalonBay Teaneck, a rental community housed on the former World of Wings property at 1775 Windsor Road.

The complex comprises 248 rental apartment homes. As per the town of Teaneck's request, 10 percent of those homes are set aside for affordable housing, which is being administered by a third party funded by AvalonBay. There will be 20 studio units, 101 one-bedroom units, 107 two-bedroom units and 20 three-bedroom units.



The leasing office will open in June 2019, with move-in dates beginning in July 2019. A grand opening be held with tours, either before or after the High Holidays. "We are very excited to be opening AvalonBay Teaneck," Ladell told The Jewish Link.

"We've been warmly received by both local officials and residents, who have been in touch looking for updates," he said.

AvalonBay Communities, a publicly traded Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) on the New York Stock Exchange, owns or operates close to 300 apartment complexes comprising over 80,000 apartments in 10 states and the District of Columbia. In New Jersey, Ladell has overseen the apartment complex developments in Maplewood, Princeton and Boonton. In addition to Teaneck, Piscataway and Edgewater are also set to begin leasing shortly. Over the past few years, AvalonBay has built communities in Bloomfield, Union, Roseland, Somerset, Wharton, Bloomingdale, Woodridge,

Hackensack, North Bergen, West Long Branch, Tinton Falls, Lyndhurst and Lawrenceville, and has also purchased communities in Aberdeen, East Rutherford, Hoboken, Plainsboro and Watchung.

It has been approximately four years since that AvalonBay Edgewater fire, which was noteworthy in that the entire property was lost, though there was no loss of life. AvalonBay, as a result, voluntarily decided to, systemwide, enhance fire-suppression systems and fire-safety standards. Teaneck also made specific requests regarding fire safety two years ago, all of which AvalonBay agreed to.

➔ CONTINUED ON P. 20

# Kaplen JCC Launches Pickleball With Stavri Tennis Academy

(Courtesy of Kaplen JCC on the Palisades) Always looking to help people find new ways to stay in shape, reach their fitness goals and have fun doing it, the Kaplen JCC on the Palisades is launching pickleball in its state-of-the-art indoor gym facilities this February with the Stavri Tennis Academy. Pickleball is one of fastest-growing sports in the United States, combining elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis, where two or four

players use wooden paddles to hit a wiffle-like ball over a net. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn, but the fun part is that it can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for players to grow with.

People interested in starting the New Year with a great, healthy sport that provides exercise, socialization and fun all at the same time are welcome to attend a free Pickleball Open House on Monday,

February 4, 10-11:15 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., where they can learn about the game, meet the coaches and even try their hand at playing.

Beginner Pickleball clinics will then begin February 11 and meet for four Mondays through March 4. People can sign up for 8, 9, 10 or 11 a.m. sessions that meet for 50 minutes each. Cost is \$90 JCC members; \$110 public. Equipment is provided. More experienced players are encouraged

to take part in open play time, which will be offered on Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Cost is \$10 JCC members and \$15 public, which can be paid per session or by purchasing drop-in cards for extra savings. Equipment available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Due to its growing popularity as a national sport, early registration is suggested. Register online at [jccotp.org/pickleball](http://jccotp.org/pickleball). For more information, call Esther at 201-408-1456.

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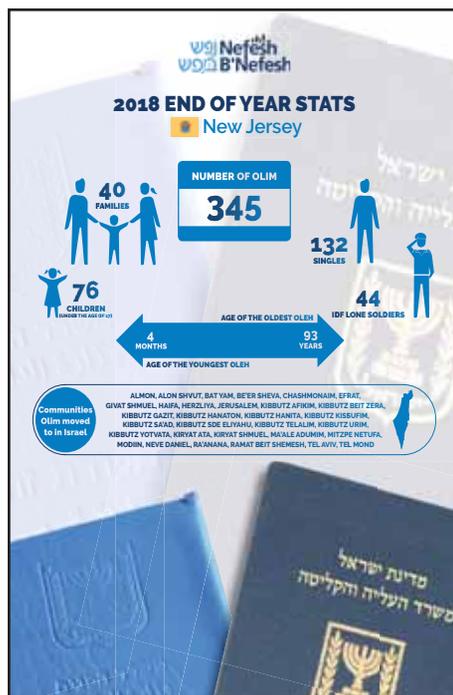
**Bris Avrohom Fair Lawn Plans Tu B'Shevat Women's Night**

A women's evening celebrating Tu B'Shevat, the New Year for the trees, will take place on Monday, January 21, at 8:00 p.m. Discuss the mystical meaning and practical life lessons from this holiday, while enjoying a delightful buffet of exotic fruits and wines!

All are welcome, at no charge. The event will take place at Bris Avrohom of Fair Lawn, 30-02 Fair Lawn Ave. To register, visit [www.jewishfairlawn.org](http://www.jewishfairlawn.org) or call 201-791-7200.

**Nefesh B'Nefesh: 345 New Jerseyans Made Aliyah in 2018**

A total of 345 New Jersey residents immigrated to Israel in 2018—including 40 families, 132 singles, 76 children under the age of 17 and 44 future IDF lone soldiers—according to year-end figures released by Nefesh B'Nefesh, the organization dedicated to removing or minimizing the finan-



cial, professional, logistical and social obstacles of aliyah.

The olim from New Jersey, who range in age from 4 months to 93 years, make up approximately 10 percent of the 3,546 immigrants to Israel from North America during 2018. Over the course of the past five years, more than 2,000 New Jerseyans have made aliyah.

New Jersey's new olim during 2018 moved to more than 30 different communities across Israel, ranging from major cities to kibbutzim, and from the country's center to its periphery.

Since its founding in 2002, Nefesh B'Nefesh—in cooperation with Israel's Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, The Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Kayemeth Le'Israel and JNF-USA—has facilitated the aliyah of over 57,000 North Americans. The support and comprehensive social services provided by Nefesh B'Nefesh to its newcomers has ensured that 90 percent of those olim have remained in Israel.

**Stern College for Women at YU Receives Major Grant for Collaboration Lab**

Stern College for Women at Yeshiva University has received a major grant from the Selma T. and Jacques H. Mitrani Foundation to renovate a space on the Israel Henry Beren Campus into a computer science collaboration lab. Once completed, students in the Stern College computer science program will have a dedicated space to work on coding, creating and collaborating.

"The Mitrani Foundation has been a cherished partner of Stern College for Women," said Dr. Karen Bacon, The Mordechai D. Katz and Dr. Monique C. Katz Dean of Undergraduate Faculty of Arts and Sciences. "Their prior investments have literally reshaped the College, and this grant will now enable the women studying computer science to become leaders in the field, not only technically but in keeping with the ethos of Yeshiva University."

The lab will consist of two rooms equipped with the latest in equipment and spatial design, such as projectable glass walls for presentations; a 3D printer, Arduino processors and other fabrication tools; and pivoting walls that will create larger spaces for events such as hackathons. The expected completion date for the lab is the Spring 2019 semester.



The new Stern College computer science program has about 30 computer science majors with many additional students minoring in the field. Recent Stern College graduates have been able to land jobs in firms such as Google, Facebook, UBS, JP Morgan and others, and current students also do internships with these companies and others. Stern CS students have won scholarships and recognition in the field. Faculty expertise covers the newest innovations, curriculum is constantly updated to keep pace with technological changes and periodic hackathons match coding skills to creative ideas.

**AvalonBay Teaneck**

CONTINUED FROM P. 18

The Teaneck property has four stories of apartments next to a five-story parking garage. It will include a two-story fitness center with state-of-the-art Technogym equipment and Fitness on Demand, a resident lounge with free Wi-Fi capability and dining entertainment areas, three outdoor courtyards with barbecue grill stations and numerous seating areas, an outdoor heated pool, an outdoor dog run and a package acceptance system that allows residents to pick up their packages 24/7. The secure covered parking garage will provide residents direct access to their floor.

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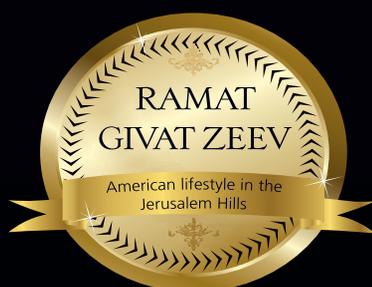
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# MAKING HISTORY

New Jersey's Nonpublic School Security Funds are **DOUBLED** this Year!



NJ Governor Phil Murphy signs bill A.4597 into law on January 8, 2019 at YBH of Passaic. The historic legislation doubles security funding for nonpublic schools to \$22.6 million. He is joined by leaders of the Assembly and Senate who sponsored the bill and other dignitaries.

## New Jersey's Day Schools Will Be Safer Than Ever Before!

Teach NJ and our coalition partners have led the fight for fair funding to keep school children safe. As a result of our advocacy and the hard work of our coalition partners, New Jersey's nonpublic schools will be able to better protect our children.

We thank Governor Murphy, Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Assemblyman Gary Schaer and the State Legislature for allocating a **total of \$22.6 million for our schools this year!**

We salute the Catholic Conference, Council of Islamic Schools in North America,

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Agudath Israel, Association of Christian Schools International, Association of Jewish Federations of New Jersey, and dozens of Jewish, Catholic, Christian, and Islamic faith based schools who joined our fight in Trenton to keep ALL school children safe.

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and help us thank our government leaders who made this historic funding possible.

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# TABC Inaugurates New Makerspace With Mezuzah Dedication

By Adam Samuel

On Wednesday, January 9, Torah Academy of Bergen County (TABC) inaugurated their Makerspace, a beautiful, new state-of-the-art venue in the building for engineering and other science classes. With attendance including staff and parents, the ceremony was led by Head of School Rabbi Asher Yablok, engineering teacher and STEM coordinator Aryeh Tiefenbrunn and chair of the Tanach department Rabbi Howard Jachter. A wine and cheese reception accompanied the event, followed by a short program and tour of the space.

The school's Makerspace officially opened at the beginning of November. In the time since, students have been able to use the space, which includes state-of-the-art equipment, such as a 3-D printer and an assortment of different tools and electrical equipment, for their schoolwork and recreation. On hand at the event was even a working electric ukulele that had been printed there by the students. Tiefenbrunn, who was also one of the designers of the room, explained in an interview with The Jewish Link that students have eagerly taken to using the space to explore their studies and hone their creativity. He hopes they will continue to use it to come up with new ways to better enhance the world.



Tiefenbrunn showing off the mezuzah at the dedication. (CREDIT: ADAM SAMUEL)



The cabinets of the Makerspace that were customized by students. (CREDIT: ADAM SAMUEL)

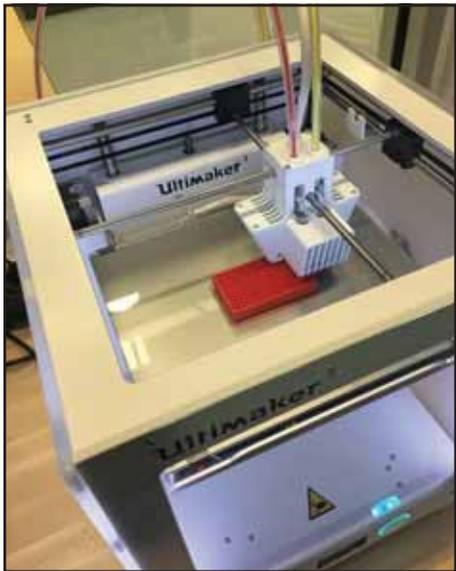
ed and how to put all the different pieces together. The windows, which open into the hallway, were specifically designed to encourage students to feel welcome and a part of it. Rabbi Yablok elaborated that put-

ting it together was an extensive and rigorous operation, but one well worth it.

"Today [was] an opportunity for parents to come in and see a project come together that we'd been working on and see how it's

coming to life and what we've been using it for," Rabbi Yablok shared. "The Makerspace started with a vision to find a proper home

➔ CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



One of the two 3-D printers in the Makerspace. (CREDIT: ADAM SAMUEL)

"We're hoping our students take from the Makerspace the concept of having an idea and using it to help the people around them," Tiefenbrunn shared. "When they come into the room they are going to see high ceilings, wide walls and open windows, representing our vision that what students learn and do in the space should apply in a broader context to their lives. It's been so great how we've had students who might not have otherwise been interested in STEM coming in because they saw the space and wanted to learn more about it. I'm really happy with how things have been turning out."

Putting in the Makerspace was a project that had been in development for a number of months. The process involved the school working with a STEM consultant and interior designers to work out what was need-

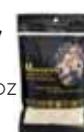


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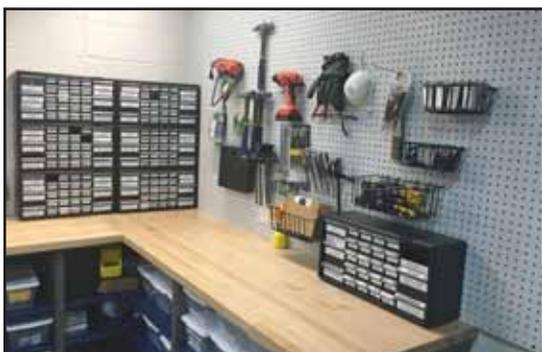
**TABC Inaugurates New Makerspace**

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

for our engineering program as well as to improve and grow our science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines. We really wanted to create something that would allow our students to feel like they



The screen showing at the Makerspace event. The ukulele to the left was 3-D printed there. (CREDIT: ADAM SAMUEL)



Some of the tools available in the Makerspace. (CREDIT: ADAM SAMUEL)

have a place where they can explore a concept or new idea that they otherwise would have maybe passed on. We could never have gotten to this place without the very generous support of several TABC families who had the faith in us and the vision to donate the seed money to build this space and develop our STEM curriculum. TABC gratefully appreciates the generous Legacy Learning Labs matching challenge grant made possible by a prominent national foundation to help build this new beautiful state-of-the-art Makerspace. As we look to expand our program, engage more faculty and integrate STEM across our broader curriculum, we are continuing to look for partners in this area."

The mezuzah used in the inauguration was printed by students in the Makerspace. In the time since its opening they have taken to decorating and personalizing the room with their creations, such as the words "TABC MAKERSPACE" hanging over cabinets. Seeing the students really enjoy their work and making the room their own is what's been the most rewarding part of the process for Rabbi Yablok.

"We want every one of our students to be exposed to a proper foundation in the STEM disciplines, but more importantly, whether or not they end up pursuing a career in engineering, coding

**Moms and Kids Bake Challah in Fair Lawn**

On Sunday, January 13, moms and children joined for a delightful evening of community, friendship, inspiration and fun at the challah bake at Bris Avrohom of Fair Lawn. Participants mixed, kneaded and shaped their own challah, enjoyed wine, music and refreshments, recited the special blessing for the challah, and learned about the spiritual meaning of this traditional bread.



(r-l) Nicole Galinsky, Julia Galinsky, Ilanna Fishman, Nicole Reitikh, Zhanna Usharovich. (CREDIT: IGOR PERCHUK)

or circuitry and robotics, we want them to really feel like they have an outlet for their creativity," Rabbi Yablok continued. "We're so grateful for the supportful donors who saw this vision, and I'm excited for the direction this takes us here at TABC. Our identity is founded on a balance of being rigorous in everything that we do, and watching

every one of our departments grow like this one makes me excited about the fact that if a student comes here, they will be exposed to the very best."

Adam Samuel is a journalist from Teaneck. He blogs at [adamsssoapbox.com](http://adamsssoapbox.com).

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## Rabbi Benjamin and Shevi Yudin to Be Honored for 50 Years of Service

*(Courtesy of Shomrei Torah)* Congregation Shomrei Torah of Fair Lawn is pleased to announce the kickoff of a tribute campaign to honor Rabbi Benjamin and Shevi Yudin. The Yudins, who several months ago notified congregants of their intention to move on to the next phase of their lives, will assume the titles of rabbi and rebbetzin emeritus at the end of this coming summer. It will cap off an amazing 50 years of service.

The Yudins literally put Fair Lawn on the map as a desirable Jewish community after taking up the reins back in 1969, transforming the town into a recognized and respected center for Torah and chesed. When they first arrived, only a Shabbos minyan existed, which took place in the rabbi's basement across the street from the current 275-member synagogue. Even for that lone minyan, Rabbi Yudin would often have to flag down people walking by to ensure they had the requisite 10 men. Now, there are three daily morning minyanim, a daf yomi, a complement of morning and evening learning opportunities and a bais medresh program, as well as a nursery school and the town's only mikvah.

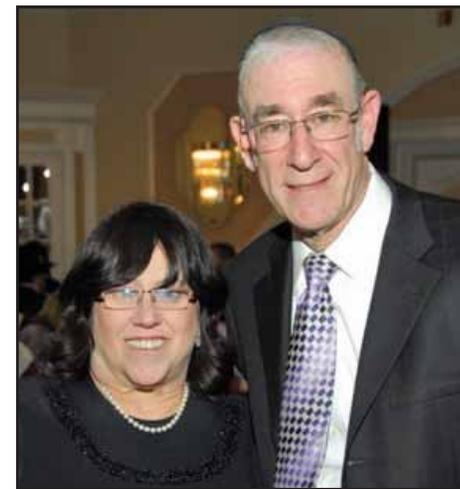


making their presence regularly felt via hospital and nursing home visits to bring a smile to those most in need.

As the Yudins prepare to assume their new roles, the Tribute Committee believes it is being presented with a rare opportu-

nity for hakarat hatov, giving thanks and showing appreciation for all they have done. Therefore, over the coming months a major effort will be undertaken to demonstrate the gratitude by all those touched by the Yudins over the years. This will include a gala dinner this coming April 7 to honor Rabbi Benjamin and Shevi Yudin, a renaming of the Shomrei Torah campus after the couple, and a beautification and enhancement campaign of their greatest legacy, Shomrei Torah.

As plans progress, there will be periodic updates. To this end, A special website has been set up at [www.yudintribute.org](http://www.yudintribute.org) and a brochure has been printed. There will be donation opportunities as well. Meanwhile, for additional informa-



Rabbi Benjamin and Shevi Yudin

tion, or should you have any questions or interest in helping with this project, please contact either Gil Irwin at 201-805-5351 or [Gilon.Irwin@gmail.com](mailto:Gilon.Irwin@gmail.com), or Dori Zofan at 614-315-4870 or [Zofand@jrcrcny.org](mailto:Zofand@jrcrcny.org).



Rabbi Yudin has often said that there is no such thing as standing still in Judaism: "If you are not moving forward, it means you are slipping backwards." He has vigorously pushed for so many initiatives over the years that have borne fruit. As Shomrei Torah grew, the entire Orthodox presence in Fair Lawn took off, with that single Orthodox synagogue blossoming to seven.

Rabbi Yudin, a Yeshiva University graduate who counts Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik and Rav Dovid Lifschitz as his role models, is the rare rabbi who is equally comfortable in the company of the ultra-Orthodox as he is with baalei teshuva. Both the rabbi and Shevi are known worldwide as the personifications of chesed, regularly hosting numerous guests for Shabbos and Yom Tov, warmly welcoming strangers to sleep at their home for as long as needed, tirelessly making themselves available at all hours of the day and night to share in the greatest joys and most difficult challenges of their congregants, and

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| 5' Hero Package #1                                              | <del>140.00</del> | 100.00 |
| Salami, Bologna, Pastrami, Turkey Breast                        |                   |        |
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# Over 500 Guests Join YUHS at Annual Dinner of Tribute

*(Courtesy of MTA)* Yeshiva University High Schools welcomed more than 500 guests at its Annual Dinner of Tribute on Monday, January 7, at Marina del Ray. Guests joined the YUHS journey and explored the strong mesorah, top-tier education and powerful legacy that both Yeshiva University High School for Boys (MTA) and Yeshiva University High School for Girls (Central) are known for. The dinner paid tribute to guests of honor Jonathan '91 and Jessica Landa (YUHSB parents) and Robin and Nazila Baradarian (YUHSG parents); Faculty Award recipients Liora Haibi (YUHSB) and Leah Moskovich '07, YUHSG; and Alumni Achievement Award recipients Shuey Jacoby '02, YUHSB) and Rabbanit Shani Taragin '91, YUHSG).



C.B. Neugroschl, head of school, YUHSG, with guests of honor Nazila and Robin Baradarian. (CREDIT: ELIE CREATIVE)



Rabbi Joshua Kahn, head of school, YUHSB, with guests of honor Jessica and Jonathan '91 Landa. (CREDIT: ELIE CREATIVE)



Rabbi Joshua Kahn, head of school, YUHSB, with Faculty Awardee Liora Haibi. (CREDIT: ELIE CREATIVE)

The program included a video series highlighting each honoree as well as the strong Torah, academic and extra-curricular programs provided by the Yeshiva University High Schools. "Our Annual Dinner is a celebration of the Yeshiva University High Schools' mission to build pathways for success for all of our students so that they can

grow as b'not and b'nai Torah with an enthusiasm for their avodat Hashem and for the myriad ways in which they contribute to our community," said YUHSG Head of School C.B. Neugroschl. "Our honorees inspire all of us to treasure the special school community we have and to invest in our children because they will be our future."

The event concluded with a Student Activities Fair, where both YUHSB and YUHSG students showcased their talents in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including chess, robotics, Torah bowl, Rambam Bekiyut, coding and math. Guests enjoyed interacting with students and learning more about their intellectual pursuits.



C.B. Neugroschl, head of school, YUHSG, with Faculty Awardee Leah Moskovich '07. (CREDIT: ELIE CREATIVE)



Rabbi Joshua Kahn, head of school, YUHSB, with Alumni Achievement awardee Shuey Jacoby '02. (CREDIT: ELIE CREATIVE)



C.B. Neugroschl, head of school, YUHSG, with Alumni Achievement Awardee Rabbanit Shani Taragin '91. (CREDIT: ELIE CREATIVE)

"The dinner is a celebration of the Yeshiva University High Schools. It brings together our impressive parent body, which is comprised of educators, including elementary school principals; Jewish communal leaders; and parents from different communities; along with YU roshei yeshiva and other distinguished guests," said YUHSB Head of School Rabbi Joshua Kahn. "Through our honorees, we pay tribute to the dedicated members of our community, as well as highlight our values of Talmud Torah, academic excellence, commitment to middos and holistic development, leadership and cultivating the talents and interests of our talmidim."

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# Upcoming European Mission to Highlight Crucial Process of Jewish Identification

*(Courtesy of Tzohar)* The Soviet Jewry movement is often cited as one of the most important and successful Jewish activist efforts of recent decades.

And rightly so.

As a result of an international campaign, combining both public and clandestine activities reaching the highest levels of government, well over 1 million Jews would be blessed with freedom. And while Jews from the former Soviet republic would make their way all over the globe, the largest migration would come home to Israel in an aliyah that would transform the very nature of the state of Israel.

Years later, the acclimation of this community has been largely successful and these immigrants have made an indelibly positive mark on the makeup of the country.

Yet, in one of the most troubling and often unknown developments in modern Israeli society, the very Jewish identities of hundreds of thousands of these immigrants is constantly being questioned—most often by Israel's religious authorities. As a result, when individuals of Russian and Ukrainian ancestry want to marry according to Jewish law, the authorities often put bureaucratic obstacles in their way. The couple can then face a difficult choice:



find a way to prove that they are in fact of Jewish descent, or pursue a civil marriage outside of Israel. This is not only a decision with immediate consequences but one that will impact their children and the generations to come who would not be able to prove their Jewish roots.

Addressing this challenge has become the daily work of an increasingly important program called Shorashim (Roots), a project of the Israel-based Tzohar organization, and will also become the focus of an

upcoming mission to the Ukraine to be led by Rabbi J.J. Schacter and Tzohar Founder Rabbi David Stav.

The mission, to take place May 15-21, will enable participants to understand firsthand the work of Shorashim to prove Jewish roots. This is a complex and often costly process that entails digging through yellowing archives hidden deep in small Ukrainian and Russian villages. The mission will provide a fascinating glimpse into that effort while also visiting sites around Ukraine associated with the rich Jewish history that defined that area for centuries, including Berditchev, Breslov, Kiev, Mezhybizh and Odessa.

matters was the fact that certain key Jewish relatives had been killed in the Holocaust without any death records—in this case in the forest of Babi Yar outside of Kiev where tens of thousands of the city's Jews were murdered over a few days in September 1941. Reconstructing the case of Sergei's parents, grandparents and great-grandparents required extensive detective work involving Yad Vashem archives and testimony from relatives still living in Kiev. Eventually, the case was closed to the complete satisfaction of the rabbinate, and the couple married in a traditional Jewish wedding and has begun to build a proud Jewish family.

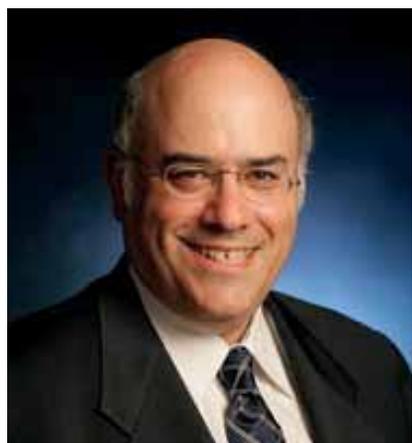
While particularly dramatic and complex, the case of Sergei and Nitzan is not unique and, to date, Shorashim has proven the Jewish roots of over 50,000 immigrants to Israel. For every case that Shorashim closes, the result is that some four or five additional family members are able to be verified as Jews. The organization works in close collaboration with the rabbinate and every case that Shorashim completes has been accepted by the rabbinical court.

Rabbi David Stav, who helped found Tzohar in 1996 as a way to bridge the social gaps between the Jewish communities in Israel, describes Shorashim as one of the most important ways to ensure the community of immigrants receives the dignity they deserve.



## Shorashim Special Mission to the Ukraine with Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter

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The challenges—and opportunities—inherent in the work of Shorashim were revealed in the recent case of one Israeli couple who went through the process ahead of their marriage. Sergei and Nitzan came from very different backgrounds. But like many couples in the diverse culture that is modern Israel, they met in the army and quickly knew they wanted to spend the rest of their lives together. The real challenge came when the couple finally decided to get married and learned that Sergei would need to prove his Jewishness.

Sergei had been born in Ukraine and, like for many Jewish children from that area, there were non-Jews within his extended family tree. Further complicating

“For years we called on these Jews to come home, and, now that they have, we cannot turn our backs on them and say they aren't good enough,” Rabbi Stav said. “This mission will allow people to understand the importance of this process while personally exploring the sites of a rich Jewish history that was destroyed in that region. I invite you to join myself, Rabbi Schacter and others on this voyage of discovery and help contribute to a process that will build a more united and proud future for Israel and the Jewish people.”

To find out more about the upcoming mission, please send an email to [jeremy.stern@tzohar.org.il](mailto:jeremy.stern@tzohar.org.il). Registration for the mission will close by January 31.

For more information, please contact: [jeremy.stern@tzohar.org.il](mailto:jeremy.stern@tzohar.org.il) or (914) 979-2680



**Novel 'Hebrew School' Program**

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

these: The cost of yeshiva day school has become difficult to manage. Many community members work multiple jobs and still can't make ends meet with the ever-increasing cost of tuition. This in turn has caused many families to make the decision to move their children to public school. In some cases, students have specific social or academic needs and don't necessarily qualify for a SINAI program or other resources yeshiva day schools provide, yet they still require some form of support. In other cases, some families simply no longer desire a full-time Jewish education. Whatever the reason, the number of kids leaving yeshiva is growing rapidly, compelling many community advocates to create a new model that will hopefully assist with these problems and concerns.

Co-founders/co-chairs Moshe Glick, Ira Bloom and Larry Rein, who together have

worked on community outreach programs for many years, including the highly successful Shabbat Project this past November, which welcomed over 200 guests for Shabbat in West Orange, are spearheading the development of Kulanu. The program will offer public school students an opportunity two or three times a week to engage in Torah-based studies. It will also provide social opportunities for many kids who would otherwise be lost from the fold upon leaving yeshiva. The impact is particularly felt on Shabbat, when friends get together to socialize, and public school kids feel gradually removed from their former circles.

According to Glick, once these kids drop out of yeshiva, they are at risk to lose their social connections as well as their religious affiliations. "We want to create a vehicle for social and educational opportunities for kids who are no longer in yeshiva or who have never attended yeshiva," he said. In order for these kids to live a Torah-observant

lifestyle, Glick believes it is the responsibility of the community to provide the framework in which to do so.

"There are a growing number of children leaving yeshiva for a variety of reasons, as well as a large number of Jewish children who have not attended yeshiva. In addition, many attended afternoon Hebrew school, and typically do not continue past their bar/bat mitzvah. What is our communal responsibility towards these children? We strongly believe it is to ensure that they are connected to their Jewish heritage, maintain Jewish social connections and engage in Jewish learning. Our goal is to provide a spiritual life raft in a sea of assimilation," explained Glick.

Kulanu is the first school of its kind locally and has been met with recognition and enthusiasm. Local rabbis support this proposal and realize that in today's environment where the number of kids leaving yeshiva is on the rise, a program like Kulanu may be very much in demand. Glick

and his co-chairs want to make it very clear that they are not advocating that students leave yeshiva. They unanimously agree that yeshiva education is a priority, but recognize that for many it is not viable.

"The model will work in partnership with community infrastructure. The objective is not to lure people away from yeshiva, but rather to offer those who have left an opportunity to preserve their Jewish affiliations as best as possible," Glick explained. Kulanu's goal is to inspire children to feel more connected to their Jewish heritage and grant them the opportunity to live committed Jewish lifestyles.

"Kulanu is a unique opportunity to keep the Jewish flame lit for those children who may not have the opportunity of formal Jewish education, the effects of which can last for generations to come. Making a positive difference in young people's Jewish lives with the full support of the Orthodox Jewish community makes this endeavor not only worthwhile, but necessary," said co-founder/co-chair Ira Bloom.

Both NCSY and The Friendship Circle are proponents of this endeavor. NCSY sends representatives into local public schools to visit Jewish student unions where they meet kids who identify as Jewish and would be ideal candidates for this program. Both organizations have agreed to assist in this mission.

The curriculum promises to be inspiring and interactive, led by dynamic and engaging rabbis and teachers who can connect with the kids and provide basic Jewish education. Enrollment will be open to all students, regardless of their educational background. Seed money has already been raised and no one will be turned away as a result of financial constraints. The program is still in the planning phase and hopes to launch at the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic school year.

A focus group to determine more specific community needs will be held on Sunday, January 27, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Renee and Moshe Glick. As the focus group will be limited to 15-20 participants, please RSVP to any of the co-chairs: Ira Bloom, 973-868-9051, ibloom6@gmail.com; Moshe Glick, 973-865-2446, mglick-us@gmail.com; or Larry Rein, 973-714-3951, reinlawrence@gmail.com.

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# Highland Park & Edison Host Teaneck Officials

By Harry Glazer

One big question observant Jews face as they engage in the political process is: How do you work closely with people of different faiths and different beliefs?

This question was the focus of the January 12 event of the Orthodox Forum of Edison/Highland Park, a grassroots organization that conducts an annual series of public events with noted speakers addressing topics of interest. To explore this topic, they invited two New Jersey municipal leaders who are strong role models in this area.

Mohammed Hameeduddin was elected as Teaneck's first Muslim councilman in 2008. He became mayor in 2010 and served until 2014. The township council re-appointed him as mayor in 2016 and again in 2018. He grew up in the Bronx, the son of an Indian Muslim family, and attended Rutgers University. Married, and the father of two sons, he owns the HW Title Agency in Hackensack.

Elie Katz, a member of the Teaneck Orthodox community, was first elected to the township council in 1997. He is a lifetime member of the Teaneck Volunteer Ambulance Corps and cofounder (with Reverend Daniel Meys of the Teaneck Assembly of God) of the Teaneck Helping Hands Food Pantry. He graduated from TABC and Touro College. Married with three children, he is president and CEO of National Retail Solutions in Newark.

Moshe Kinderlehrer, co-publisher and co-founder of The Jewish Link of New Jersey, The Jewish Link of the Bronx, Westchester and Connecticut and The Jewish Link Media Group, moderated the discussion.



Mark Abraham welcomes attendees to the event. (CREDIT: HARRY GLAZER)

Deputy Mayor Katz believes that he and the mayor share a proactive approach and try to go wherever there is a concern or problem, whether it be at a shul, a mosque or a church in town. He stated that because of their close working relationship, the mayor can motivate him to work even harder for their town.

He shared the story of how one night, during a winter storm, the mayor called him and said, "What are you doing?" Katz said he had just responded to emails from 30 residents who lost power and now he (Katz) was getting ready to go to bed. The mayor urged him to come outside and join him to search for a PSE&G truck to help residents. Katz came outside and the two men drove around. They soon found a PSE&G truck and persuaded the driver to come to Teaneck and work on restoring power to residents.

no foreign policy in clearing snow or picking up leaves."

Deputy Mayor Katz extolled the support he has received in the Muslim community, stating that the local mosque is usually the first to hold a kick-off event for his campaigns and the first to hold a victory party for him. Both men cited, as one of their proud moments, the Police Vehicle Loan Program created by the township council after the Pittsburgh tragedy; this program stations unused Teaneck Police Vehicles at local houses of worship.

Central New Jersey community members who attended the discussion gave it lots of praise. "I think politicians on the national level could learn a lot from these guys," said Aaron Epstein. "Because they both have such great attitudes, I'm sure that even if a foreign policy issue came up that they disagreed on, they could deal with it."

Josh Fine, a Highland Park Borough Council member and member of the Orthodox Forum planning committee, said, "I was glad that both Mayor Hameeduddin and Deputy Mayor Katz stressed that the key to effective municipal governance is for locally elected officials to serve all residents and not just cater to the demographic to which they belong.

Susan Hornstein remarked: "It was refreshing to hear a discussion of politics that focused on people's actual needs and didn't just devolve into partisan issues."

Mark Abraham, chair of the Orthodox Forum, stated afterwards: "This year, the Orthodox Forum's events have been looking at our involvement outside of our insular community. With this program we wanted to explore what issues are involved with Orthodox Jews actively engaged in government. What we witnessed was a refreshing look at two public servants who defy labels and even model how citizens from different backgrounds can cooperate to make government work the way it should."



Moshe Kinderlehrer (right) moderates the discussion. (CREDIT: HARRY GLAZER)

Mayor Hameeduddin credited his start in Teaneck politics to two Orthodox Jewish Councilmembers, Adam Gussen and Elie Katz; Gussen urged him to apply to take a position on the planning board in 2006 and Katz encouraged him to run for council two years later. He said that he has learned to "take people as I find them, to try to find common ground whenever possible and to work with people to meet their needs." His hope is that "we are planting seeds, where people can look at each other and not just through religious eyes."

Mayor Hameeduddin talked about the impact that a Shalom Hartman Institute-sponsored trip to Israel had on him and how he learned to better understand the State of Israel and Zionism. He said that he believes that most people in the U.S., on all sides of Middle East issues, "just want to live decent lives, raise their children and get along." As he sees it, within the Muslim community, 80 percent have "moved on," while perhaps 20 percent "haven't moved on." "And it's the 20 percent who try to bully the 80 percent." He said as well, "There's

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# THE FAMILY LINK

## OF NEW JERSEY

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### RECOVERY

## Parents Tell Their Story

By Joyce and Marty Litchman

*Our thanks to Joyce and Marty Litchman for sharing their story with us. We're sure this will resonate with some of you out there.*

I am the parent of a recovering drug addict. I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy. It began innocently. When my son, Ben, was 8 years old, he was diagnosed with ADHD and was prescribed Ritalin. My husband, Marty, and I trusted our pediatrician, and Ben began taking the medication. It certainly helped with the ADHD, but we had no idea at the time the monster that the medication created. By the time Ben was in middle school, he was no longer taking the medication, but instead, crushing and snorting it. From there, Ben just went onto much bigger and better drugs. There wasn't anything he didn't try.

Ben eventually went off to California for college, and that is where he found his drug of choice, heroin. We were totally

unaware. Even when Ben came home for school breaks, he was very good at hiding his addiction. We had no clue he had a heroin problem. In his senior year, his addiction got out of control. We got a call that he needed to go to rehab. Since he was in his last semester before graduation, Ben told us his professors would only allow him to miss 10 days of class, so he could only go to rehab for that period of time. Being new to this club that we never wanted admission into, we said yes. We had no idea that 10 days in rehab was worthless and a total waste of money. Ben came out and went right back to his old ways.

When Ben came home after the summer, he had no job or place to live, so of course he moved into our home. Problems quickly escalated, and it was apparent that Ben had a serious drug problem. He went into a 30-day rehab. Marty and I were grasping at straws, and looking for answers as to what we could do to save Ben. I

was reading the Jewish News one day and saw an ad for a play that was being performed at Temple B'nai Or in Morristown called "Freedom Song." The article said that it was being put on by a rehab facility in California called Beit T'Shuvah. Marty and I went to see the play. We had no idea that that evening would change the trajectory of Ben's life. The play was written and acted by recovering addicts. The theme of the play was set around the Passover seder and focused on how people are enslaved and how they can find redemption and freedom. As I watched these 20 or so young people put on this play, I thought if these people could get their act together and get clean, so could Ben. Marty and I were so impressed by the message of the play and all of the young people who performed it. Afterward we spoke with the cast, and we left with information about Beit T'Shuvah. We were so excited to find a Jewish faith-based rehab and couldn't wait to share this new-found information with Ben. It fell on deaf ears, but I tucked the information away, and from time to time, I did bring it up to Ben.

Marty and I finally went to a support group. We sat around a table with about 10 people as they told their stories. It was all the same story. Their addicts lied, stole from them and were manipulative. We walked out of that meeting saying "That is not our son," and never went back. Well, that was indeed our son, and we came to find that out quickly.

Marty and I so wanted to help Ben, only to discover years later that we were not only, *not* helping him, but in fact, allowing him to continue down his dark and scary road. We were enablers. Ben spent years in and out of detox and rehabs, and more often than not came back home and the cycle began again—lying, stealing, cheating, manipulating. We thought we could fix him, and so we spent good money after bad bailing him out of all his legal problems: bailing him out of jail, paying neglected tickets that escalated to hundreds of dollars. We just kept pouring money into keeping him out of trouble,

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# THE FAMILY LINK

## Teaneck Preteen Packs in the Mitzvot

When 12-year-old Sydney Jerome joined her cousin's family in Israel for a bar mitzvah this past summer, she didn't know it would inspire her own bat mitzvah project. But after visiting and volunteering at Pantry Packers in Jerusalem, packing food to be distributed to the needy around Israel, Sydney was inspired to something on her own to give back to those in need.

"There are so many people around the world in need of assistance, and I thought the best place to start helping is our homeland," she said.

Over the course of five weeks, Sydney, who lives with her family

in Teaneck, baked a total of 132 dozen cookies and raised \$1,326 to be donated to Pantry Packers. "I don't have the breakdown of how many dozen per type of cookie, but I can tell you rainbow sprinkles was the most popular, hands down," she joked.

Pantry Packers, one of Israel's most popular volunteer experiences, operates out of a Jerusalem warehouse, where families, individuals, groups and schools come to learn about thousands of Israeli families struggling with poverty and help package dry goods and foods that will be delivered around the country. Colel Chabad is Israel's

longest-running social services organization, helping care for needy families and the elderly since 1788.

"When children see their parents and families investing not just financially but physically in the future of someone else, that experience sticks with them," says Rabbi Menachem Traxler, director of volunteering at Pantry Packers. "It becomes part of who they are as they grow up, bringing us another generation of charity and giving. We are so proud of Sydney and her family and the wonderful work they have done to raise awareness and the funds to help feed two families for a whole year."



Sydney Jerome with cookies she baked to raise money for Pantry Packers.

### Parents Tell Their Story

CONTINUED FROM P. 35

and it was getting us, and him, nowhere. As long as he needed to get money to support his habit, the cycle would never stop. We were Ben's safety net, and he knew it. Finally, things came to a head when an expensive piece of jewelry went missing, and we knew Ben took it. It was a cold winter day when we told Ben to pack up and get out. That was probably the worst day of our lives, but we knew we had no choice, and that Ben had to decide what direction he wanted his life to take. From time to time we spoke about Beit T'Shuvah, but Ben wanted nothing to do with it.

To sit and watch our child turn into some stranger whom we no longer knew, do things that were unimaginable and feel helpless made matters worse. There were so many tears and so much heartache. Marty and I decided we had to take a step back and let go because we weren't helping him. This was the hardest thing ever. Ben always knew we loved him, but now he had to figure things out for himself.

Ben was finally ready, and in January of 2016, we got a call that a bed was available at Beit T'Shuvah. I was so happy and truly believed that the "Shuv" was the magic bullet Ben needed and would be his last stop on his road of addiction. As it turns out Beit T'Shuvah was everything and more than we had ever dreamed of. Ben arrived scared and nervous but quickly fell into the routine and was so happy there. It is such a warm and nurturing place. They made Ben realize that it was ok to be imperfect and to embrace exactly who he is. Today, Beit T'Shuvah is Ben's California family, and he has stayed connected to so many people there. He goes back every year on his clean birthday to celebrate. Ben has been clean for two years and three months. He is happy, health, thriving and getting married. For me that is enough for today.

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# THE FAMILY LINK

## Staycation Ideas for Winter Homebodies

By Jenny Gans

Students and teachers are working hard, trying to cram as much as they can into the last couple weeks before Yeshiva break. But thoughts keep drifting toward long-awaited vacation plans. For those who feel left behind during these days, rest assured: Many activities await that do not require flying, and the most packing that has to happen does not have any baggage fees, because it rarely involves more than lunch and snacks.

While parents may find it difficult to zero in on a single activity that caters to a range of ages, the trick is to find a location or event with a range of activities that has something for everyone.

### North Jersey and Surrounding Areas

There are many tried and true fun activities in the immediate area. Bowling and ice skating are low key and fun activities for many different ages. (Though ice skating can get iffy depending on skill, it's still always fun.) High Exposure unleashes the inner Spider Man in kids and adults as you scale walls or train for the next American Ninja on their course. Or visit the recently renovated FunTime Junction in

Fairfield, which can entertain kids of all ages for a full day.

Trampoline parks have been “springing” up across the country, with Urban Air Hackensack, Rebounderz in Edison and Bounce in Nyack, as well as the SkyZone chain, popular excursions. Here’s a pro trip from seasoned staycationers—look for areas outside of the main “yeshiva week” spots, such as Wayne or Allendale. Sometimes it’s only an extra 10 or 20 minutes, but these off-the-beaten-path locations are often less crowded since most schools in those areas are in session.

For something unique, Ocean Ice Palace in Ocean County takes ice skating to a new level and offers bumper car rides on the ice. While walk-ins are available, they recommend making a reservation for this winter outing. Visit their website at [www.ocean-hockey.com](http://www.ocean-hockey.com) for specific hours and pricing.

### Philadelphia

Just two hours away, Philadelphia boasts a range of interesting sites that can entertain a variety of ages, often an issue for families. Minyan and kosher food options exist there too, whether in Philadelphia and its suburbs, or a half hour closer to home in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Philadelphia can easily be a day trip, but with so

many activities there, it can also serve as an overnight vacation.

Geared toward children ages 7 and younger, the Please Touch Museum is a multi-sensory, hands-on experience that incorporates science and imaginative play into its exhibits. Kids can shop in a supermarket—complete with mini shopping



At Ocean Ice Palace, visitors can ride bumper cars on the ice.

carts and scanners—learn about aqueducts (friendly warning—it’s a wet activity), build rockets to see which shapes are the most aerodynamic and follow Alice’s journey down the rabbit hole.

For a more cerebral activity with older kids, the Franklin Institute is a science and history museum. With live science shows, a memorial to Philadelphia’s famous citizen Benjamin Franklin, a planetarium and many traveling exhibits as well as perma-

nent hands-on exhibits, learning becomes a fun and interactive activity for everyone. And just in case the family needs a break, the museum hosts fascinating documentaries, many included with admission, and an IMAX theater playing full-length films, though that is often a premium admission.

Animals lovers can check out the Camden Aquarium, located right outside of Pennsylvania, and if it happens to be a mild winter in the Northeast, visitors may also be interested in the Philadelphia Zoo.

A unique Philadelphia activity can also include the Eastern State Penitentiary. The ESP, as it is known, was once the most famous prison in the world, but today stands as a spot for visitors to take in its Gothic architecture and a tribute to some of its most infamous criminals, including the notorious Al Capone.

### Connecticut

Closer than Philadelphia, parts of Connecticut offer unique activities as well. For a novelty day trip, families can visit The Pez Factory. Less than an hour and a half away from North Jersey, travelers can leave after morning rush hour traffic, spend a couple of hours there, and come home

➔ CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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# THE FAMILY LINK

## Enjoy Staycation Ideas

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

before the afternoon rush. Though there is a working factory on site, it is more of a museum and a tribute to the vast assortment of items turned into Pez dispensers. Grownups will enjoy the nostalgia as they find Pez dispensers from their youth, and kids will enjoy pop culture turned into candy dispensers. Every paid admission comes with a \$2 credit to use in their store, and most dispensers cost \$1.99, so everyone comes home with a souvenir. They also have games that involve looking around the museum for hidden dispensers, which allows anyone who plays to win another free Pez dispenser. They are completely accommodating to the kosher visitors. When asked, they will swap out the packaged Pez with candy from the kosher Paskesz run at a one-to-one exchange. What could be bad about candy and more candy?

## Manhattan and the Boroughs

Sometimes, just traveling over the bridge can seem like an exciting trip. Manhattan's bustling pace can seem light years away from New Jersey to children not used to its frenetic activity level.

If you missed the Candytopia visit this past fall, there's another offbeat and fascinating exhibit in New York City. The Mu-

seum of Illusions brings mind-bending and visually confusing art and displays to Manhattan. While some illusions may be the classic visual tricks we are used to seeing, the museum promises new illusions to twist your brain.

In recent years two exciting new venues appeared on the Times Square scene. National Geographic Encounter: Ocean Odyssey is an "immersive entertainment experience" that makes visitors feel as though they are inside the ocean and coming face to face with its inhabitants.

Gulliver's Travels is another stop for a NYC excursion. Like the character in Gulliver's Travels, visitors feel like giants as they walk around miniature cities. Visit Israel, Russia, Latin America and Asia all in one day, while using the key given to you at entry to make exhibits come to life. The intricate details keep adults fascinated as they notice jokes, trivia and historical aspects of each exhibit.

Kids will love the American Girl Doll Store, also sometimes referred to as the American Girl Doll Museum, to prevent the expectation of buying everything. If they own their own doll, they can bring

her to the store and have her hair styled, buy her new accessories or just carry her around on the tour. Even without owning a doll, the store is floor to ceiling imagination and fun.

Any Jimmy Fallon fans out there? For children 6 years and up, the NBC Studio in Rockefeller Plaza takes guests on a backstage tour of the studio where many favorite shows are filmed. Advance registration is not required, but is strongly suggested.

For suburban kids, just riding on a subway or train can be a vacation thrill. Add to that a visit to the MTA museum, and the subway just became an entire activity. Housed in an historic subway station in downtown Brooklyn, visitors learn about the history and structure of the subway system. It also includes age-appropriate workshops and hands-on experiences for children. There are also the NYPD and NYFD museums, both always a hit with the kids.

The Yankee Stadium Tour is a fun activity, even for family members not as interested in baseball as their sports-minded counterparts. During the off season, the tour includes the New York Yankees

Museum, Monument Park, Press Box and the Warning Track/Legends Outdoor Seating. If baseball fans just can't bring themselves to tour Yankee Stadium, rest assured that Citi Field offers its own tours as well. Non-Gameday tours include a visit to the Jackie Robinson Rotunda, views of the production control rooms, dugout and bullpens and the Mets Hall of Fame Museum.

Even without stepping on a plane, staycation activities can ring up a high tab. Always read The Jewish Link for exclusive coupons to local activities. Also, check discount websites such as Groupon or Goldstar for cheaper tickets (many of the activities mentioned above have discounts currently available), sign up for emails from the venue for unadvertised specials or try to organize a group of friends for lower group rates.

Of course, any trip requires a little bit of planning and foresight. "Hanger" management is important for kids as well as adults, so make sure to pack snacks and meals if necessary. A camera or a phone with enough space to snap all the adorable pictures can be taken care of in advance, and activities to keep riders entertained during the trip can all enhance the staycation experience. Also, remember to bring along a first-aid kit.

Enjoy the winter break, whatever distance from home you may be!



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# The Riddle of the Word 'Chidah' (Riddle)



By Mitchell First

The word "chidah" (chet-yod-dalet-heh) appears 17 times in Tanach in various forms. The basic meaning of "chidah" seems to be a riddling

question. (But sometimes the word is used with a broader meaning.)

The earliest example of a riddle in Tanach is one that Shimshon challenged to the Pelishtim. The phrase used by Shimshon was "achudah na lachem chidah." The riddle itself was a cryptic six-word statement alluding to food, with the last three words being: "u-meaz yatza matok" (=out of the strong, came forth sweetness). The Pelishtim were supposed to guess what Shimshon was alluding to. (He was alluding to his having recently eaten honey from bees that were in the carcass of a lion.) He gave them seven days to figure out what he was alluding to and specified a reward to them if they could. After a few days, they threaten Delilah and have her get the answer from Shimshon. Delilah gets the answer and secretly reveals it to them.

The riddle of today's column is: What is the origin and meaning of the verb chet-vav-dalet and the noun chet-yod-dalet-heh? Surely these words have their origin in something more concrete than "riddle."

Just to review, we all know of a verb Ch-D-H that means "rejoice." (E.g., the word "chedvah.") We also all know of a verb Ch-D-D that has a "sharpness" meaning. (Remember that by "va-yichad Yitro," Ex. 18:9, Rashi mentions both of these as possible interpretations.) But nowhere in Tanach, outside of this riddle context, are there verbs chet-vav-dalet or chet-yod-dalet.

A widespread explanation is as follows. Parts of the book of Daniel are in Aramaic. There the word for riddles has an aleph in front of it: A-Ch-Y-D-N. (The N reflects that the word is in the plural.) The suggestion is that perhaps the original word for riddle in Hebrew had that initial aleph. The root would be A-Ch-D. The next step is to realize that dalet and zayin are related letters in Semitic languages. So A-Ch-D would have a meaning like A-Ch-Z. We all know that the root A-Ch-Z means "seize." But sometimes in Tanach it seems to have a meaning like "shut, close up." See Nech. 7:3 and the Daat Mikra commentary there. So the suggestion is that a riddle comes from a "shut,

closed up" meaning of the root A-Ch-D, since a riddle is something whose meaning is "shut" and "closed up."

Of course, not everyone agrees with this multi-step solution. We just took a word in Hebrew and assumed that there was once an initial aleph there that got lost. Maybe that was not justified.

Maybe Aramaic added the initial aleph. In Akkadian, for example, there are words similar to "chud" and "chidah" that may mean riddle. In these Akkadian words there is no initial aleph, just like in Hebrew.

What are our other choices to explain chud and chidah?

The Brown-Driver-Briggs work noted an Arabic word "hada" that meant "turn aside, avoid" and suggested that it was perhaps connected to the Hebrew word because of the "obscure" nature of a riddle.

The more recent work Koehler-Baumgartner related it to an Aramaic root chet-vav-dalet that means "to join together." This is also implied in the entry of Jastrow, p. 430. Presumably, the idea is that a riddle joins together two different subjects. Something like this is found in Man-

delkern, relating it to an Arabic word that means "join."

Another suggestion notes that there is an Arabic word with the root chet-dalet that means "tied a knot." (Note that at Daniel 5:12, after it refers to Daniel as a solver of riddles, it calls him a "mesharei kitrin" =a loosener of knots.) This "knot" origin approach is taken in the Soncino commentary to Judges 14:9. The comment there is: "The word chidah is derived from a root 'to tie in a knot'..." (Even in English, we have the expression "knotty problems.")

Upon reflecting on all this, I realized that, pre-solution, a riddle is a knotty problem that needs to be solved. But post-solution, the riddle joins two disparate ideas. Perhaps the first step in understanding the etymology of the word is to decide whether we think the Hebrew word for riddle more likely would describe the pre-solution situation or the post-solution situation.

I mentioned in a previous column that the etymology of the word "safek" (doubt) remains "uncertain"! So here too, we will conclude that the etymology of the word "chidah" remains a "riddle"! (Perhaps we should ask Adam West to ask Frank Gorshin!)

P.S. I cannot leave this topic without mentioning Mandelkern's suggestion that every riddle has a "sting" to it. Thus he suggests a relation to the verb Ch-D-D!

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# A Grandfather's Crown



By Rabbi Zecharia Senter

The following was presented on Father-Son Learning Day at Yeshiva Heichal HaTorah, delivered to the students of his grandson, Rabbi Zev Senter.

Sixty years ago, my wife's zeide, Rav Moshe Aaron Poleyeff, z"l, spoke at our sheva brachos. In honor of his granddaughter, he explained a pasuk from Mishlei (17:6) by Shlomo Hamelech.

בְּטוֹרַת זְקֵנִים בְּנֵי בָנִים וְתַפְאֶרֶת בָּנִים אֲבוֹתָם  
 "Ateres zikeinim bnei vanim," The crown of grandfathers are their grandchildren. "Vsiferes banim avosam," And the glory of children are their fathers.

Rav Poleyeff asked why both parts of this pasuk do not correspond. They should either say that the glory of children are their grandfathers or, inversely, that children are the crowns of their fathers.

The second half of the pasuk, he explained, refers to the fact that children proudly look up to their parents, often bragging to others about how great they are. For example, imagine a man coaching a Little League baseball team. A young player hits a long home run, way into the outfield. After rounding the bases, the coach pats him on the back and says, "Wow! That was amazing!!" The boy re-

plies, "You think I'm good? You should see my father play!"

And why is it that Shlomo Hamelech writes in the first half of the pasuk that the zeide's glorious crown are his grandchildren, not his children? Why is there this disparity?

Because true Yiddishe nachas is when you see that what you have given over to your child is being passed to the next generation. It is when you see that the Torah you have learned, the precious ideas you have treasured, have been successfully handed down to your sons and daughters, who then relay our mesorah to their children.

Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik, z"l, asked, "Among the three Avos, who is the only one specifically referred to as a zeide, a grandfather?" The answer is Yaakov Avinu, who is called "Yisrael Saba" (Bereishis Midrash Raba). The Rav explains that this is because he was the only one of the Avos to teach his grandchildren. Avraham never taught Yaakov. Yitzchak never taught any of the shevatim. Yaakov, however, is depicted as connecting with and directly giving over to his grandsons, the sons of Yosef, Ephraim and Menashe, the Torah he himself had inherited from his father, Yitzchak.

When I was teaching at Yeshiva University, I took the opportunity to attend shurim given by Rav Ahron Soloveichik, z"l, who shared the following insight.

On Friday nights, many fathers give their precious children the blessing "Yisimcha Elokim k'Ephraim u'k'Menashe," May God make you like Ephraim and like Menashe (based on Bereishis 48:20). Why do we single out Ephraim and Menashe as the source for this bracha? Why not "like Yosef Hatzadik," their father? Or "like the sons of Yaakov Avinu"?



of tumah, and yet they remained committed, dedicated and devoted Jews.

And so, parents give this bracha that their children be like Ephraim and Menashe, to teach them that "Wherever you go,

wherever you wander, wherever you find yourself—be loyal to the teachings of the Torah that you have learned, passed down from generation to generation until today."

Rabbi Zecharia Senter is the founder and president of KOF-K Kosher Supervision, one of the largest kosher certification agencies serving the Jewish community worldwide. He was a talmid of Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik, z"l, and received semicha from Yeshiva University's RIETS.

## The Riddle of the Word 'Chidah'

CONTINUED FROM P. 40

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Now I would like to discuss one "riddle" of a word that was discussed recently in a column at *balashon.com*.

When I read The Wall Street Journal, they sometimes refer to a big corporation as a "behemoth." What are they alluding to? In the book of Job, verses 40:15-24, there is a section that describes an extraordinary animal and uses the word BHMOT ("vehemot"). We all know the word BHMH for a single animal and the plural appears several times in Tanach to refer to many animals. But in this section of Job, the plural form is used but it is referring to one animal. What is going on here?

One view points out that the plural in Hebrew can sometimes refer to only one object. For example, this may be the explanation for "Elokim" as a name of God. (See Ibn Ezra to Gen. 1:1.) Another example is "adonim" that is used for one master. See, e.g., Isaiah 19:4 and Malachi 1:6. The plural is a sign of respect or extraordinariness. So at Job 40:15, the proper translation would be something like "super-beast."

But the other view of BHMOT at Job

40:15 would say that we have just missed something major and completely misinterpreted the word. The word is the Hebrew word for "hippopotamus"! The Hebrew word would have been based on the Egyptian word for hippopotamus: "pehemau." Those who take this approach then have to argue that all the details of the beast over the nine verses match the description of a hippopotamus. (Rabbi Slifkin believes that they do. See his "Sacred Monsters," pp. 185-87.)

The author of the *balashon.com* site suggests a compromise position. When that Egyptian word "pehemau" was heard by the Israelites, they Hebraicized it to "behemoth." The result is a word that looks like Hebrew but really had a foreign origin.

On a related note, I am still waiting for archaeology to find the original name of the Aramean king "Kushan-Rishatayim." See Judges Chap. 3. Probably this was not exactly his original name, but the Israelites twisted it a bit to make him "doubly wicked"!

Mitchell First can be reached at MFirstAtty@aol.com. A riddle for my readers: Which Jewish Link columnist has a (distant) relative named "Last"? That would be me!

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# In the Heart of the Beholder



By Rabbi Dani Staum, LMSW

During the past few years I have perused the advertisements in our community's wonderful weekly publications. Based on those advertisements, I have come to a realization of the ideal manner in which a person in our community should spend his year. I may have missed some events, so don't take any omission to mean they shouldn't be on this list:

In September one should go to the Hiddabroot convention weekend in Connecticut where he can enjoy Elul inspiration.

Rosh Hashanah is spent in Uman by the kever of Rav Nachman. Then one should fly off to Eretz Yisrael where he will spend a lofty Yom Kippur and Sukkos at the holy places and visiting gedolei Yisrael.

A few weeks after returning home, he should return to be at Kever Rachel on Rachel Imainu's yahrtzeit, and perhaps stick around a few days so he could be in Chevron for Parshas Chayei Sarah.

The Shabbat Project hosts a weekend at the end of October in Stamford, which cannot be missed.

Of course, one should attend the entire Agudah Convention during Thanksgiving weekend.

For the final week of the secular year, the Nefesh conference for mental health professionals is a must. New for this year one can travel to the kever of the Ba'al HaYanya on his yahrtzeit, and to the kever of Rav Shayala Kerestirer on his yahrtzeit. The yarchei kallah in the Mir in Yerushalayim is an incredibly inspiring event where one can recapture some of the spiritual magic of his yeshiva days.

Shabbos Parshas Va'eira is the Ohr Naava convention, followed by the Dirshu convention the next week, Shabbos Parshas Bo.

Shabbos Shira and Tu B'shvat should be back in Eretz Yisrael where one can attend the tish of a rebbe or two. Parshas Mishpatim is the Keravtuni shabbaton.

If one's children attend a Modern Orthodox yeshiva, he should bring his family down south for yeshiva week where they will enjoy water sports and hot weather in a posh hotel with a daily Daf Yomi shiur. If he's in Miami, he or his wife might also run in a marathon for tzedakah. If one's children attend more yeshivish yeshivos he should bring his family to a fancy hotel down south the following weekend, and only stay from Thursday to Sunday night.

At the end of Adar, he should head off to Lizhensk for Reb Elimelech's yahrtzeit. Pesach can be spent at Gateways or one of the other upscale hotels that provide incredible programs, featuring the most elite speakers and entertainment our community has to offer.

The Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation weekend and the Project Inspire weekend are both incredible, and of course he can't miss the Torah Umesorah Convention during Memorial Day weekend.

Shavuos with Greenwald Caterers is an amazing experience. Then Tisha B'Av must be spent back at the Kosel, followed by a special Shabbos Nachamu event in the Crowne Plaza.

What a year!

Before I continue, please don't misunderstand the point of this article. I am absolutely not discounting the importance, value and incredible chizuk that can be gleaned from the various shabbatons and events listed above. They are each beautiful events that spiritually (and physically) elevate all those lucky enough to be in attendance. They are all extremely inspiring and enjoyable experiences, and anyone who is able to attend such a weekend will not regret it.

But I doubt I'm the only one who sometimes feels remiss that I am unable to afford to attend these events, each of which costs a considerable amount. For the masses who struggle mightily to pay tuition, send their children to summer camp, and afford daily life in our community, most of these wonderful events are beyond their means.

Not only do we need constant chizuk, but we often need chizuk about getting, or not getting, chizuk. We need to remember that ultimately chizuk comes from within—based on what we choose to internalize and focus on. While momentary chizuk is easier to glean from beautiful and heartwarming events, lasting chizuk is dependent on the efforts of the recipient.

Chizuk is potentially all around us if we are seeking it. The rabbanim in our communities expend much effort each Shabbos to deliver powerful messages in their drashos. Sometimes we can gain chizuk from a comment or from an event that happens. It's all in how we view life around us.

I would love to have the opportunity to attend more of the events mentioned above, and those who are fortunate to attend should appreciate the opportunity. But for the rest of us, we should not be discouraged that we cannot take part. Although the ads in the local Jewish papers may unwittingly make us feel that our lives are incomplete, and our Judaism is remiss if we aren't there, that is hardly the truth.

Chizuk is in the heart of the beholder!

Rabbi Dani Staum, LMSW, is a rebbe and guidance counselor at Heichal HaTorah in Teaneck, NJ, principal at Mesivta Ohr Naftoli of New Windsor and a division head at Camp Dora Golding. He can be reached at stamtorah@gmail.com. Looking for "Instant Inspiration" on the parsha in under five minutes? Follow him on TorahAnytime.com.



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## Beshalach and The Gathering



By Moshe Taragin

The triumph at the Red Sea was convincing and final. Watching their former taskmasters washing up on the jagged banks of the ocean convinced the doubtful slaves that their freedom was final and that their Divine protection impermeable. This newfound confidence and faith erupted in national song and ambitious language. Their imaginations ignited, the Jews sang to their God after years of muted silence under Egyptian oppression.

Much of this jubilant song surrounded the actual drama unfolding before their very eyes: chariots and militias being tossed by the sea, furious waters being stilled on behalf of Jewish passage, and taunting threats of our enemies being easily dismissed by Hashem. Yet, the final stanzas of Az Yashir revolve around visions that their optical eyes couldn't visually behold. The Jewish imagination quickly turned to future thoughts of entering the Land of Israel, achieving sovereignty and constructing a Temple. The final section of Az Yashir reverberates with visions of Israel and the Mikdash. What aspect of this miraculous ocean passage awakened such vision and redirected their thoughts from the seaside cliffs to the Land of Israel? How did this watery tempest ferry their spirits to Yerushalayim?

Evidently, their vision was awakened by the "gathering" effect of this event. Wild and untamed ocean waves were neatly gathered to enable safe passage of Jews. The surging swells of water were likewise "packed" to engulf the Egyptian columns: "U'veru'ach apecha ne'ermu mayim nitzvu k'mo neid nozlim, Through Your Spirit the waters were heaped, fluids stood at attention, and depths were frozen [and solidified] in the ocean abyss." Something about this gathering of water was deeply resonant and stirred their imaginations.

In truth, all of human history began with a similar "gathering." Human experience begins when God gathered the original primal waters, which had previously covered the entire Earth. By collapsing global waters into particular oceans, God created continental peninsulas to enable sustainable human life and prosperity. Initially, when humanity squandered this privilege through moral degeneracy, God restored the waters to their original, unrestrained sweep and Man had no space under these flooding waters. The great mabul wasn't an indiscriminate punishment but merely a reversal of the original gathering; humanity no longer deserved their carved-out peninsulas.

The original gathering during creation, responsible for the launch of human experience, established a historical pattern—collecting scattered elements into specific areas. The Divine gathering of water provided a metaphor for a human mission of gathering. What are humans meant to gather

er in parallel to the Divine gathering of water?

For one, we strive to gather God's presence and to condense it into one saturated presence. This has very distinct meaning in kabbalah and the consequent human task of collecting the divided presence of Hashem and integrating it into one indivisible wholesomeness reflecting His indivisibility. However, even in the world of empirical religious experience (niglah) we strive to "gather" Hashem's all-pervasive presence and to align it within a specific location—the Land of Israel, Yerushalayim and of course the Mikdash. The saturated presence of the Shechinah is experienced more deeply in these areas of "gathered" presence.

In fact, King David senses the manner by which the original "water gathering" serves as a metaphor for the gathering of Divine presence. In a well-known chapter of Psalms (24), King David considers the creation of mainlands through water contraction: "ki Hu al yamim yesada, God founded the continents upon the [previously unbounded] water." Abruptly, his attention shifts toward the actual Temple and the mountain upon which it rested: "mi ya'aleh behar Hashem... who will ascend the mountain of God?" The Zohar detects the seamless transition in this Psalm—from reflections upon the original repositioning of primal waters to thoughts about the repositioning of the Shechinah atop the mountain of God. The Jews at the sea evidently sensed the same innate parallel that King David intuited. Watching these gathering waters reminded the Jews of creation waters and in turn of the prospect of gathering before a Mikdash; ultimately, Az Yashir turns away from the gathered sea waters and imagines the ultimate gathering in Jerusalem.

In fact, both the Jews at the sea and King David employ the very same word to describe the Mikdash. The term "naveh" typically refers to the Temple based on its aesthetic beauty. In a similarly themed Psalm (93), which unites thoughts of water with dreams of Mikdash, King David writes "To Your beautiful and holy house—l'veitcha na'avah kodesh—employing this term "na'avah" to describe the Temple. He employs the exact same term that was twice uttered by the Jews at the Sea. In the end of the song at the sea we referred to the Mikdash as "Neve Kodshecha" while in the beginning we alluded to it through the term "V'anveihu," which stems from the same root of "nava." For King David as well as our ancestors at the sea, the gathering of waters—both at the point of creation and during our safe passage from Egypt—suggested Temple construction and the centering of Divine presence in our world. Their employment of the exact same term to describe the Mikdash merely highlights their common association between gathered waters and Yerushalayim.

CONTINUED ON P. 46



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## Parshat Beshalach Victory Without Unity



By Rabbi Neil N. Winkler

One of the themes of Sefer Shoftim is that of *chet* and *onesh*, sin and punishment. The book relates to us the pattern of sinfulness repeated by Bnai Yisrael generation after generation and the resulting punishments. Having failed to fulfill Hashem's demand to remove the idolatrous natives and, with them, their depraved behavior, the Israelites suffer under the yoke of various nations whose oppressive rule caused the people to cry out to God for salvation. In response, Hashem sends them a "savior," a shofet (generally a military leader), who brings them temporary relief from their suffering, but upon the leader's death the people lapse once more into sinful behavior. And this pat-

tern repeats throughout the 350-year period of the shoftim.

In this week's haftarah, the fourth and fifth prakim of Shoftim tell the story of Israel's defeat of the powerful Canaanite king, Yavin of Chatzor, and his general Sisera. Israel is led by the prophetess Devorah who receives word from God to gather an army and to march northward to fight against the oppressive rule of Yavin. Hashem, having heard the cries of His people, guarantees the prophetess and her general Barak victory in battle, but gathering an army from all the tribes—especially those who felt no immediate threat from the Canaanites—proves difficult for her.

This episode, one of the earliest in Sefer Shoftim, marks a change from the previous threats to the nation. The first stories in Sefer Shoftim tell of Aram and Moav, foreign powers who invaded and cruelly dominated the Israelite tribes. In

the haftarah, however, we read for the first time of the rule of a local nation, a nation that Israel was commanded to drive off the land. In this case, Hashem's punishment of Israel reveals their sin openly, as the very nation they were commanded to evict was now oppressing them. As the Malbim points out, God carried out His promise that those nations who were not removed from the land would become a "thorn in the side" of Israel.

Devorah's song of victory, like the story of the Canaanite chariots that were washed into the waters of the Kishon River, connects us to the events of our parsha, Moshe's song of praise that followed the destruction of the Egyptian chariots in the waters of the Reed Sea. Ultimately, however, the story of Devorah also teaches us why the Israelites did not merit a king to lead them. A national leader of Israel would have to unite the nation

and be seen as an agent of Hashem, crediting God for what the people might regard as the king's accomplishments. Devorah sang her song praising Hashem and acknowledging that the victory was His. But even she could not unite all of the tribes and create a united army that would defend *all* of Israel. As Sefer Shoftim itself proves, miracles alone will not awaken the people to the fact that they are one.

That would have to wait for an inspired man of God who would lead, judge and teach *all* of the people of Hashem's ways.

It would have to wait for the next book in Tanach.

And it would have to wait for its author, Shmuel HaNavi.

Rabbi Neil Winkler is the rabbi emeritus of the Young Israel of Fort Lee and now lives in Israel.

## TU B'SHEVAT

## Seeds of Hope: The Secret of Tu B'Shevat

By Lea P. Davidson, Puah Institute

If you were to choose a time to celebrate the new year for trees, when would you make it? Springtime, when budding leaves announce the tree's renewal? Summertime, when trees and flowers are in full bloom?

Or how about the dreary, barren dead of winter?

Even in Eretz Yisrael, the month of Shevat is deep into the winter season—an odd time to celebrate trees. But then, there's much that is seemingly odd about the holiday of Tu B'Shevat, starting with the premise of the day itself. A New Year just for trees? What, exactly, are we celebrating?

And why the big emphasis on eating fruit? One would think decorating our homes with plants and greenery would be a more fitting way to declare our tree appreciation.

It's no accident that Tu B'Shevat seems rooted (pun intended) in mystery. Indeed, it's a holiday where the esoteric comes out full force: a special, kabbalah-laced Tu B'Shevat seder is held, and there are joyous songs and minhagim celebrating the fruits of our holy land. What, then, is the secret of Tu B'Shevat?

It seems clear that the message of the day is directed not toward the trees, but to us. As the pasuk in Parshat Shoftim (Devarim 20:19) states, "*Ki Ha'adam eitz hasadeh.*" According to the Maharal, the Torah here is homiletically comparing man to a tree.

What, then, is the lesson we can take from Tu B'Shevat and apply to our own lives?

To suggest one possibility: the message is in the fruit. We look at a tree at this time of year and we see something bare, apparently lifeless. But what do we, with our limited vision, know? In reality, there is a seed inside lying frozen that is being nurtured and growing—a seed that will eventually bear fruit. So, too, there are times in our own lives when we feel frozen, barren, accomplishing nothing of significance. But growth isn't about accomplishment; it's about what is happening on the inside, and sincere internal growth will always bear fruit in the end. The Mishna Berura (131:31) quotes the Magen Avraham that there is

a minhag to eat fruit on Tu B'Shevat—because the fruit is integral to the day. Fruit on Tu B'Shevat represents our hidden potential waiting to emerge.

Working at PUAH, I find this message particularly poignant. Every day we receive hundreds of phone calls from couples waiting desperately to produce their own "fruit." How long will their winter last? How much time does the longed-for little neshama need to incubate before it can join them in this world?

These are the great mysteries of life that we humans are not privy to. But sometimes it is enough just to know that—as Tu B'Shevat teaches us—beneath the cold, dark earth there is hope and there is life.

### Beshalach and The Gathering

CONTINUED FROM P. 44

Not only did King David sense the metaphor of water gathering, but Yirmiya

grasped it as well—not just as a template for the gathering Divine presence but also for the amassing of human assemblies. Describing the flocking of all humanity to Yerushalayim during the Messianic era (3:17), Yirmiya employs the term *v'nikvu* (they will

gather), which is the exact word utilized to describe the gathering of Creation waters—*yikavu hama'im*. For Yirmiya, gathering Divine presence and centering it within Yerushalayim is only one aspect of "gathering." For the Divine Presence to be fully ex-

pressed in the human realm, an entire civilization must rally around that presence and assemble in this location. For Yirmiya, gathered waters imply a Temple, but more so, the gathered waters represent throngs of human beings eager to be inspired by the Divine presence.

There is great irony in this dual symbolism of the gathered waters—irony that yields an important message. The water imagery at the sea was associated with the death of our enemies and their deserved suffering. However, as Jews, we don't delight in this misery and we certainly do not envision our role in history as the "defeaters" or "drowners" of other nations. We are meant to represent God in this world, draw His presence to our Homeland and draw a convocation of the entire planet to Jerusalem. The gathered waters represent our attempt to gather the presence of God, but also every human being to celebrate that presence.

Rabbi Moshe Taragin is a rebbe at Yeshivat Har Etzion located in Gush Etzion, where he resides.



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# Beshalach: Recognizing Hashem's Ongoing Miracles



By Rabbi Baruch Bodenheim

Many years ago in Europe, a wealthy Jewish businessman made his living exporting lumber from Kovno to America. One time, an export

official wouldn't clear his shipment for export. His lumber was stuck at the port... for a long time. He was very apprehensive that he would lose a lot of money because of the delay, and in the interim he had to pay holding fees to store the lumber. Finally, after many weeks of aggravation and holding fees, the official agreed to release his lumber. The businessman then experienced a shock. Recent forest fires in America had now created a shortage and thus doubled the value of his shipment! He was thrilled!

Soon after, the wealthy businessman met the great Rav Chaim Volozhin and related his story of hashgacha pratit (Divine providence). Surprisingly, Rav Chaim responded, "As a wealthy man, you aren't so used to seeing Hashem's Hand coming to your rescue. For the poor man, it's as clear

as day in his daily struggles, from paying for his grocery bill, his clothes and other daily expenses. But Hashem is also involved with you; open your eyes fully and you will see the Divine Hand helping you in all your actions."

In this week's parsha, Hashem instructed Moshe to take a jug and fill it with *munn* (manna) to preserve as a testimony for future generations that Hashem provides a person with his livelihood (Shemos 16:32). Rashi tells us that in the time of Yirmiyahu the prophet, this jug was taken out and displayed to the Bnei Yisrael, reminding them that it's not a person's business acumen or his connections or wealth that make him successful. Rather, it is Hashem Who provides everything we need, sending everything in ways that may seem ordinary or miraculous.

Rabbi Yeruchem Levovitz, famed mashgiach of the Mir Yeshiva in Poland, tells us that the open miracles Hashem performed at the time of *yetzias Mitzrayim* (exodus



from Egypt) were not just a one-time occurrence. These miracles remain for Bnei Yisrael to this day, but in a concealed manner. Indeed, the Gemara Sotah tells us there are two areas that affect us daily that are equal to the miraculous splitting of the sea: obtaining our food/livelihood and finding our proper mate for marriage. These processes might not seem like open miracles, but if we pay attention we will

recognize Hashem's clear involvement and guiding Hand throughout!

Think about it. Hashem is not just involved in creating the *shidduch* (match). The greater (daily) miracle is in keeping and maintaining harmony in the home for the couple. With regard to livelihood, Hashem's Hand is there not only in helping land a job, but He also stays to help maintain and grow the position! We need to realize it's the Almighty Who is causing all the pieces in the puzzle to come together...and stay together.

Rav Tzadok Hakohen says this explains why Amalek attacked klal Yisrael specifically after the greatest open miracle of the splitting of the sea. Why not attack before the splitting of the sea or later in the desert?

It's because a Jew needs to recognize Hashem's involvement in every occurrence. The nation of Amalek represented the antithesis of that. They saw everything as mere happenstance, with no Divine intervention, as is learned from the words "*asher korcha baderach*"—which happened to chance [upon the Jews] while they

were traveling. Amalek said even an obvious miracle such as the splitting of the sea was just a freak accident. They claimed the Jews were just in the right place at the right time. The foundation of Amalek's evil was to deny Hashem's involvement in the world. Our function as the Jewish people is to always see Hashem's presence and active involvement in every aspect of life.

Every shidduch, every marriage and every food bill we are able to pay—let's take notice and realize it is all under Hashem's orchestration. We should strive to do this every day. Maybe keep a notebook, like a rebbe of mine did, where he wrote down various incidents that happened to him throughout his week in which he personally was able to detect the miraculous hand of Hashem. This exercise will strengthen our *bitachon* and *emunah*—our faith and reliance—in our Creator and help us achieve a deeper, loving connection to Him.

Rabbi Baruch Bodenheim is the associate rosh yeshiva of Passaic Torah Institute (PTI)/Yeshiva Ner Boruch. PTI has attracted people from all over northern New Jersey, including Teaneck, Bergenfield, Paramus, Rockaway and Fair Lawn. He initiated and continues to lead a multi-level Gemara learning program. Recently he has spread out beyond PTI to begin a weekly beis midrash program with in-depth chavrusa learning in Livingston and Springfield. This year he joined Heichal Hatorah in Teaneck as a Gemara iyun rebbe. His email is rb@ptiweb.org.

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# The Bracha on Papaya: Ha'eitz or Ha'adama?



By Rabbi Haim Jachter

As we approach Tu B'Shevat, Sephardic Jews focus on the halachot of brachot. We will follow suit and discuss a topic on which Sephardic poskim have taken the lead: the proper bracha on papaya. We will present the responsum from Teshuvot Rav Pe'alim, Rav Yosef Chaim of Baghdad (known as the "Ben Ish Chai") for direction regarding this issue.

## Description of the Growth of the Papaya Tree

The papaya is a hollow tree that can grow to the height of 20 feet. If one plants a papaya seed, fruit will be produced within one year. After the third year of growth, the papaya trees' fruits decrease in quality and the tree is no longer economically worthwhile to maintain. The Encyclopaedia Britannica (17:277) notes that "under favorable conditions, the life of a [papaya] plant may be five years or more." The papaya tree consists of a stem without branches, has antennae-like leaves emerging from its stem, and fruit emerging from the stem. After the fruit is removed from the stem, fruit will no longer grow from that section of the tree. The stem will grow considerably higher and produce fruit from the new-

ly grown area in the second year. The same occurs in the third year.

## First Thought of the Teshuvot Rav Pealim

Teshuvot Rav Pealim (2:30) was the first major halachic authority to address the question of which bracha to recite on papaya. At first, he thought that the proper bracha for papaya should be Ha'eitz. This followed from the following Talmudic passage and its commentaries. The Talmud (Brachot 40a) states: "Whence do we recite Borei Pri Ha'eitz? In case when one if removes fruit, the *gavza* (Rashi: tree branch) remains and subsequently produces fruit. However, in a case when the fruit is removed there no longer remains a branch that produces fruit, we do not recite Borei Pri Ha'eitz; instead, Borei Pri Ha'adama is recited."

The Rosh (Brachot 6:23) explains that the Gemara teaches that "anything that produces fruit yearly is defined as a tree, and anything that requires yearly replanting is considered a fruit of the land (on which Ha'adama is recited)." The Rosh adds an additional definition from the Tosefta in the third chapter of Kilayim:

Whatever produces leaves [which bears fruit] from its roots requires a Borei Pri Ha'adama, and whatever produces leaves from its branches that produces fruit is considered a tree on which a Borei Pri Ha'eitz is recited.

We see that the Rosh believes that the Gemara's distinction between perennials and annuals is not the sole criterion in determining whether Ha'eitz or Ha'adama is recited. Other Rishonim, however, disagree with this assumption of the Rosh. For example, the Mordechai (Brachot 131) cites the Maharam of Rothenburg and Rabbeinu Tam who believe that one should recite Ha'eitz on strawberries since strawberries are perennials. Nevertheless, the Mordechai cites opinions that agree with the Rosh. These authorities believe that Ha'adama is the appropriate bracha for strawberries, since its leaves emerge from the roots of the plant rather than from branches.

The Tur (Orach Chaim 203) cites both opinions regarding the correct bracha for strawberries. The Shulchan Aruch (Orach Chaim 203:2 and 3) rules in accordance with the Rosh. The Rama explains that "since the tree collapses in the winter and only subsequently regrows from its roots, the proper bracha is Borei Pri Ha'adama." The same halacha applies to bananas and pineapples, and thus their bracha is Ha'adama.

Based on the two criteria outlined by the Rosh, the bracha on papaya should be Ha'eitz. The papaya does not have to be replanted each year and its stem remains intact throughout the winter. Thus, the Rav Pe'alim writes that at first glance it would appear that Ha'eitz should be recited on pa-

paya. The Rav Pe'alim also notes that the fact that the papaya fruit in the second year grows from a newly grown section of the tree is irrelevant, and he understands the aforementioned Gemara's requirement that "the branch remains and later produces fruit" as meaning that if the tree remains through the winter and continues to produce fruit, the correct bracha is Ha'eitz. However, the Gemara does not require that the same branch produce fruit the next season in order for the bracha to be Ha'eitz.

## Conclusion of the Teshuvot Rav Pealim: The Eggplant Precedent

The Rav Pe'alim, however, concludes that Ha'adama is the correct bracha for papaya. His conclusion is, for the most part, based on the precedent to recite Ha'adama on eggplant. He presents sources indicating that there is an old tradition to recite Ha'adama on eggplant.

The first source is the Teshuvot Radvaz (1:296 and 3:531), who discusses the permissibility of eating eggplant. He describes that eggplant grows within a year of planting and continues to produce fruit only for the next two years. Accordingly, all eggplants are from the first three years of growth. Thus, it would seem that eggplants should be forbidden to be consumed since they appear to be considered orlah. Indeed, an important authority, the Kaftor Vaferach (Chapter 56), rules that it is forbidden to eat eggplant for this reason. Nevertheless, the Radvaz

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# Chullin 44



By Rabbi Zev Reichman

*May these words of Torah serve as a merit le'iluy nishmat Menachem Mendel ben Harav Yoel David Balk, a"h, and Meirah Chayah Nechamah Brachah, a"h, bat David Mordechai Fishel sheyichyeh.*

This week we learned Chullin 44. These are some highlights.

**May a person observe two consecutive years of shemita as a stringency?**

Due to a lesson on our daf, the sages of Tzfat excommunicated and put pressure on individuals who sought to keep the laws of shemita for two years in a row, as a stringency.

There is a dispute among the great Rishonim which year is really the seventh year and should be observed as shemita. Rambam (Hilchot Shemita V'yovel 10:6) writes that we are to follow the tradition of the Geonim to determine the year of shemita. According to this tradition, the Mikdash was destroyed in a year of shemita, and every seven years after that year is a shemita year. Rashi (Avodah Zarah 9b s.v. natfi) teaches that the Mikdash was destroyed in a year after shemita, and therefore if you want to know what year is shemita, calculate how many years it is from the loss of the Mikdash and subtract one from that number to get to what year we are in within the cycle of shemita. Sefer Chareidim (Chapter 53) writes that the year 5348 from the creation of the world was a shemita year according to the Rambam. He adds that 90 years before that someone had

argued that perhaps there was a different way to interpret the words of the Rambam. The sages at the time sent missives to the rabbis of Damascus, Aleppo, and France. All agreed that we should follow the traditional interpretation of the Rambam and that we count seven years from the year of the Churban to discover the year of shemita. In the year of 5340 there were pious people in Tzfat who wished to be strict on themselves. They wanted to fulfill the view of Rashi and the view of Rambam and sought to keep the laws of the sabbatical year both in the years 5340 and 5341. The rabbis of Tzfat fought harshly against the attempt because of our Gemara.

Beit Shammai and Beit Hillel often argued about matters of law. Our Gemara teaches that one may choose to consistently follow the views of Beit Shammai, both

their leniencies and their stringencies, or he can accept to follow all the rulings of Beit Hillel. One who utilizes all the leniencies of Beit Shammai and all the leniencies of Beit Hillel is a rasha, and a person who demands of himself to follow the stringencies of both schools is a fool who walks in the dark. This is a rule of practice; it is wrong to adopt the stringencies of both authorities who were arguing with each other. Rashi and Rambam hold mutually exclusive views about which year is shemita; the sages of Tzfat sought to ensure that no one would act as a fool, and they opposed those who wished to be exacting for both the view of Rambam and the view of Rashi. (Mesivta)

Rabbi Zev Reichman teaches Daf Yomi in his shul, East Hill Synagogue.

**The Bracha on Papaya**

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

notes that the practice among Jews living in the Land of Israel is to eat eggplant. Those who ate eggplant include very prominent figures such as Rav Yosef Karo, The Arizal, Rav Chaim Vital and Rav Moshe Alshich (see Birkei Yosef to Yoreh Deah 294). The Radvaz defends this practice by stating that any plant that produces fruit within a year of planting is considered a vegetable and not a fruit. Only vegetables grow within a year of planting, and thus eggplant must be a vegetable and not subject to the restrictions of orlah. Accordingly, the bracha on eggplant is Borei Pri Ha'adama. The Rav Pe'alim reasons that the halacha regarding papayas should be the same as that regarding eggplants, since papaya trees also bear fruit within a year of planting its seed. Moreover, the Rav Pe'alim cites that the Teshuvot Halachot Ketanot (83) offers another reason why the bracha for eggplant is Ha'adama, Namely, the fact that the eggplant stem is hollow is characteristic of vegetables and not of fruit trees. The Rav Pe'alim notes that the papaya tree is also hollow, thus providing another reason why the bracha for papaya should be Ha'adama. Thus, the Rav Pe'alim concludes that the correct bracha for papaya is Ha'adama. The Kaf Hachaim, Rav Ovadia Yosef and Rav Mordechai Eliyahu all concur with Rav Pe'alim's decision.

The Rav Pe'alim points out that even if there remains some doubt whether Ha'adama or Ha'eitz is the proper bracha for papaya, Ha'adama should be recited. This is because in any case of doubt whether Ha'adama or Ha'eitz is the required bracha, Ha'adama should be recited since *b'dieved* (post facto) one has fulfilled his obligation to recite a bracha even if he uttered Ha'adama on a food item that one should have said Ha'eitz on (see Rama Orach Chaim 202:18).

Rabbi Haim Jachter is the spiritual leader of Congregation Shaarei Orah, the Sephardic Congregation of Teaneck. He also serves as a rebbe at Torah Academy of Bergen County and a dayan on the Beth Din of Elizabeth.

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| AHAVAS ISRAEL                                               | 181 Van Houten Ave.<br>973-777-5929                                       | Rabbi Ron Eisenman                                                 | Sun: 6:10 AM, 7:10 AM, 8:00 AM, 8:30 AM. Mon/Thurs: 6:00 AM, 6:30 AM, 7:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 9:30 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:10 AM, 6:30 AM, 7:10 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 9:30 AM | 1:30 PM and every 20 min approximately from 4:00 PM to sunset        |                                                                                                            |
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| KOLLEL AVREICHIM OF PASSAIC                                 | 270 Rutherford Ave.                                                       | Rabbi Eliezer Breslauer                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                | 2:45 PM                                                              | 10:00 PM                                                                                                   |
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| MS APPLIANCES                                               | 126 3rd Ave<br>973-778-6722 EX 117                                        |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: 2:00 PM (Sefard)                                          |                                                                                                            |
| THE PATERSON SHUL @ FEDERATION APARTMENTS                   | Federation Apartments 510 E. 27th Street (basement level)<br>908.581.2972 | Lay leadership                                                     | 9a.m. / Call/ Email JerrySchranz@gmail.com for Shabbos and Yom Tov Schedule                                                                                                                    |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| <b>TOTOWA</b>                                               |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| DEVASH FARMS                                                | 111 Maltese Dr.<br>845-426-3000 Ext. 107                                  |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: 3:00 PM                                                   |                                                                                                            |
| <b>WAYNE</b>                                                |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| ALM CORP.                                                   | 55 Haul Road<br>973-694-12232                                             |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                | 3:00 PM. Winter Only. No Sundays.                                    |                                                                                                            |
| CHABAD OF PASSAIC COUNTY                                    | 194 Ratzer Road<br>973-694-6274 - W<br>201-454-8857-C                     | Rabbi Michel Gurkov                                                | Sun: 8:00 AM. Mon/Thurs: 7:15 AM. Shabbos: 10:00 AM                                                                                                                                            | Friday: Winter: 6:00 PM. Summer: 7:30 PM                             |                                                                                                            |
| <b>Essex County</b>                                         |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| <b>CEDAR GROVE</b>                                          |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| NOBLE PACKAGING OFFICES                                     | 20 Sand Park Rd.                                                          |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: 2:00 PM                                                   |                                                                                                            |
| <b>IRVINGTON</b>                                            |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| UNIPRO UNIFORMS                                             | 84 Coit St.<br>973-577-1300                                               |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: 1:45 PM                                                   |                                                                                                            |
| <b>LIVINGSTON</b>                                           |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| ETZ CHAIM                                                   | 1 Lafayette Dr.<br>973-597-1655                                           | Rabbi E. Samuel Klihanoff                                          | Sun: 8:30 AM, Mon-Fri: 6:45 AM                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                      | 8:00 PM 8:15 PM (Wed)                                                                                      |
| SYNAGOGUE OF THE SUBURBAN TORAH                             | 85 W. Mount Pleasant Ave.<br>973-994-0122/2620                            | Rabbi Eliezer Mischel                                              | Sun: 8:30 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:35 AM, Tues/Wed/Thurs: 6:45 AM                                                                                                                                      | Bizman                                                               |                                                                                                            |
| <b>MAPLEWOOD</b>                                            |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| MAPLEWOOD JEWISH CENTER                                     | 520 Prospect Street<br>(973) 762-5722                                     | Rabbi Shalom Bogomilsky                                            | Shabbat: 10:00 AM                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| <b>NEWARK</b>                                               |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| IDT                                                         | 520 Broad St<br>973-438-3447                                              |                                                                    | Mon-Fri: 8:15 AM                                                                                                                                                                               | Mon-Thurs: 1:40 PM 4:00 PM, Fri: 12:40 PM (winter), 1:40 PM (Summer) | 5:00 and 6:05 PM (winter only)                                                                             |
| <b>WEST ORANGE</b>                                          |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| AHAVAS ACHIM BNAI JACOB & DAVID                             | 700 Pleasant Valley Way<br>973-736-1407                                   | Rabbi Eliezer Zwickler                                             | Sun: 7:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM. Mon/Thurs: 6:35 AM, 7:25 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:50 AM, 7:30 AM                                                                                           | 10 minutes before shkiah                                             | Mon- Thurs: 9:45 PM 10 minutes after mincha                                                                |
| BETH ISRAEL                                                 | 567 Pleasant Valley Way<br>973-731-3383                                   |                                                                    | Sun: 8:00 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:05 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:10 AM                                                                                                                                        |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| <b>Union County</b>                                         |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| <b>CLARK</b>                                                |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| BNEI TORAH                                                  | 395 Pleasant Valley Way<br>973-943-2150                                   | Rabbi Avrohom Stone                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| CHABAD OF WEST ORANGE                                       | 401 Pleasant Valley Way<br>973-325-6311                                   | Rabbi Mendy Kasowitz                                               | Sun: 8:30 AM, Mon-Fri: 8 AM                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                      | Sun-Thurs: 15 minutes before Shkia                                                                         |
| DAUGHTERS OF ISRAEL                                         | 1155 Pleasant Valley Way<br>973-731-5100                                  | Rabbi Tzvi Karpel                                                  | Sun: 9:30 AM, Mon-Fri: 9:45 AM                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| OHR TORAH                                                   | 270 Pleasant Valley Way<br>973-669-7320                                   | Rabbi Marc Spivak                                                  | Sun: 8:15 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:00 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:10 AM                                                                                                                                        |                                                                      | Bzman during DST                                                                                           |
| THE ENGLISHTOWN SYNAGOGUE                                   | 37 Buckingham Rd.<br>973-243-0876                                         | Rabbi Binyomin Hammer                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      | 10 minutes after Mincha during DST; 7:30 during Standard Time.                                             |
| <b>ELIZABETH</b>                                            |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| ADATH JESHURUN                                              | 200 Murray St.                                                            | Rabbi E. M. Teitz and Rabbi Yitzchok Burnstein                     | Shabbos: 9:00 AM, Sunday: 8:30 AM                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| BAIS YITZCHOK                                               | 153 Bellevue St.                                                          |                                                                    | Sun: 8:00 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:25 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:30 AM                                                                                                                                        |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| ELMORA HILLS MINYAN                                         | 961 Magie Ave.<br>(908) 820-8822                                          | Rabbi Michael Bleicher                                             | Sun: 8:00AM, 9:00AM, Mon/Thurs: 5:45/8:00AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 5:50, 8:00am, Shabbos: 8:30AM                                                                                                       |                                                                      | Approximately 10/15 minutes before sunset                                                                  |
| JEC ADATH ISRAEL                                            | 1391 North Ave.<br>908-354-7318                                           | Rabbi Jonathan Schwartz                                            | Sun: 6:45 AM, 8:00 AM. Mon/Thurs: 6:20 AM, 7:10 AM, 8:00 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:25 AM, 7:15 AM, 8:00 AM                                                                                           |                                                                      | 2:20 PM and at 'mincha time' when after 6:00                                                               |
| JEC ELMORA                                                  | 330 Elmora Ave.<br>908-355-4850/<br>908-353-4446                          | Rabbi Avrohom Herman                                               | Sun: 7:30 AM (Bais Medrash), 8:30 AM (Shul). Mon/Thurs: 6:40 AM, 8:00 AM (Bais Medrash). Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:50 AM, 8:00 AM (Bais Medrash)                                                         |                                                                      | About 10 minutes before shkiah                                                                             |
| KOLLEL OF ELIZABETH / YESHIVA BEER YITZCHOK                 | 1391 North Ave.<br>908-354-6057                                           | Rabbi Avrohom Schulman                                             | Sun-Fri: 8:00 AM                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                      | Sun-Thurs: 3:05 PM 09:15 PM                                                                                |
| <b>HILLSIDE</b>                                             |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| BRIS AVROHOM                                                | 910 Salem Ave.<br>908-289-0770                                            | Rabbi Kanelsky                                                     | Sun: 8:00 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:30 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:40 AM                                                                                                                                        |                                                                      | Zman Zman                                                                                                  |
| LALLYPAK                                                    | 1209 Central Ave.<br>908-351-4141 Ext. 27                                 |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: 2:00 PM                                                   |                                                                                                            |
| YESHIVA GEDOLAH EITZ CHAIM OF HILLSIDE                      | 1531 Maple Ave.<br>973-926-5138/<br>973-750-8699                          | Harav Shmuel Abba Olshin Shlita                                    | Sun-Fri: 7:40 AM                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                      | 3:15 PM 9:30 PM                                                                                            |
| <b>LINDEN</b>                                               |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| ANSHE CHESED                                                | 1000 Orchard Terr.<br>908-486-8616                                        | Rabbi Joshua Hess                                                  | Sun: 8:00 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:30 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:45 AM                                                                                                                                        |                                                                      | 1:30 PM 10 minutes before shkiah                                                                           |
| QUALMAXX                                                    | 2500 Brunswick<br>718-305-6766                                            |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                | 2:00 PM                                                              | 8:00 PM in winter months. Follows Mincha during summer months.                                             |
| <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>                                          |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| CONGREGATION ISRAEL                                         | 339 Mountain Ave.<br>973-467-9666                                         | Rabbi Chaim Marcus                                                 | Sun: 8:00 AM, Mon-Fri: 6:15 AM, 7:00 AM                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                      | 10-15 minutes before shkiah                                                                                |
| <b>Middlesex County</b>                                     |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| <b>CARTERET</b>                                             |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| YESHIVA GEDOLA OF CARTERET                                  | 42 Noe St.<br>732-969-2497                                                | Rabbi Azriel Brown and Rabbi Yaakov Meyer                          | 7:30 AM                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                      | 3:00 PM 10:20 PM                                                                                           |
| <b>EAST BRUNSWICK</b>                                       |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| YOUNG ISRAEL OF EAST BRUNSWICK                              | 193 Dunhams Corner Rd.<br>732-254-1860                                    | Rabbi Efrayim S. Unterman                                          | Sun: 7:30 AM, 8:30 AM. Mon/Thurs: 6:20 AM, 8:00 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM                                                                                                             |                                                                      | Bzman 9:00 PM (winter). Follows Mincha at Zman                                                             |
| <b>EDISON</b>                                               |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| AHAVAS YISRAEL                                              | 1587 Route 27<br>732-287-1230                                             | Rabbi Gedaliah Jaffe                                               | Sun: 8:15 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:10 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:15 AM                                                                                                                                        |                                                                      | Bizman on Sundays in winter, every day in summer.                                                          |
| APCO EXTRUDERS                                              | 180 National Rd.<br>732-287-3000                                          |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: 3:45 PM                                                   |                                                                                                            |
| BEACH CAMERA                                                | 732-424-1100 x243 SIMCHA                                                  |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                | 2:00 PM                                                              |                                                                                                            |
| CROSSWAYS MINYAN                                            | 5 Price Dr.<br>732-572-9138                                               |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| DEPENDABLE FOODS                                            | 29 Executive Ave.<br>732-257-4500                                         |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: 2:00 PM                                                   |                                                                                                            |
| DGL GROUP                                                   | 195 Raritan Center Pkwy<br>732-692-5116                                   | Rabbi Haber                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                | 4:30 PM summer/ DST and 4:00 PM winter                               | Follows Mincha during the winter                                                                           |
| OHR TORAH                                                   | 48 Edgemount Rd.<br>732-777-6840                                          | Rabbi Yaakov Luban                                                 | Sun: 7:15 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM. Mon/Thurs: 6:20 AM, 7:05 AM, 8:00 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:30 AM, 7:10 AM, 8:00 AM.                                                                                 |                                                                      | 10-15 minutes before sunset                                                                                |
| RABBI JACOB JOSEPH SCHOOL                                   | 1 Plainfield Ave.<br>732-985-6533                                         |                                                                    | Mon-Thurs: 7:40 AM                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                      | 3:00 PM 9:40 PM 10:40 PM                                                                                   |
| RABBI PESACH RAYMON YESHIVA                                 | 2 Harrison St.<br>732-572-5052                                            |                                                                    | Mon-Fri: 7:40 AM                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                      | 2:15 PM (except Sunday)                                                                                    |
| SAKAR INTERNATIONAL                                         | 195 Carter Dr.<br>732-248-1306                                            |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      | 5:00 PM                                                                                                    |
| TECHNICAL PRO INC./ VICMARR AUDIO INC.                      | 9 Kilmer Ct.<br>718-567-7754 x102 (David)                                 |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: 1:45 PM                                                   |                                                                                                            |
| <b>HIGHLAND PARK</b>                                        |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| AGUDATH ISRAEL OF EDISON/ HIGHLAND                          | 1131 Raritan Ave.                                                         | Rabbi Reuven Drucker                                               | Sun: 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 8:35 AM. Mon-Fri: 6:00 AM, 7:35 AM                                                                                                                                      |                                                                      | 12:45 PM EST, 1:45 DST, and about 15 minutes before shkiah                                                 |
| AHAVAS ACHIM                                                | 216 South First Ave.<br>732-247-0532                                      | Rabbi Steven Midownik                                              | Sun: 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM. Mon/Thurs: 6:25 AM, 7:45 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:35 AM, 7:45 AM                                                                                                             |                                                                      | 10 minutes before sunset                                                                                   |
| ETZ ACHAIM                                                  | 230 Denison St.<br>732-247-3839                                           | Rabbi David Bassous                                                | Sun: 8:30 AM, Mon-Fri: 6:30 AM                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                      | 7:30 PM 7:50 PM                                                                                            |
| KHAL CHASIDIM OF HIGHLAND PARK                              | 46 North 8th Ave. (entrance on Abbott)<br>917-886-2098                    | Rabbi Mechel Horowitz                                              | Sun-Fri: 25 minutes before sunrise, Sun: 8:15 AM                                                                                                                                               |                                                                      | 9:30 PM                                                                                                    |
| OHAV EMETH                                                  | 415 Raritan Ave.<br>732-247-3038                                          | Rabbi Eliyahu Kaufman                                              | Sun: 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM. Mon/Thurs: 5:50 AM, 6:30 AM, 7:20 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 5:55 AM, 6:40 AM, 7:20 AM.                                                                                          |                                                                      | Bizman Follows Mincha                                                                                      |
| <b>ISELIN</b>                                               |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| EISNER AMPER                                                | 111 Wood Avenue South<br>732-690-0626                                     |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1:35 PM                                                              |                                                                                                            |
| MERIDIAN CAPITAL                                            | 517 Route 1 South<br>732-301-3200                                         |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                | 2:30 PM                                                              |                                                                                                            |
| <b>NEW BRUNSWICK</b>                                        |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| RUTGERS CHABAD                                              | 170 College Avenue<br>732-296-1800                                        | Rabbi Shaya Shagalow                                               | 8:30am - school year only                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                      | 1:30pm - school year only                                                                                  |
| RUTGERS HILLEL                                              | 70 College Avenue<br>732-545-2407                                         | Rabbi Tzvi Wohlgelemler                                            | 8:15 AM                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                      | B'zman - school year only                                                                                  |

To update or correct or add minyanim to this chart, please call: 201-366-9102 or email: editor@jewishlinknj.com

# The Bergen County Minyan Directory

Info Provided by GoDaven.com and Dr. Yosi Fishkin

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Please daven for a refuah for Nachum Zvi ben Yenta

| Name                                              | Address/Contact                                                | Rabbi                                        | Shacharit                                                                                                                                                                                        | Mincha                                                                                         | Maariv                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BERGENFIELD</b>                                |                                                                |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                |                                                                    |
| BAIS MEDRASH OF BERGENFIELD                       | 371 South Prospect Ave.                                        | Rabbi Moshe Stavsky                          | Sun: 8:30 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:15 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:25 AM, Rosh Chodesh: 6:00 AM                                                                                                                   | Bzman                                                                                          | Sun: Follows Mincha. Mon-Thurs: 8:30 PM                            |
| BETH ABRAHAM                                      | 396 New Bridge Road 201-384-0434                               | Rabbi Yaakov Neuburger                       | Sun: 6:50 AM, 8:00 AM, 8:45 AM. Mon/Thurs: 6:20 AM, 7:10 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:30 AM, 7:10 AM                                                                                                      | Bzman                                                                                          | 9:05PM 10PM                                                        |
| OHR HATORAH                                       | 36 Rector Ct. 201-244-5905                                     | Rabbi Sobolofsky                             | Fri: 8:30 AM, Sun: 8 AM                                                                                                                                                                          | Bzman on Sundays                                                                               | Follows Mincha on Sundays                                          |
| <b>E. RUTHERFORD</b>                              |                                                                |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                |                                                                    |
| GIANTS STADIUM MINCHA MINYAN                      | 50 Route 120                                                   |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | At halftime during all Giants and Jets games                                                   |                                                                    |
| <b>ENGLEWOOD</b>                                  |                                                                |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                |                                                                    |
| AHAVATH TORAH                                     | 240 Broad Avenue 201-568-1315                                  |                                              | Sun: 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM and 33 min before sunrise. Mon/Thurs: 6:15 AM, 7:15 AM, 8:00 AM, and 33 min before sunrise. Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:30 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM and 33 minutes before sunrise | 10 minutes before shkiah                                                                       | Following Mincha and 9:30 PM on Tues and Wed.                      |
| ARTUS CORPORATION                                 | 201 South Dean Street 201-568-1000                             |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 2:15 PM                                                                                        |                                                                    |
| EAST HILL SYNAGOGUE                               | 255 Walnut Street 201-569-4008                                 | Rabbi Zev Reichman                           | Sun: 8:30 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:15 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:30 AM                                                                                                                                          | Bzman                                                                                          | 8PM. Monday through Thursday                                       |
| KESHER COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF TENAFLY & ENGLEWOOD | 509 Engle Street 201-227-1117                                  | Rabbi Akiva Block                            | Sun: 8:30 AM, Mon-Fri: 6:30 AM                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: 9PM                                                     |
| PCS REVENUE CONTROL                               | 560 Sylvan Avenue 800-247-3061 x1196                           |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Mon-Thurs: 3:00 PM                                                                             |                                                                    |
| SHOMREI EMUNAH                                    | 89 Huguenot Ave                                                | Rabbi Menachem Genack                        | Sun: 7:45 AM, Mon-Fri: 6:45 AM                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                | Mon and Thurs: 9:30 PM                                             |
| YESHIVA OHR SIMCHA OF ENGLEWOOD                   | 101 W. Forest Ave 201-816-1800                                 | Rabbi Strassfeld                             | Sun-Fri: 8:00 AM                                                                                                                                                                                 | 2:50 PM                                                                                        | 9PM                                                                |
| <b>FAIRLAWN</b>                                   |                                                                |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                |                                                                    |
| AHAVAT ACHIM                                      | 18-25 Saddle River Rd. 201-794-3927                            | Rabbi Ely Shestack                           | Sun: 8:15 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:15 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:25 AM                                                                                                                                          | 15 minutes before sunset                                                                       | Follows Mincha - Summer 8:20 PM - Fall and Winter                  |
| ANSHEI LUBAVITCH CONGREGATION                     | 10-10 Plaza Rd 201-797-4770                                    | Rabbi Levi Neubort                           | Sun: 9:00 AM, Mon-Fri: 6:15 AM                                                                                                                                                                   | Mon- Thurs: 1:45 PM                                                                            | 9:15PM. Mondays                                                    |
| BRIS AVROHOM                                      | 3002 Fair Lawn Avenue 201-791-7200                             | Rabbi Berel Zaltzman                         | Sun-Fri: 8:15 AM                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                | Follows Mincha                                                     |
| CONGREGATION DARCHEI NOAM                         | 10-04 Alexander Avenue 201-773-4080                            | Rabbi Jeremy Donath                          | Sun: 8:15 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:35 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:45 AM                                                                                                                                          | Approx. 15 minutes before shkiah. Sundays only in fall and winter; daily in spring and summer. | Fall and Winter 8:00PM; Spring and Summer immediately after Mincha |
| SEPHARDIC CENTER OF FAIR LAWN                     | 40-34 Terhune Place cell 201-835-5170                          | Rabbi Aaron Shemtob                          | Sun: 8:00 AM followed by breakfast in the synagogue, Mon-Fri: 6:15 AM followed by breakfast in the synagogue                                                                                     | Bzman                                                                                          | Fall and Winter 8:00PM; Spring and Summer immediately after Mincha |
| SHOMREI TORAH                                     | 19-10 Morlot ave 201 791 7910                                  | Rabbi Yudin and Asst. Rabbi Andrew Markowitz | Sun: 6:30 AM, 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM. Mon/Thurs: 5:50 AM, 6:30 AM, 7:45 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:00 AM, 6:30 AM, 7:45 AM.                                                                          | Bzman                                                                                          | 9PM and about 15 minutes after Mincha                              |
| YOUNG ISRAEL OF FAIR LAWN                         | 11-05 Saddle River Rd. 201-797-1800                            | Rabbi Eli Belizon                            | Sun: 7:30 AM, 8:30 AM, Mon- Fri: 7:00 AM                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: 10PM                                                    |
| <b>FORT LEE</b>                                   |                                                                |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                |                                                                    |
| CHABAD OF FORT LEE                                | 808 Abbott Blvd (201) 886-1238                                 | Rabbi Meir Konikov                           | Sun: 9:00 AM, Mon-Fri: 7:15 AM                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                |                                                                    |
| PARKER PLAZA MINYAN @ CROSS RIVER BANK            | 400 Kelby Street - 14th Floor 201-808-6376                     |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Mon-Thurs: 2:30 PM                                                                             | Time is sent weekly to our email list                              |
| SCFL BET YOSEF                                    | 313 Tom Hunter Road 845-826 2006 (N.J.)                        | Rabbi Ilan Accoca                            | Sun: 8:00 AM, Mon-Fri: 7:00 AM                                                                                                                                                                   | Sun-Thurs: 7:30 PM                                                                             | After Mincha                                                       |
| YOUNG ISRAEL OF FORT LEE                          | 1610 Parker Avenue 201-592-1518                                | Rabbi Zev Goldberg                           | Sun: 8:00 AM, Mon-Fri: 7:30 AM                                                                                                                                                                   | Sun: 15 minutes before shkia                                                                   | Sun: After Mincha. Mon-Thurs: 7:45                                 |
| <b>FRANKLIN LAKES</b>                             |                                                                |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                |                                                                    |
| CHABAD OF NW BERGEN COUNTY                        | 375 Pulis Ave. 201-848-0449                                    | Rabbi Chanoch Kaplan                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                |                                                                    |
| <b>HACKENSACK</b>                                 |                                                                |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                |                                                                    |
| MINCHA AT HACKENSACK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER    | Hackensack Medical Center 201-519-0321 (Henry Netzer)          |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1:35 PM                                                                                        |                                                                    |
| UNIVERSITY PLAZA                                  | 1 University Plaza - Suite 120 201-742-5161 (Shoshana Poloner) |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Mon-Thurs: 1:45 PM                                                                             | 5:45PM. Winter only                                                |
| <b>PARAMUS</b>                                    |                                                                |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                |                                                                    |
| BETH TEFILLAH                                     | 452 Forest Ave 201-262-0356                                    | Rabbi Daniel Wolff                           | Sun: 8:00 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:30 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:30 AM                                                                                                                                          | 15 minutes before shkiah                                                                       | Follows Mincha                                                     |
| SEPHARDIC CONGREGATION OF PARAMUS                 | 140 Arnot Place 201-362-8493                                   |                                              | Sun: 7:30 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:10 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:20 AM                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                |                                                                    |
| THE FRISCH SCHOOL                                 | 120 W. Century Rd. 201-267-9100                                | Rabbi Eli Ciner, Principal                   | Mon-Fri: 7:45 AM                                                                                                                                                                                 | 3:25 PM                                                                                        | 5:15PM. (Beis Midrash only)                                        |
| YESHIVAT NOAM                                     | 70 West Century Road 201-261-1919                              |                                              | Mon-Fri: 8:05 AM                                                                                                                                                                                 | Mon-Thurs: 3:30 PM                                                                             |                                                                    |

| Name                                                          | Address/Contact                          | Rabbi                                 | Shacharit                                                                                                                                                                                      | Mincha                                                                                    | Maariv                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RIDGEFIELD PARK</b>                                        |                                          |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |
| SPECIALTY RX                                                  | 2 Bergen Turnpike Ari- 917-734-3877      |                                       | 8:30AM                                                                                                                                                                                         | 2:00 PM                                                                                   |                                                                                   |
| WALNUT COURT CAPITAL                                          | 100 Challenger Rd, Suite 105             |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: 10 min before plag                                                             | Mon-Thurs: Following Mincha                                                       |
| <b>RUTHERFORD</b>                                             |                                          |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |
| CONGREGATION BETH EL                                          | 185 Montross Ave. 201-438-4931           | Rabbi Yitzchok Lerman                 | Shabbos morning at 9 am, and Sunday at 8 am.                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |
| HAIN CAPITAL GROUP                                            | 301 NJ-17                                |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: 2:00 PM                                                                        |                                                                                   |
| <b>TEANECK</b>                                                |                                          |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |
| AHAVAT SHALOM                                                 |                                          | Rabbi Yehuda Halpert                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                | check the newsletter for time and location www.teaneckapartments.com/ThisWeek.PDF         |                                                                                   |
| AMBRA                                                         | 1415 Queen Anne Road 201-837-0080        |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                | 2:15 PM                                                                                   |                                                                                   |
| ANSHEI CHESED OF TEANECK                                      | 931 Queen Anne road - 1st Floor          |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |
| ARZEI DAROM                                                   | 725 Queen Anne Road 201 416-9829         | Rabbi Aharon Ciment                   | Sun: 8:30 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:35 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:45 AM                                                                                                                                        | Sun-Thurs: Bzman                                                                          | B'zman                                                                            |
| BETH AARON                                                    | 950 Queen Anne Road 201-836-6210         | Rabbi Laurence E. Rothwachs           | Sun: 6:30 AM, 7:15 AM, 8:00 AM, 7:10 AM, 8:00 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 5:55 AM, 6:30 AM, 7:15 AM, 8:00 AM                                                                                             | Bzman                                                                                     | 8PM 9:30PM (from March DST through September, the 8:00 PM Maariv is discontinued) |
| BNAI YESHURUN                                                 | 641 West Englewood Ave. 201-836-8916     | Rabbi Steven Pruzansky                | Sun: 6:25 AM, 7:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 8:50 AM, 9:15 AM. Mon/Thurs: 6:05 AM, 6:20 AM, 7:00 AM, 7:20 AM, 8:00 AM, 8:50 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:15 AM, 6:30 AM, 7:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 8:50 AM | Sun: 12:45 PM, 1:45 PM and Bzman. Mon-Thurs: 1:45 PM and Bzman, and 6:00 PM in the summer | Following Mincha, 6:00 PM, 7:00 PM, 8:00 PM, 9:00 PM, 10:01 PM, 11:00 PM          |
| CARE ONE AT TEANECK                                           | 544 Teaneck Road                         |                                       | Sun: 8:30 AM                                                                                                                                                                                   | 15 minutes before shkiah during DST only                                                  | Follows Mincha during DST (Otherwise 7:45 PM M-Th)                                |
| THE HAPPY MINYAN OF TEANECK NEW JERSEY                        | 95 Edgemont Place                        |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Friday night only                                                                         | Friday night only                                                                 |
| CHABAD HOUSE                                                  | 513 Kenwood Place 201 907-0686           | Rabbi Ephraim Simon                   | Sun: 8:00 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:40 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:45 AM                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |
| GREENBACK CAPITAL                                             | 1086 Teaneck Road -Suite 4E 201-837-6400 |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: 1:45 PM                                                                        |                                                                                   |
| JEWISH CENTER OF TEANECK                                      | 70 Sterling Place 201-833-0515           | Rabbi Daniel Fridman                  | Sun: 8:30 AM, Mon/Thurs: 7:00 AM, Tues/ Wed/ Fri: 7:15 AM                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                           | 7:45PM                                                                            |
| KETER TORAH (ROEMER)                                          | 600 Roemer Ave. 201-907-0180             | Rabbi Shalom Baum                     | Sun: 6:40 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM. Mon/Thurs: 5:50 AM, 7:15 AM, 8:10 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:00 AM, 7:15 AM, 8:10 AM                                                                                  | Bzman                                                                                     | following Mincha                                                                  |
| KOF-K                                                         | 201 The Plaza 201 837 0500 ext7          |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon-Fri: 1:00 PM                                                                          | Mon-Thurs: 5:15 PM , winter months                                                |
| NETIVOT SHALOM                                                | 811 Palisade Ave. 201-801-0707           | Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot               | Sun: 8:00 AM                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |
| NOAH'S ARK RESTAURANT                                         | 493 Cedar Lane 201.692.1200              |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: Approx 10 minutes before Plag                                                  | Following mincha                                                                  |
| OHR SAADYA                                                    | 554 Queen Anne Road 201-801-0637         | Rabbi Daniel Feldman                  | Sun: 8:30 AM                                                                                                                                                                                   | Sun only- 15 minutes before shkiah                                                        | Mon-Thurs: 8:15PM. Mon-Thurs; Sun - following mincha                              |
| RINAT YISRAEL                                                 | 389 West Englewood Ave. 201-837-2795     | Rabbi Yosef Adler                     | Sun: 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM. Mon/Thurs: 6:20 AM, 7:20 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:30 AM, 7:30 AM                                                                                                    | Bzman throughout the winter                                                               | 7:30PM 9:15PM and following Mincha                                                |
| SHAARE TEFILLAH OF TEANECK                                    | 510 Claremont Ave. (201) 357-0613        | Rabbi Kenneth Schiowitz               | Sun: 8:30 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:20 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:30 AM                                                                                                                                        | On summer weekdays about 15 minutes before shkiah                                         | Follows Mincha                                                                    |
| SHAAREI ORAH TEANECK                                          | 1425 Essex Rd. 201-833-0800              | Rabbi Chaim Jachter                   | Sun: 8:00 AM, Mon/Thurs: 6:20 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:30 AM                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |
| SEPHARDIC CENTER/ CONGREGATION LEV HAIM TERRACE CIRCLE MAARIV | 407 Warwick Ave. 201 357 0607            | R Doniel Hakimi                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                | 7:00 PM (summer)                                                                          |                                                                                   |
| WEINREB'S JUDAICA                                             | 1506 W. Terrace Circle #2                |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                           | 9PM. Mon-Thur only                                                                |
| WINTHROP MINYAN                                               | 177 W.Englewood Avenue, 201-530-7588     |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon-Thurs: 4PM                                                                            |                                                                                   |
| YESHIVAS BAIS MORDECHAI OF TEANECK                            | 1443 Palisade Ave. 201-833-5920          | Rabbi Dr. Zecharia Senter             | Sun-Fri: 7:35 AM                                                                                                                                                                               | 1:35 PM                                                                                   | 9:35PM                                                                            |
| YISMACH MOSHE                                                 | Varies each month                        | Rosh Hayeshiva, Rabbi Eliyahu Roberts |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |
| YOUNG ISRAEL OF TEANECK                                       | 868 Perry Lane 201-837-1710              | Rabbi Binyomin Krohn                  | Sun: 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM. Mon/Thurs: 6:20 AM, 7:00 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 6:30 AM, 7:00 AM                                                                                                    | 15 minutes before sunset DST only                                                         | 8PM. EST; Follows Mincha in DST                                                   |
| ZICHRON MORDECHAI                                             | 268 West Englewood Ave. 201-837-7696     | Rabbi Michael Taubes                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |
| <b>TENAFLY</b>                                                |                                          |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |
| LUBAVITCH ON THE PALISADES                                    | 11 Harold St. 201-871-1152               | Rabbi Mordechai Shain                 | Sun: 8:30 AM. Mon/Thurs: 6:55 AM. Tues/Wed/Fri: 7:00 AM                                                                                                                                        | 10 minutes before sunset                                                                  | Following Mincha                                                                  |
| <b>WOODCLIFF LAKE</b>                                         |                                          |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |
| WOODCLIFF LAKE CHABAD/PASCACK VALLEY CHABAD                   | 100 Overlook Dr. Dov Drizin 201-476-0157 |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |

To update or correct or add minyanim to this chart, please call: 201-366-9102 or email: editor@jewishlinknj.com

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## CHINUCH REFLECTIONS

# Creating Space Beyond the Clouds



By Rabbi Tavi Koslowe

As the Jewish people embarked on their historic exodus from Egypt, they were immediately accompanied by a divine presence, a pillar of clouds by day and a pillar of fire by night, that would escort them through the desert. The Talmud (Shabbat 23b) describes that the pillar of fire, far beyond the casual chaperone, would appear before nightfall so as to safely arrive before the clouds dissipated and, similarly, the clouds would appear before sunrise so as to seamlessly take over the day shift from the fire; there was not a moment that the Jewish people were left unsupervised. While not explicit in the text, it would seem that the people dutifully followed the clouds, and the clouds proudly guided the people for every moment of the years that followed.

In Bamidbar 12, following the accusatory conversation that Miriam and Aharon had about Moshe, Miriam was sent to remain outside the encampment for seven days and, during that time, the Jewish people stayed where they had camped. While most commentators assume that the pillar of clouds, out of respect for Miriam, remained at that location for those seven days, the Seforno disagrees. He suggests that the clouds actually journeyed forward in the desert and, for the first time since the Exodus, the people, in a courageously defiant way, decided to let the clouds leave; they parted ways with their chaperone so that they could remain with Miriam, even as that would require them to chart their own path through the desert. While the nuanced detail of this narrative could easily be overlooked, I believe that it represents a significant advancement in their maturing as a nation and in their relationship with God.

Dr. Ron Taffel, in his book "Childhood Unbound," describes six steps toward offering adolescents helpful guidance. His fifth step, The Power of Impotence, suggests that a parent/teacher acknowledge their in-

ability to control the behaviors of another. Specifically, he argues that "this Zen moment in childrearing, the paradox of being as clear as you can about what you expect and then admitting your limitations, is perhaps the single most important moment in getting both your love and advice across to children." Therefore, in place of admonishing a child with a phrase like "You are absolutely forbidden from hanging out with those friends anymore," Taffel would advocate for a message like "I don't want you to hang out with those friends anymore—here's why—but you also know that I won't be around to supervise you. It is going to be your decision, but there will be consequences for the decision you make."

Similarly, in the book "How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk," authors Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish emphasize the importance of encouraging autonomy within our children. They suggest the following six suggestions to promote child/student autonomy: "Let children make choices; show respect for a child's struggle; don't ask too many questions; don't rush to answer questions; encourage children to use sources outside the home; don't take away hope." Creating space where our children can explore (and fail), allowing for time that our children can own (and misuse) and honoring the ideas that our children wonder about (realistic or not), can require a tremendous amount of parental patience, but they can contribute to a child's hopes maturing into their passions and their passions into the drive that fuels their adult lives.

As parents and educators, the importance of our children's safety and education often makes us wish that we could guide them successfully through every challenge and journey. However, it is only when our children are able to let their "clouds" move on and to assert their own decision making and exploration that enduring and meaningful growth takes place.

Rabbi Tavi Koslowe is the Judaic studies principal at the Idea School.



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# 'Daily Giving:' Changing the World \$1 at a Time

By Yvette Finkelstein

Dr. Jonathan Donath wants to change the world, one dollar at a time. Several months ago he was at a maariv minyan at his shul and put a dollar in the tzedaka box. He realized his next day's busy schedule wouldn't allow him the time to get to shul. Having heard a powerful shiur emphasizing the importance of every mitzvah, whether large or small, he started thinking about a way he could make it easier for everyone to perform a small mitzvah, like giving tzedaka every single day, that would yield enormous results.

Thus, "Daily Giving," or the "Tzedaka Yomi" project was born. Donath started to envision what it would be like if each person who was contacted donated just a dollar a day for tzedaka. The number of dollars collected would be multiplied by the number of people who donated; the result would add up to one huge mitzvah. The dollar amount would increase quickly with great sums of money being raised for deserving organizations.

Teaming up with friends Beth Goldsammler of West Orange, New Jersey; Rabbi Shlomo Ressler of White Plains, New York; Shaul Hen of Mount Vernon, New York; and Rabbi Rami and Debbie Stros-

berg, Beit Shemesh, Israel, he realized that giving only a dollar a day, together with, hopefully, tens of thousands of others, would result in exponential amounts collected, thanks to the power of unity. With approximately 14.5 million Jews in the world today, if only 1 percent gave a dollar a day, that would mean collecting \$145,000 per day, or over \$50 million dollars in charitable funds per year.

A rabbinical council comprised of distinguished, influential rabbis was established to approve the organizations to be supported. The council, composed of Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Rosh Yeshiva, RIETS, Yeshiva University, Rabbi Moshe Tuvia Lief, Morah D'Asra, Agudath Israel, Bais Binyomin, Brooklyn, New York, Rabbi Paysach Krohn, internationally renowned rabbi, mohel, author and lecturer and Rabbi Shmuel Greenberg, Morah D'Asra, Young Israel of White Plains, New York, decided that the charities would be well-respected national or international organizations, rather than local community-specific projects. Out of the current list of 36 recognized charities one will find organizations such as Camp HASC, OHEL, United Hatzaiah, NCSY, YACHAD, Chai Lifeline, RCCS (Rofeh Cholim Cancer Society), Sharsheret

and many others. Additional charities will be added in the coming months.

Donath was excited to share the fact that January 1, 2019 was the first day Daily Giving "went live" and over \$5,000 was donated that day. Rabbi Paysach Krohn, appearing on TorahAnytime, a website and app that provides thousands of free Torah lectures, spoke about Daily Giving and urged Jews everywhere to join him in the Daily Giving—Tzedaka Yomi project. Rabbi Krohn has a huge following and within minutes, contributions began pouring in from South Africa, Israel, Australia and all over the United States. The website, created by co-founder Hen, [www.dailygiving.org](http://www.dailygiving.org), reflects the constantly increasing donations.

"With God's help, the numbers will keep growing," Donath said. "One dollar at a time."

As a child, he was taught to put money "in the pushka" every day. This mitzvah gave him great joy. "Daily Giving is determined to bring back the joy that giving just a little every day can bring to one's soul. If all Jews would see the potential of what this could become, and would donate just one dollar a day, an amount that might otherwise not go very far, all of our small donations would be combined with what will hopefully be tens of thousands of others, resulting in a monumental impact on meeting the needs of worthy organizations.

Donath stated the three main goals of Daily Giving and the Tzedaka Yomi project:

1. To reenergize the Jewish people, both as individual givers, and as small parts of a whole nation, who can make immeasurable differences when joining together as one.

2. To enable individual Jews around the world to accomplish one additional mitzvah each day, knowing that every mitzvah, big and small alike, has tremendous meaning unto itself.

3. To get at least 1 percent of all Jews to join Daily Giving,

which would mean over \$50 million of extra tzedaka given each year to deserving Jewish non-profit organizations across the globe, making an unbelievable impact on the world-wide Jewish community.

Daily Giving's stated mission is "to enable every Jew to easily perform the mitzvah of tzedaka every single day and to disperse those funds to deserving Jewish non-profit organizations around the world on a daily basis." Daily Giving Inc. would serve as a shaliach/messenger, distributing an individual's donation to a worthy organization every single day.

Daily Giving is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. People can donate to Daily Giving and receive a charitable tax deduction. Individuals can choose to donate a dollar a day or more, with their credit card charged either monthly or annually. On a daily basis, each donor will receive an email that states, "Thank you! Today your dollar was (for example) one of \$17,411 that went to Camp HASC."

Donath is a chiropractor and the clinical director of the Joint Effort Chiropractic & Westchester Spinal Decompression Center in White Plains, New York. For further information, please go to [www.dailygiving.org](http://www.dailygiving.org).



Dr. Jonathan Donath



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## A History of Judaism and Idolatry

By Rabbi Jeff Bienenfeld

**Reviewing: "God Versus Gods: Judaism in the Age of Idolatry," by Rabbi Reuven Chaim Klein. Mosaica Press. 2018. Hardcover. English. 398 pages. ISBN-13: 978-1946351463.**

The subtitle of Rabbi Reuven Chaim Klein's remarkable study says a great deal about the immense task Rabbi Klein assumed in researching his fascinating book, "God versus Gods." The subtitle, "Judaism in the Age of Idolatry," sets an enormous challenge for anyone attempting to chronicle the role idolatry played in the religious culture and history of the Jewish people from biblical times until the destruction of the First Temple. With the Churban HaBayit, our sages teach that the worship of idols as an ancient cultic practice for all intents and purposes ceased. Over this lengthy time period, from mankind's earliest days until some three and a half millennia later, Rabbi Klein offers an exhaustive and substantive account of how the

Jewish people variously succumbed to and resisted, promoted and fought to eradicate this most pernicious of transgressions. Because there are few sins whose prohibitions are as many in the Torah as idolatry, and because this sin is the central focus of the prophets' rebuke and chastisement in Neviim, the topic deserves careful and studious attention. Rabbi Klein's work provides just that.

One's first impression of the book is its reader-friendly format. The historical chronology is diagrammed on the front and back in-folds, making for easy reference. In Unit I, the time flow is divided into five epochs, each receiving in-depth treatment. In the "Genesis of Idolatry and the Guardians of Monotheism," we read how our forefathers confronted the sin and sought to resurrect the Judaic monotheistic belief system against overwhelming odds. The sin of the golden calf and the Egyptian cultic worship is thoroughly analyzed, followed by the "Slippery Slope to Paganism" in the idolatry of the Kingdom of Israel. The penultimate chapter deals with the "Royal Blunders and Betrayal" in the idolatry of the Kingdom of Judah, which was one of the major causes for the Churban and subsequent Babylonian galut.

Unit II contains an invaluable encyclopedia of all the major deities mentioned in the Bible, each one discussed in enough detail to enable the reader to mark the differences among the ancient gods. Perusing the concluding bibliography gives one an indication of the extent to which Rabbi Klein

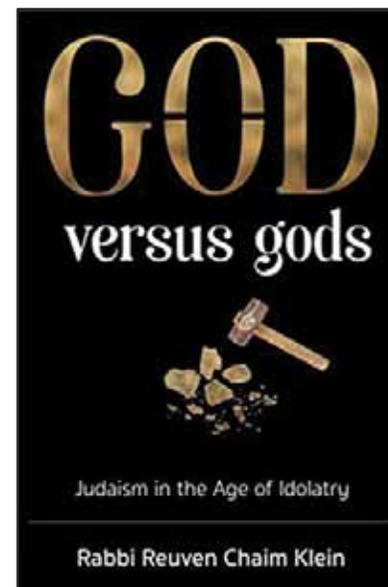
researched not only our classic commentaries, biblical, Talmudic and post-Talmudic, but the many important secular sources he explored to draw a fuller picture of how scholars investigated this theological phenomenon of *avodah zarah*, idolatry.

It is refreshing to see how, in each of the chapters, Rabbi Klein effectively weaves together the biblical narrative with an analysis of how ubiquitous the lure toward *avodah zarah* was in the national and private lives of the people. Secular sources are introduced and compared with our Masoretic traditions to create a nuanced and erudite analysis of a complex subject. The text is extensively footnoted with references from both Torah and academic sources, all of which flesh out in detail the discussions in the chapters.

I was particularly impressed with Unit I's final chapter, "The End of an Age: Idolatry as Obsolete Superstition." Although the Talmud (Yoma 69b) relates that the evil inclination that had seduced people toward idolatry was banished in the wake of the

destruction of the First Temple, there were still some residual pockets where idolatry held sway. Rabbi Klein discusses how and why this phenomenon occurred and how even post the destruction, idolatry assumed different and more rarified forms. The confluence of the end of idolatry and the end of prophecy is also discussed with its implications for our generation. But what I found most intriguing was that apart from exploring the theological commonalities between idolatry and prophecy and their radical divergences, Rabbi Klein introduces us to what historians and archeologists have called the "Axial Age," a period in the religious history of man that saw a pivotal shift in which "a pagan set of superstitions" was replaced by "more sophisticated philosophies to justify pagan behavior." Rabbi Klein traces how ancient idolatry morphed into more modern expressions of the idolatrous impulse (pp. 263-73). The chapter ends with a fascinating discussion depicting idolatry's final obliteration in the Messianic Era.

Of course, this concluding discussion is a tease and prelude to a much-anticipated Volume II in which the author plans to delve more deeply into the conceptual, theological and psychological underpinnings of idolatry; why it was once the most tempting and enticing of all Biblical sins; and how the Torah sought to wean mankind off these insidious ideologies. Rabbi Klein hopes to discuss how and why modern man is still afflicted



➔ CONTINUED ON P. 60

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# Hope Therapeutic Services Puts Clients' Needs First

By Jill Kirsch

Shlomit Liz Sanders, LMFT, CCTP, a clinician at Hope Therapeutic Services in West Orange, has a message for anyone struggling to find a therapist with whom they connect.

"Finding a therapist is a lot like dating," she said. "Sometimes you have to go through a lot of people who aren't for you before you get to the right one."

Sanders acknowledged that all people have different personalities and therefore different needs. There is no one-size-fits-all approach in psychotherapy; goals must be tailored to the individual client, and not all clinicians are a good fit for all clients.

Sanders brings five years of experience and a following of clients from her previous practice in Staten Island. She does individual, couples and family therapy, and sees clients of all ages. She treats patients with many diagnoses and issues including anxiety, depression, self-esteem, grief, family conflict, infertility, infidelity and others. She also offers premarital education. She uses art therapy with children who may be best able to express themselves through art and play. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist and also a certified clinical trauma professional.



Shlomit Liz Sander

Hope Therapeutic Services is a trauma-informed center, where everyone is sensitive to the impact trauma has on individuals and families. Sanders referred to two types of trauma: "Trauma with a little t and trauma with a big T. Trauma with a little t are those situations that are unresolved, like when a child feels unloved or left out. Trauma with a big T are the big ones that we are all familiar with: abuse, rape, traumatic events like that. We help clients process both types."

Particularly in the case of trauma with a big T, after which people often do not seek therapy for several months, therapists have to be sensitive to the issues that may have resulted. Sometimes, that is the

therapeutic starting point. While she does not prescribe medications, if necessary and warranted she will refer the client to a psychiatrist. Before they reach this step, however, Sanders feels it is important to try a more holistic approach using principles of neuroscience. She believes it is vital to help clients learn to deal with and manage the symptoms resulting from the trauma first—sleeplessness, lack of confidence, lack of trust in others and more—before she works with them on the trauma itself.

A distinguishing feature of Sanders' practice is that she tries to include humor in her treatment of clients whenever possible. "I believe it is important to try and find humor in whatever we do," she said.

Sanders believes that to gain clients' trust, it is important for the clinician to understand their goals, and it is equally important for clients to understand that the clinician will work with them to achieve their goals. "I believe in a collaborative approach to therapy," she said. "We are a team and we have to work together. I don't believe people should necessarily be in therapy for 20, 30 years."

Sanders and the rest of the team at Hope Therapeutic Services are available for consultations and appointments. Some insurance is accepted. They can be reached at 973-337-6519, 862-505-9191 or info@hopetsllc.com, or visit their website at <http://hopetsllc.com/>. They are located at 500 Prospect Avenue, suite 300, in West Orange.

## A History of Judaism

CONTINUED FROM P. 58

with this ancient temptress and how Torah/Halachic Judaism provides the "tavlin, the curative spice," to deal with this pervasive evil inclination. Other subjects such as astrology, witchcraft and demonology will also be investigated in Rabbi Klein's forthcoming book.

All in all, Rabbi Klein, in this excellent study, has provided something for every-

one. Well written and organized, both the Torah scholar and layman will find the collected information both fascinating and instructive.

The book will not disappoint.

Rabbi Jeff Bienenfeld holds an MA in Jewish Education from YU and, as a close disciple of R. Joseph B. Soloveitchik, received semicha from RIETS. He served as a pulpit rabbi for 39 years in the United States, most notably as the long-time rabbi of Young Israel of St. Louis.

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## Dan's Deals Explores Antarctica

By Debby Stepelman

What's on your travel bucket list? Personally, I don't have one. I am content shuttling back and forth to Israel and Denver to visit my grandchildren, with an occasional organized trip suggested by a friend.

But, in July, when Dan Eleff (of Dans-Deals) and his buddy Moishie Hersko spilled the beans that they were arranging a totally kosher cruise to Antarctica, replete with his postings of photos of people trekking with poles among penguins surrounded by magnificent glaciers and icebergs, I was blown away; I simply had to join this group. The voyage did not disappoint.

My cabin-mate and I arrived in Buenos Aires a few days early, toured the city and ate Shabbat meals at one of the many Chabads there, Chabad Recoleta. Fourteen of us with the Antarctica expedition had the same idea, which allowed us to get to know each other before the actual journey. We were a microcosm of the ultimate make-up of our group – assorted chassidim, yeshivish, modern Orthodox and everything in between; women wore sheitels, tichels and nothing covering their hair. We were from more than half a dozen North American states, Israel, Europe and Canada; married couples, a few singles, widows and married guys whose wives were home watching the kids. Agewise, we ranged from 20s to 70s. We were a varied and mixed bag, yet we quickly became friends.



Sunday night we all gathered in a hotel in Ushuaia, meeting as a group over supper, playing Jewish geography, sharing travel-related stories of the past few days and then, lighting about 30 menorahs on the last night of Chanukah, facing a picture window overlooking the Beagle Channel. It was a moving and inspirational scene.

Alas, upon boarding the RCBG Resolute of One Ocean Expeditions on Monday, the rumors we had heard were confirmed; we received a notice indicating, "...an alteration to the planned start of the itinerary. Due to an overall and unexpected shortage of fuel available in Ushuaia ... alternate supply in Stanley, Falkland Islands."

The collective moan of the passengers was mitigated somewhat by our being afforded the ability to tour the Falklands and view some amazing vistas and get our first 'in person' photo-ops with penguins and other wildlife. For many, the realization of



Jason Ransom

a new stamp on their passports was an unexpected, mitigating bonus.

Our group of 51 comprised more than 1/3 of the passengers on this relatively small expedition ship. We had our own section of the dining room but mingled with everyone else for all other activities including zodiac cruising, kayaking, happy hour, game night, daily briefing sessions and reviews, etc. Many took 'selfies' with Stephen Harper, former Canadian Prime Minister, who happened to be on board.

On Tuesday afternoon, having refueled, we finally began sailing towards the raison d'être of our trip, Antarctica. Along the route, the wildlife enthusiasts and photographers, as well as us regular folk were rewarded with sightings of amazing birds including albatrosses and a few bonus whales. The awesome Drake Passage behaved like a calm lake.

Finally, on Friday, we reached the penguins and icebergs of the Antarctic! Regrettably, no one was allowed off the ship at Penguin Island because the winds were too strong for the zodiacs to operate properly, but our cameras clicked away from the decks. Of course, our group also stayed on board on Shabbos but other passengers who had gone off told us that the winds made the real-feel temperature very cold. When we finally did go on land on Sunday, the Arctic summer air was relatively warm and the powerful sun reflected so strongly off the snow that we returned sunburned and sweaty.

Ships cannot pull up to shore and dock at the Antarctic 'ports of call' like those on 'regular' cruises. Rather, we stop somewhat near the shore, get into zodiacs (inflated rubber boats) in groups of 12, then climb out of the zodiacs at the 'shore,' traversing through water and pebbles till we get to land, which is generally snow covered ice. There are no carved-out hiking paths; just the previous person's footsteps in the snow. Sunday and Monday we enjoyed two disembarkations per day from our ship.

Our experience included staggering onto and exploring islands around Antarctica as well as walking the actual continent. We were also given the option to take an Arctic plunge, hike among penguins, cruise in the

zodiac and visit a Chilean science station.. On one zodiac cruise, we heard the explosive sounds and witnessed the calving of an iceberg – large chunks of ice breaking off and shattering into the water. For me, the zodiac cruises were the most magnificent experiences. Observing stunning landscapes of icebergs and glaciers, surrounded by brilliant tones of blue shadows on their curves and the azure wa-

ters was staggeringly breathtaking. No photos can do justice to such scenery.

About a dozen of our heartiest (read craziest) souls participated in an Arctic plunge. (Yes, they prepared with swimwear on.) They now claim the water was colder than that experienced by members of the Coney Island Polar Bear Club this year. When we traversed the area of a Chilean science station, we davened mincha on the snow. Then, our mashgiach, Rabbi Moshe Paskesz, made an outdoor siyum for our entire group and hundreds of attentive penguins.

As we had much time on our ship, we did not let it go to waste. There were daily *daf yomi* shiurim, a shiur about how

'zmanim' (times for prayer, for candle lighting, etc.) are calculated when there is barely a sunset at the time of the summer solstice and assorted other learning opportunities. Women learned a lesson a day from the Chofetz Chaim and mishnayot from Pirkei Avot daily. Moishie Hersko taught us novices a little about photography settings for wildlife and, of course, Dan gave a few 'shurim' on cards, miles, etc. The delicious catered meals were elegantly plated, making us feel like we were at a simcha daily. Kabbalat Shabbat was unique with singing, dancing and streimels representing at least six chassidic groups.



For some, a passport stamp after we were on shore in Antarctica indicated the seventh continent they had walked on; others were happy to check off one more item from their bucket list. For me, this was simply a trip of a lifetime!

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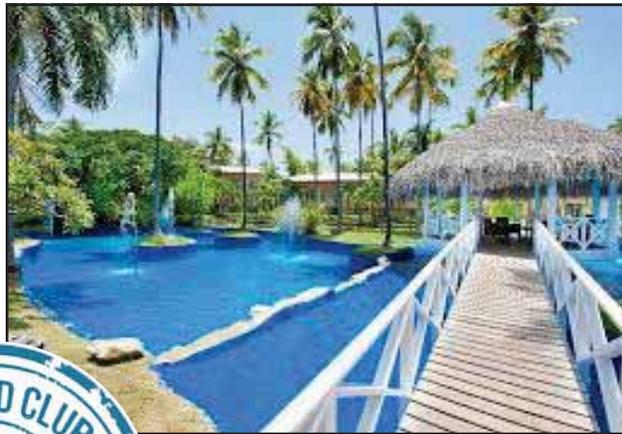
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# ‘Dirshu Ruined My Life!’

By Chaim Gold

“You ruined my life!!” he said, as he grabbed me by both arms. Those were the startling words that a Yid who met Rav Dovid Hofstedter told him to his face when he happened to meet him in the streets of Boro Park. “I don’t have a day, I don’t have a night, I don’t even have a minute to go to a simcha....” With a pure smile bathing his entire face, the Yid exclaimed, “On behalf of myself and my whole mishpacha, I don’t know how to thank you!”

As Rav Hofstedter related this anecdote to a spellbound audience at the grand melava malka siyum there was virtually no member of the wider mishpachas Dirshu who did not understand and identify with the message conveyed by this Yid from Boro Park. Rav Hofstedter eloquently explained, “Whatever previous lives we had have been ruined because this constant dedication to accountable *limud HaTorah* and relentless *hasmadah* has become our lives!”

The grand melava malka, where throngs of Yidden joined the lomdei Dirshu who had spent Shabbos at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Stamford, Connecticut, was the culmination of an unforgettable Shabbos led by gedolei Yisrael. The overwhelming feeling throughout the Shabbos by



Harav Dovid Goldberg, shlita, Rosh Yeshivah of Telshe, delivering a keynote address at the Melaveh Malkah.

lomdei Dirshu and their wives was one of simcha, joy and ecstasy, thanking Hashem for a life permeated by ol Torah!

HaGaon HaRav Shlomo Feivel Schustal, shlita, who spent Shabbos at the convention, gave a deep, intricate shiur klali after Shacharis on Shabbos morning. Before embarking on the sugya upon which the shiur was based, he expressed his profound feelings of awe, amazement and emotion. He explained that he felt unable to begin the shiur without first sharing his emotions with the assemblage. “I am here for Shabbos,” he said, “and what is so remarkable is that I see all types of Yidden,

older, younger, baalei batim and kollel yungeleit, all learning with such a *bren*, such *she’ifos*, such tremendous motivation to learn, to know and to retain...”

The Rosh Yeshiva continued: “We live in an era where the yetzer hara, r”l, is constantly coming up with new innovations to try to make us stumble. Baruch Hashem, Hashem has also sent chiddushim as antidotes to the yetzer hara, and Dirshu is such

a chiddush! It gives a person his primary cheshek, desire, and goal in limud haTorah. It requires a tremendous zechus to be able to gift klal Yisrael with so much limud haTorah!”

One of the highlights of the convention every year is the shailah and teshuva session on all four chalakim of Shulchan Aruch with HaGaon HaRav Yechiel Mechel Steinmetz, shlita, Skverer Dayan of Boro Park.

During Mincha, one of the most breathtaking traditions of the Dirshu convention took place. Whereas during Shabbos morning davening all of the aliya are given to the gedolim, at Mincha the aliya of shlishi is sold in Dirshu currency, pages of Gemara. The bidding was the greatest testament to the Dirshu mission. One thousand blatt, 2,000, 3,000—it kept on going until one Dirshu learner prevailed by pledging to learn 8,200 blatt Gemara over the next 12 months!!! That Yid gave the aliya to Rav Dovid Hofstedter as a token of his gratitude for “changing his life.”

HaGaon HaRav Yitzchok Sorotzkin, shlita, rosh yeshiva of Telshe and Lakewood Mesivta, eloquently brought proof from Chazal the fact that the difficulties we have in our generation and in any generation—whether it is government intervention in our observance of Yiddishkeit or difficulty with parnassah—is a result of a lack of complete immersion in Torah. “Torah is life!” the Rosh Yeshiva exclaimed. “This is not a poetic turn of phrase, it is the metzius!”

The convention’s high point was the melave malka, and the climax of the melave malka was the unveiling of plans for the Dirshu World Siyum to be held next winter. The lomdei Dirshu were given given an advance preview of the worldwide siyumim that will culminate at the Prudential Center in Newark, where the entire arena will be transformed into a giant beis medrash celebrating the accomplishments of lomdei Torah with accountability.

“The purpose of the Dirshu World Siyum,” explained Rav Dovid Hofstedter, is to galvanize, empower and energize lomdei Torah throughout the world, young and old, whatever standing and station in life, irrespective of what shevet they belong to, *k’ish echad b’lev echad* to accept upon themselves the *ol*, the yoke of Torah, to become a *mamleches kohanim v’goy kadosh* and to rise above the *nisyonos*. That is our objective and goal! Hashem has given us the tools to survive. Today there are all kinds of aids to help us in learning. There are umpteen ways to do the daf, with this shortcut and that aid. Dirshu’s goal, however, is not to do the daf, it is to *live* the daf!”

The chairman of the event, Rav Yoir Adler, asked the rosh yeshiva of Telshe, HaGaon HaRav Dovid Goldberg, shlita, to address the crowd. “At this convention,” exclaimed the Rosh Yeshiva, “I saw not only tremendous limud haTorah, but perhaps even I saw how the people value Torah. Ashreinu!”



HaRav Reuven Feinstein addressing Dirshu participants Erev Shabbos.

The final address of the evening was given by HaGaon HaRav Lipa Geldwerth. “Looking around on Shabbos, I saw so many colors and shades. People representing 20 different chasidusin, 20 different yeshivos, Sefardim, Yekkes... the one thing that binds them together is the fire of Torah! If someone would ask me what is the one most unique thing that Dirshu has accomplished, I would say that they made Torah *keva*, the most important thing in a person’s life.”

Perhaps Rav Dovid Hofstedter encapsulated the primary message of the night at the end of his remarks, when with such love he looked at the audience and said, “Tayere lomdei Dirshu, mishpachas Dirshu, our close family. You have ruined my life. I don’t have a day, I don’t have a night, I am constantly preparing for another shiur, running here, running there, not able to have time to attend a simcha. On behalf of my entire mishpacha I want to say, I don’t know how to thank you! We have ruined our lives for Torah, because Torah is our life!”

A more comprehensive report on the Dirshu International Convention, with detailed messages of the gedolei Yisrael, will be forthcoming *bez”H*, next week.

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# Remembering Music's Schindler: Bronislaw Huberman and the 'Orchestra of Exiles'



By Rachel Kovacs

On December 26, 1936, Arturo Toscanini, indisputably the greatest maestro of that time, working under less than ideal conditions and in an area under tight British control, conducted a mostly pan-European group of musicians in Tel Aviv. Toscanini charged neither a fee nor expenses for his services. It was not the last time he would honor this fledgling group of refugees. It has been 82 years since that inaugural concert, and as defiant and courageous an anti-Fascist as Toscanini was, he is not the main protagonist of this story. Bronislaw Huberman is.

Although Spielberg's work brought Oskar Schindler's heroism to international audiences, relatively few students of the Holocaust have become acquainted with the story of an equally heroic man, a Schindler of music—Bronislaw Huberman, who single handedly darted in and out of Germany and Nazi- and Fascist-sympathetic Europe to rescue virtuosi and their families. Huberman faced formidable obstacles, not the least of which was deciding whom to select for the "orchestra of exiles" he meticulously planned. He



Bronislaw Huberman  
(COURTESY OF BAIN NEWS SERVICE VIA WIKIPEDIA COMMONS)



Huberman and Toscanini at the first concert of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra, December 1936. (COURTESY OF THE FELICJA BLUMENTAL MUSIC CENTER LIBRARY/HUBERMAN ARCHIVES)



Huberman playing the violin.  
(COURTESY OF MURRAY S. KATZ PHOTO ARCHIVES OF THE ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA)

knew that in selecting some musicians over others, he may well have sealed the fates of those he rejected—and their families.

Huberman, born in 1882, came from a poor family in Poland. His father, Jacob, left his job as a clerk to accompany his son first to Warsaw for violin lessons and then to Berlin to study with Joseph Joachim, the consummate violinist of the time. Joachim was a close friend and interpreter of Brahms, who himself had seen the teenag-

er perform in 1896 in Vienna. The 14-year-old's rendition of Brahms' Violin Concerto had so moved the composer that after the performance, he hugged the prodigy, praised him, and predicted his greatness.

Given the many invitations from abroad that Huberman received, his father arranged a global tour. The violinist was a sensation, lauded in 1896 by The New York Times. Thus was launched a brilliant international concert career, one that took quite a bewildering turn.

After his father's untimely death in 1902, and the Great War, which had left an indelible mark on Huberman's thinking, the boy wonder did something quite unprecedented in the world of music. At the peak of his success, acutely aware of politics and humanism, he suspended his concerts and went to study for two years at the Sorbonne. There Huberman became an advocate of Pan-Europeanism, like many in-

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# Holland-Belgium



By Norbert Strauss

Part 3

(Continued from last week)

After three days in Holland we had a “kosher driver” from Antwerp pick us up in Amsterdam and drive us to Antwerp. It turns out that this driver, who only does long trips, actually does the driving only as a sideline, which he is now stopping altogether. During the trip he talked about how he is now employed by the OU (reporting to Rabbi Genack) and that after several months of training he is now responsible for inspecting chemical companies for the OU. He also leins, is a baal tefilla, blows the shofar, teaches bar mitzvah boys and writes the speech for them etc. and is the Gabbai in the shul at the seaside resort named Knokke. I asked him whether, since he seems to do everything already, he also does a bris but the answer was negative.



A yekke in a shtreimel.

In Antwerp we were in a small hotel right across the street from the main shul and within walking distance of several kosher restaurants. Dorothy’s relatives lived not far away and the hall where the wedding was going to be was just around the corner.

What was interesting about our stay in Antwerp was that the Jewish community is mostly chasidic, of different sects, with different types of traditional cloth-

ing. To me all Jews are Jews, eastern, western, Ashkenazi or Sephardi, chasidim or Lubavitcher. But due to my background in Germany, then Washington Heights and now in New Jersey, seeing a shtreimel with or without white socks is a rarity. I therefore found the circumstances we were in very special.

All of Dorothy’s relatives from that side of the family are chasidim, and they turned out to be some of the most friendly and outgoing people I had ever met. The fact that, although only distant relatives, we had nevertheless come from the US to join in their simcha, was much appreciated by them and there was nothing they would not do for us to make our stay more comfortable.

Friday afternoon, a few hours before the onset of Shabbat, we had a perfect spot from our hotel window overlooking a main intersection for viewing the activity on the street. At times the street would turn

black with groups of men hurrying home, or groups of women, naturally all dressed in black, running for the last-minute shopping. Men and children on bicycles zig-zagging in between, balancing bundles or shopping bags in their arms. And then suddenly the activity stopped. As I walked to shul one could see only men with children going in various direction. I am sure there were any number of shuls and stüblech in the neighborhood.



At the wedding. I am at left without hat.

The wedding was scheduled for Wednesday night. Weddings in that community are in two parts. The first part is around 5 p.m., which is only the chuppah and everything that is directly connected to it, and then everybody goes home. Dorothy and I were wondering where the chosson and kallah were during the interval. Anyhow, a few hours later everybody gets together again, all dressed up (more so than for the chuppah), woman in their finest, best jewelry on display. And then the chosson and kallah enter and the party and seuda begin.

During the seuda I was seated on a table between two relatives, both naturally wearing the shtreimel, except when they were not wearing it, namely when it got too hot or heavy or both. In



All kinds—but all are good Jews.

the middle of the conversation with one of them he suddenly asked me whether I would like to try on his shtreimel. After much thinking, for about a second or so, I agreed under the condition that someone would take a picture. I wasn’t going to miss the opportunity of showing the folks back home what a yekke looks like in a shtreimel. Someone said I look like I had just bit-

ten on a sour lemon. Actually, I was surprised how uncomfortable, heavy and hot the shtreimel felt.

I understand that after most of the guests have left, the immediate family stays on and celebrates with dances.

We had an early morning appointment with the kosher taxi (this time driven by the young man’s mother) to take us to the Brussels airport. We therefore left before all the festivities were over.

I had promised you this would not be just another travelogue, and I don’t think it was. I hope you enjoyed reading about this as much as we did living it.

Norbert Strauss is a Teaneck resident and Englewood Hospital volunteer. He frequently speaks to groups to relay his family’s escape from Nazi Germany in 1941.

## Remembering Music’s Schindler

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

tellectuals of the time, including Albert Einstein. He joined the movement for peace that was brewing in Europe. In taking this “recess,” Huberman, unlike most musical geniuses, interrupted a flourishing concert circuit.

The Nazis’ rise to power in 1933 and the ensuing Nuremberg laws disabused Huberman of his hope that peace in Europe would come to fruition. Jewish musicians were no longer permitted to play in German orchestras and Jewish performers of all persuasions were out of work. The renowned German Berlin Philharmonic conductor Wilhelm Furtwangler had received from Goebbels a rather tenuous concession that Jewish musicians in the Philharmonic would be able to perform in the orchestra despite the anti-Jewish decrees. Furtwangler, a non-Jew, had himself wrestled with the idea of leaving Germany, but ultimately remained to conduct the Philharmonic throughout the Second World War.

As for Huberman, he had by no means been a Zionist. His hopes had been for

a united, peace-driven Europe. Yet, given growing anti-Semitism and a looming specter of Nazi occupation elsewhere, he not only realized that there was no future for Jews in Germany, but that the only hope for Jewish musicians who were targeted, and would in the future be targeted, was in Palestine.

Securing papers for these musicians was a far more difficult task. In addition to those musicians who auditioned for Huberman, there were written requests from others. Huberman had to personally appeal on their behalf to authorities in England and elsewhere for the documents permitting them to emigrate.

Arturo Toscanini’s experiences in the music world paralleled those of Huberman. The latter’s cognizance of the Nazi threat had catalyzed his rescue mission, but both men refused offers to work in an environment of harassment, persecution and death. Toscanini had already fled Italy, after the authorities there had twice confiscated his passport. Clearly opposed to the Nazi measures to ostracize Jews, Toscanini empathized with the plight of the musical virtuosi who had been fired. Huberman approached Toscanini to conduct the

first concert of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra. The maestro agreed to do so, and subsequently conducted additional performances.

Despite harsh physical and environmental conditions, political struggles to accommodate a growing post-Holocaust refugee population, and war, the orchestra flourished. Other esteemed artists, such as Leonard Bernstein, came to conduct it during those birth-pang years. The orchestra struggled, but in time, and with additional resources, it was transformed into the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

As for Huberman, the years and the hardships took a toll on his health and his relationships. His first marriage, to actress and singer Elsa Galafres, which produced his son Johannes, failed. He later found love and companionship with Ida Ibbeken, who had nursed him during a major illness. She became his companion and devoted assistant, often traveling with him on tours, fundraising trips, auditions and rescue missions.

Huberman survived a 1937 plane crash near Sumatra, and after a period of rehabilitation went on to tour and play benefits for various causes worldwide. After the war, he

continued his performances but spent six months in Italy restoring his health. On June 16, 1947, he passed quietly, with Ibbeken at his side.

Although there is no exact count of how many people were saved through the efforts of “Music’s Schindler,” the likelihood is that Huberman’s interventions saved close to one thousand lives, not counting the generations of musicians’ families who owe their existence to his bravery, persistence and, of course, brilliant artistry.

Josh Aronson’s excellent documentary, “Orchestra of Exiles,” which aired on PBS in April 2013, brought Huberman’s story to broader audiences. Nevertheless, to date, many still do not know how the melding of Huberman’s talent, perseverance and outright “chutzpah” resulted in the rescue of so many artists, not to mention the scores of their descendants who survived, despite the Nazis’ attempts to silence them, and their music.

Rachel Kovacs is an adjunct associate professor at City University of New York. Please note this article is proprietary/copyright protected.

## Hudson Regional Hospital Announces Slate of Free Educational Programs

(Courtesy of Hudson Regional Hospital) Hudson Regional Hospital is proud to announce a nine-part, free education series this winter. As part of building a healthier community, we are excited to offer free classes focusing on hands-only CPR, active shooter survival, opioid overdose response and stroke awareness.

"This is an exhilarating opportunity for the hospital," said Sabina Sanchez, patient representative/community outreach coordinator. "These classes give our community a great chance to learn many of the basics of medical care, along with getting to know the hospital better."

This comes after HRH's extensive outreach last year, which was in response to the traumatic anti-Semitic attack that occurred in Pittsburgh.

One program this year is on opioid overdose response. Unfortunately, opioid addiction is something that has taken a grasp on our country's health, and New Jersey is no exception. According to the most recent data, in 2016, there were 1,409 opioid-related overdose deaths in New Jersey—a rate of 16 deaths per 100,000 persons—compared with a national rate of 13.3 deaths per 100,000.

Further, the number of first-time admissions into drug-monitoring facilities has steadily increased since 2014, with 9,843

people entering drug-treatment facilities for the first time in 2017. The opioid overdose response programs seek to educate people on the dangers of opioid addictions, how they can tell if people they know are suffering from opioid addiction and the correct way to administer naloxone.



Naloxone is a common name for "Narcan," a medication that is designed to reverse the harmful effects of opioids. In total, 81.6 percent of reported naloxene reversals involve heroin, while prescription opioids were involved in 14.1 percent of cases. Naloxone has become the most popular method for reversing opioid overdoses because of its ease in use, as it is administered in the nasal area.

The full schedule of classes is below. Space is limited. To RSVP for the event, please email [EMS@HudsonRegionalHospital.com](mailto:EMS@HudsonRegionalHospital.com) or call 201-583-6707.

Saturday, January 19, 1:00-2:00 p.m., Active Shooter Survival

Sunday, January 20, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Hands-Only CPR

Sunday, January 20, 3:00-4:00 p.m., Stroke Awareness & Prevention

Saturday, February 16, 1:00-2:00 p.m., Hands-Only CPR

Saturday, February 16, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Opioid Overdose Response

Sunday, February 17, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Active Shooter Survival

Tuesday, February 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Opioid Overdose Response

Saturday, March 16, 1:00-2:00 p.m., Stroke Awareness & Prevention

Tuesday, March 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Active Shooter Survival

All community events are held in the GME Room at Hudson Regional Hospital located on 55 Meadowlands Parkway, Secaucus, NJ 07094. In addition, we can schedule specific programs for your shul or organization, as we did in 2018.

### Schedule an Appointment

Hudson Regional Hospital offers preventive and other services on an inpatient and outpatient basis. Patients can inquire about these services or schedule appointments by contacting the hospital directly, either via telephone at 201-392-3100 or email at [info@](mailto:info@)



[HudsonRegionalHospital.com](http://HudsonRegionalHospital.com). Patients facing medical emergencies should proceed directly to the emergency room. The emergency room contact number is 201-392-3210.

For a tour of the new Hudson Regional Hospital or to meet the owner and executive, physicians should call George Matyjewicz at 201-392-3436 or email [GMatyjewicz@HudsonRegionalMarketing.com](mailto:GMatyjewicz@HudsonRegionalMarketing.com).

### About Hudson Regional Hospital

Hudson Regional Hospital acquired its facility from Meadowlands Hospital Medical Center in January 2018, with the mission to build a healthier community by providing exceptional care for Hudson County residents through a significant investment in new technology, including the da Vinci Robotic System, and access to more physician groups including some of the best physicians in the New York City metro area.

Hudson Regional Hospital's ER team provides around-the-clock comprehensive emergency care services that include short wait times, EMS/ambulance on-site 24/7, a fully equipped EMS lounge, 24/7 access to specialty physicians and multilingual staff that understands 19 different languages, including Hebrew.

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# Josh Erber Is Loving His Year at Lev HaTorah

By JLNJ Staff

Josh Erber is studying at Yeshivat Lev HaTorah in Ramat Bet Shemesh. He grew up in Englewood, attended Moriah for elementary school, and SAR for high school. His family davens at Kehilat Keshet.

His next stop? Yeshiva University's Honors Program.

*Why did you choose to study at Lev HaTorah?*

I decided to come here mainly because I heard great things about the rebbeim, and how close-knit the community is around the yeshiva. I also knew a great group of guys who were going here.

*What kind of goals do you have for the year?*

Going into this year, I really hoped to build on my Gemara skills, become a better Hebrew speaker, and to become more independent.

What have been some of the highlights of your year so far?

My highlight of the year so far was a tiyul on Har Shlomo during our Eilat tiyul. We woke up at 4:30 a.m., ran to the buses and started the tiyul in the pitch dark at around 5 a.m. When we got there, we immediately started hiking up the mountain, and after an hour and a half, we davened at the top of one of the smaller mountains leading up to Har Shlomo. Then we



Lev HaTorah students (top, l-r): Devin Berman, Zack Sklar, Eric Gulitch, Ayden Shankman; (bottom): Josh Erber, at a hike on Har Shlomo. (CREDIT: JOSH ERBER)



(l-r): Justin Plotsker, Zack Sklar, Effie Mincer, Justin Hanelin, Josh Erber at Har Shlomo. (CREDIT: JOSH ERBER)

climbed up Har Shlomo on ladders, steep trails, and up a lot of steep terrain. It was a tough hike but it was a great experience.

*What kind of challenges have you faced coming to Israel?*

Being forced to learn how to do everything for yourself in a short amount of time.

*How has your year been different from your expectations?*

Israel has been pretty much what I expected, but I definitely learned to be more independent, which helped me adjust to the new environment here.

*Where is your favorite place to go for weekends/Shabbat so far?*

I'm fortunate enough to have grandparents in Ra'Anana, and I always love going out there for Shabbat.

*Who is a teacher at Lev HaTorah you connect to especially well?*

Rav Netanel Lebowitz has been a very inspiring rabbi to me this year. I've learned so much about tefillah, Gemara and Judaism in general. I find it particularly easy to connect with Rav Netanel, because we each grew up in similar environments, and because he teaches in such a passionate and exciting way.

*Which is one of your favorite classes at Lev HaTorah?*

One of my favorite classes is called Untold Stories of Tanach. Our teacher, Rav Yaakov Beasley, teaches my classmates and I fascinating stories of Tanach that are not generally taught in high school. Rav Beasley always has fantastic insights on these untold stories and I always love to hear whatever he has to say about Tanach.

*What are you most looking forward to for the rest of the year?*

I'm looking forward to continue growing in a religious sense and as a person, and I hope to explore and discover places in Israel I've never been to.

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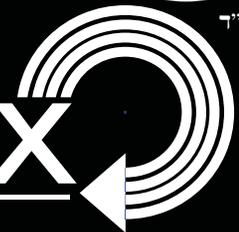
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# A Time for Music 32: The Camp HASC Concert

By Yossi Zweig

Sunday, January 6, was a date that will go down in Jewish music history. It was the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual “HASC: A Time for Music” concert, and it was one for the books. The concert was produced by the amazing Eli Gerstner (EG Productions), and featured an all-star cast, with many singers making their HASC debut performances.

Upon walking into David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center, one was greeted by a huge stage design with three tiers and individual “boxes” for each musician. As everyone took their seats, a screen started counting down the final 30 seconds. It was with the dimming of the lights that “the voice of Jewish radio,” Nachum Segal himself, graced the stage and introduced the Yosis Symphony Orchestra conducted by the incomparable Yoeli Dikman. Between the impressive view of Yoeli in his coat tails waving his hands and conductor baton, and the amazing reimagined HASC overture with the awesome light show, everyone was astounded and prepared for the show of a lifetime. With the final notes dying down, two tall, chasidic men with long beards walked onto the stage. The orchestra started playing and the words Baruch Hashem echoed throughout David Geffen Hall. This was Zusha’s debut HASC performance. Within minutes they were joined on stage by the talented Levin brothers, aka Pumpedisa. The two groups rocked out to the song Baruch



Hashem, which they released a year and a half ago, with the producer of the song, DJ Matt Dub, performing above them on the highest tier. It was the perfect way to kick off the concert. Everyone was clapping and singing along.

With the show was under way, everyone was eager to see who would be the next act. The booming voice of Nachum Segal announced that for the first time ever, Abie Rotenberg and Shlomo Simcha, who have both individually graced the HASC stage before, were making their HASC debut performing as AISH. Everyone knows of these classic AISH hits, which have been sung at Shabbos tables and played at so many chuppahs. Now mega hits like Birchas Habayis (Yehei Zeh), Ilon, Habeit, Mi Adir, Yedid Nefesh and Hiney Lo Yonum were being performed for the first time on the HASC stage. Both young and old in the audience were amazed at how good Abie and Shlomo sounded, almost like the albums had been released yester-



day. With the medley winding down, Abie announced that a new AISH album is going to be released in the next few months and that they were going to perform a song off the new album for the first time. The new song was titled Lo Matza, and as Shlomo Simcha urged, after hearing the chorus a few times the entire audience joined in. It was magical, the orchestra was tremendous, and with Shlomo Simcha giving Yoeli Dikman a huge hug, AISH was finished.

If I told you the next performer walked on to stage holding an umbrella, would you be able to guess who it was? Making his HASC debut was superstar singer and former HASC counselor Mordechai Shapiro. There is something electric about Mordy that forces everyone to pay attention. His charisma was almost tangible and everyone was smiling within minutes. Mordy’s set included his mega hits Machar (hence the umbrella), Yachad and of course Schar Mitzvah, with the song’s composer, Elie Schwab, getting a shout-out. Mordy dominated the stage, and the entire audience was mesmerized by his performance and vocal prowess. With a hello to his wife, parents and in-laws, Mordy’s time was up and we all said goodbye.

Nachum Segal announced that the next performer would also be making his HASC debut. Beri Weber started off on a rather slow but moving note. He performed his hit ballad, Riboin, initially joined by just the pianist and the cellist, and of course the rest of the orchestra joined in for a strong finish. Everyone was quietly watching this beautifully haunting performance as Beri belted out Ki Al Rachamecho, which was definitely a HASC highlight. With the final notes trailing off, Beri paused. Then he turned to the audience and said let’s get this party started, as he invited the talented DJ Matt Dubb to join him, and they performed his song Adama Veshamayim. On the center of the stage on the third tier where the choir had been all night, a spotlight revealed Matt Dubb with his turntables. Once the beat

kicked in by the “Hey Ya” part, David Geffen Hall was hopping. Then in a surprising move, Beri walks behind the stage, only to magically appear in the DJ booth on top. It’s no wonder that this song is so huge right now, with three versions of it being released this past Motzei Shabbos. When it was all over, Beri left the stage to thunderous applause.

At this point we had already seen so many big names and so much talent, what could possibly be next? Nachum announced that the next act hadn’t performed together in over 30 years: Yossi Toiv (aka Country Yossi), Nachum Deutch and Heshy Walfish as Or Chodosh. Back in the day, Or Chodosh was everywhere, with hits that were sung worldwide. The trio performed their greatest hits, including Aileh Vorechev, Aromimcha, Oh The World, Yiru, Shi Hama’alos and others. Keep in mind Or Chodosh also introduced the world to golden classics like Reb Shmuel Brazil’s Shmelkie’s Niggun and Bilvavi, which are still sung today.

Next, chairman of the board Jeremy Strauss walked onstage. He praised Camp HASC’s amazing work and said if it weren’t for Sheya Mendlowitz’ vision and the first HASC concerts, he would have never become a Camp HASC counselor, let alone a board member. Jeremy thanked Eli Gerstner for all his hard work putting together this year’s show as well as his work over the past few years and announced that Eli was going to perform a brand new song written specially for the show. Eli then walked up to the piano and explained that the new song, titled A Special Angel, had been composed by him with lyrics by him and Yossi Toiv. Gerstner then invited YBC star soloist Shlomo Schachter to join him on stage. The song was very moving. It spoke about parents of a child with special needs and how they are like angels. Shlomo’s voice shined and reached great heights as it blended beautifully with Eli’s. It seemed that for the first time in years, HASC has a new original song to call its own.



Next, Nachum announced that although the next performer had never been on the HASC stage, his songs have. He then welcomed world-renowned composer and singer Yishai Lapidot, for whom the audience started cheering. Yishai started off his set with his world-renowned song Aleh Katan, originally performed by Avraham Fried. As the music continued, Yishai brought Mordechai Shapiro to the stage. They performed Yishai’s hits, including DE-DI’s Vekovei and Hu Yigal, Oif Simchas hits including Dor Metzuyan and Shalala (Eishes Chayil) and finally Modeh Ani from Avraham Fried. The duo was on fire and the audience was eating it up. It was like going in a time machine of Jewish hits with Mordy and Yishai.

On a silent stage, the images of fire started flashing on the big screen as the first notes of the song Aish started up. Yaakov Shwekey walked onstage and jumped right into the hits song Time to Light the Fire Now. Yaakov’s performance of his recent album, Musica, coupled with the orchestra and light show was a spectacle to behold. Next, Shwekey performed Your Time with a shout-out to the lyricist Sruly Besser, the famed writer/editor of Mishpacha Magazine who was in the audience, and then an Am Yisrael duet with the song’s composer, Yishai Lapidot. The song was filled with energy and the two kept trading off vocals and harmonies. Things then slowed down with A Perfect World, featuring a new video soon to be released for the song.

Fans far and wide fell in love with Shwekey’s album Those Were The Days featuring hits we all grew up with, and what happened next was one for the books. Shwekey was joined by veteran composer Abie Rotenberg to perform songs like It’s Time to Say Good Shabbos, Memories, The Man from Vilna and

There’s No Place Like Home. The audience will remember that performance for many years to come. Shwekey thanked Abie for his amazing songs and so started the final medley, which included the hit songs Ma’amin Benisim, Im Eshkoach and the finale of Et Rikod, performed by the entire cast. Yes, the show was three hours long with no intermission, but it was also continuous, high-quality entertainment. Eli Gerstner, you have outdone yourself again and will be written up in the JM books as a producer extraordinaire. May we all be invited to next year’s HASC concert in Jerusalem. Amen.

## Heart-Wrenching Decisions for the Better



By Rabbi Mordechai and Nina Glick

It is difficult to describe the different emotions and feelings that parents of children with special needs experience day in and day out. Due to the “busyness” of most lives we are like robots, functioning without thinking seriously about how different our lives would be “if only XXX would have been ‘normal.’” There are moments, however, when we do think that, and although some people might deny that they do, how could one not have such thoughts?

We remember the time frame for different milestones that passed in Naama’s life with us wondering whether she would walk or be toilet trained, what her intellectual ability would be, etc. It is relatively easy to hope and plan, until at a certain point in your very special child’s life you realize that there really is no hope for the things you had wished for that child. Get used to the fact that the unrealistic expectations you had will just never happen. A child who is 5 and not yet walking will most likely not walk. A child who is 12 and still drooling will probably continue to drool. There are no more excuses to be made. We are still bowled over by the number of people we meet who are paralyzed by making these realizations.

We will not deny that we had dark days during the years that Naama was growing. We tried to take turns feeling sad so that we could comfort each other. Nina had a rule that we were not allowed to cry together. We had to do it separately in order for us to be comforting to our partner. Yet we were determined to work together and make our sad, sad situation work. No one can convince us that there is something beautiful about having a child who requires so much care day and night. However, we are sure that by having Naama in our lives, she, in her own way, together with the rest of our family, was given the opportunity to expose many people from different walks of life to the fact that those who are born with these severe challenges deserve the same honor, respect and love that everyone around us does.

Throughout this process, through the years of impacting our children’s lives and our family as a whole, we made a decision that at some point Naama would deserve and need to live in an environment independent from our family. We never thought that she would not be able to exist without us. We were always realistic enough to realize that we could not go on caring for her forever. Nor was she to be the responsibility of her siblings. When she was 15 we began working diligently and formulating a plan as to what could be done.

We are writing this today because we have recently met several individuals who have children with special needs (some in their 20s and more) who feel that their children cannot survive without them. As one parent said to me, “We would never do that

to our child” when Nina suggested that maybe it was time to think about a group home for the person. All of you: Do not kid yourselves! None of us is here forever. What will happen to the “children” when their parents are no longer alive? Is it the responsibility of siblings to care for their brother or sister who needs constant care? Everyone in the family is being punished by such selfish decisions. Resentment is felt even if it does not come to the surface. Marriages are affected, parents become worn out physically, and mentally the strain becomes totally overbearing. As Nina said in her talk to the attendees of the Shalva Marathon in Jerusalem, “Little down kids do not remain cute.” Our daughter and those in her group home are no longer cute. They are adults with severe issues living in residences away from their families, just as their siblings are living away from their families. We have seen it time and time again. Parents insist on caring for a “special” child until one of them suddenly passes and that child who “could not live without his family” is now thriving in a group home or living the same boring life that he had at home.

Couples deserve the right to spend time together and care for each other. There is no way a romantic light can be maintained when a child with special needs requires so much of our time. We implore anyone who has been hedging about this issue to finally see the light and do what is necessary.

We know that there is only one from group home in this area. We are not talking about the waitlists and lack of facilities. We are talking about making the critical decision that will change your lives, your family’s lives and the life of the person you love who has special needs.

*The Glicks are available to discuss this topic further at any time.*

Rabbi Mordechai and Nina Glick are living in Bergenfield after many years of service to the Montreal Jewish community. Rabbi Glick was the rav of Congregation Ahavat Yisroel as well as a practicing clinical psychologist in private practice. He also taught at Champlain Regional College. The Glicks were frequent speakers at the OU marriage retreats. Nina coordinated all Yachad activities in Montreal and was a co/founder of Maison Shalom, a group home for young adults with special needs. They can be reached at [nina@jewishlinknj.com](mailto:nina@jewishlinknj.com).

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Owned by Ethan Keiser, Sarah and David Berrson (L-R)

## OHEL Continues to Raise Mental Health Awareness

(Courtesy of OHEL) Dr. Norman Blumenthal, director of Trauma, Bereavement and Crisis Response at OHEL Children's Home and Family Services, was a keynote speaker at the Baltimore community-wide event titled "One Crucial Night or Raise Mental Health Awareness."

The event exceeded all expectations and, indicative of the need at hand, saw over 400 at the event, was live-streamed reaching over 1,200 people—and has since been seen by thousands online.

The evening, held at Bnai Jacob Shaarei Zion synagogue in Baltimore, was organized by Mrs. Suzann Lesson MOTR/L, a local occupational therapist whose vision and perseverance made real this important event.

The key speakers at the event were Dr. Norman Blumenthal of OHEL and Rabbi Ephraim Eliyahu Shapiro, mara d'atra of Shaaray Tefilah Congregation in North Miami Beach, Florida. The event was moderated by Rabbi Yisrael Slansky, director of RELIEF Resources Services of Baltimore.

Dr. Blumenthal, who has widely spoken in communities far and wide across the U.S. and beyond, has been a tireless advocate in raising the awareness of mental health is-



issues, breaking down stigma, and nurturing a community far more proactive in seeking the help needed.

Setting the tone of the evening, to awaken action, Dr. Norman Blumenthal powerfully conveyed: "The time has come to destigmatize mental illness and destigmatize psychotherapy."

Reflecting on the urgency at hand by way of the tragic increase in suicides, Dr. Blumenthal conveyed that this reality was in much part the result of continued stigmatization and a feeling of helplessness by many, resulting in not getting treatment.

Dr. Blumenthal likened mental illness to any physical ailment where professional treatment is available. So too, much like

a physical ailment that's not addressed in a timely manner worsens, so too a mental health issue not addressed will only further aggravate the condition, resulting in greater intervention.

The founder of Chazkeinu, Zahava List, was also present, and she made available an abundance of information about her international women's support group for people with mental illness.

Rabbi Ephraim Eliyahu Shapiro emphasized the need for caring for one another. As he explained, people suffering from mental health issues "don't care what people know; they want to know that people care." Rabbi Shapiro conveyed that no one should ever have to feel completely alone." He stressed the power of davening for the refuah of people with mental health issues. And he concluded his speech echoing the words of Dr. Blumenthal, with the words "Stop the stigma."

Together with OHEL, the event was graciously sponsored by Levindale Hospital, Sinai Hospital, Bikur Cholim, RELIEF Resources, Ahavas Yisrael, Hatzalah, CBMI/Lev Shlomo, Jewish Caring Network and Jewish Community Services.

This year, OHEL celebrates 50 years of service in elevating the lives of thousands of individuals and strengthening communities.

Servicing the needs of over 11,000 individuals, OHEL has been a trailblazer through decades of innovative programs and services that meet the increasing and diverse needs of growing communities. The breadth of OHEL's experience and expertise is second to none, from mental health services to developmental disability services, from foster care to eldercare services, from medical services to trauma services. These programs and services can be accessed from the new OHEL Jaffa Family Campus in Flatbush and the Kleinman Regional Family Center in Far Rockaway.

Importantly, OHEL's Crisis Response Team provides on-site support to communities struck by tragedy and natural disasters, whether providing training and workshops to local mental health professionals and/or guidance and support to the wider community.

For more information on these many services, please call OHEL Access at 1800-603-OHEL, [www.ohelfamily.org](http://www.ohelfamily.org) or [access@ohelfamily.org](mailto:access@ohelfamily.org).

## Facing the Swamp of Recovery



By Temimah Zucker, LMSW

I have written before about my extensive use of metaphors in my working with clients and when I act as an advocate in regard to eating disorders, body image and mental health. I do this so frequently, that many times clients enter sessions with a metaphor of their own and use it as a means of connecting. Metaphors allow for a common language, for words to flow more easily at times, or for complicated feelings to be depicted in a revealing or unique way.

There is one such metaphor that I often return to with clients when discussing the process of change. I typically use this metaphor with clients who are currently embarking on the journey toward recovery. Recovery can have a different meaning for different individuals. Overall, I think of recovery as a time when an individual's life is no longer impaired by thoughts or behaviors that have been maladaptive and have previously impacted functioning.

This is no simple feat and there is a common misconception that an individual can never truly recover but must learn to live with some aspect of a struggle for the rest of his or her life. I hear this almost every time I speak about eating disorders and especially when I share my story. Someone or other asks the question about whether I still struggle, and pronounces disbelief when my answer is no. While there are many thoughts on recovery versus being recovered and how this changes depending on the particular struggle or diagnosis, above

all I do not believe that people will necessarily suffer for the rest of their lives. I have seen and research has shown that thoughts, urges and behaviors can stop.

For some, behavioral change may still mean abstinence from—let's say—a substance. This is typically most recommended. For others, the behavior can be relearned so that it can be integrated appropriately and in a healthy manner—for instance, as in the example of one who struggles with shopping as a maladaptive behavior or addiction. That person may learn to shop again after thorough support and exposure therapy, rather than never shopping again in his or her life. Some individuals find solace in knowing that the recovery process is ongoing, while others experience hope when visualizing full recovery.

The recovery process and end result are concepts that come up often in my line of work. People typically are impatient and vacillate around hopefulness; at times an individual may feel hopeful or inspired but then this may quickly change, and the feeling of hopelessness or difficulty imagining change may be strongly present. When clients speak with me about the process and the way hope ebbs and flows and urges to use maladaptive behaviors are high, I tend to use the swamp metaphor—inspired by a colleague—from my toolbox.

I tell clients that the process of recovery or of changing a behavior is like entering a swamp. Perhaps when the swamp is first entered, it seems to have clear waters—this relates to the feeling of excitement that one may have at the prospect of change. This is typically part of the "honeymoon phase" when change and hope feeling exciting.

Or perhaps the swamp looks dark and ominous from the get-go. The initial dive may not feel exciting but may instead feel forced; this typically resonates for clients whose loved ones had a strong hand in recommending therapy or treatment. It did not feel like a choice but instead like a push. In either case (and there are many more initial feeling states), the swamp is sticky, humid and uncomfortable and movements are slow and take a fair amount of effort.

At a certain point in recovery or the change process, the individual may find a rhythm and engage in actions that will ultimately result in the change s/he wishes to achieve. This is typically what leads to impatience; it feels as if efforts have been made but internal changes may not be experienced.

The person may even feel emotionally worse because behavioral changes were made, but the feelings that originally led to the maladaptive behavior originally are still present. So now, the person is not using the coping skill that helped manage his/her emotional experience and is still left with the thought and feelings. Think of a toddler who uses the pacifier to self-soothe and needs to give it up; the need for self-soothing still exists and there will likely be a lot of tears due to no longer having the physical coping mechanism.

I typically say that this is when the person is right in the middle of the swamp, unable to see where s/he started and also unable to see the shore (recovery), feeling tired and having trouble remembering why s/he is doing so in the first place.

Individuals are then tempted to "build a bridge to nowhere"; they try to build a bridge to take themselves out of the swamp. Envi-

sion that this bridge is built in a "U" shape and only lands them farther back within the muddy waters. It has not helped. If anything, they are now 10 feet behind where they had been.

We can call this a lapse; the individual uses a behavior thinking it will help or as a means of distracting from the painful process. This is common—hoping to escape or feeling the pull of the behavior—but does not work. Instead, the journey requires grit and it requires remaining in the swamp through it all, some days through tears, some days being able to see the sun.

When I've shared this with clients, some emphatically shake their heads, stating that this is exactly how it feels. We return to the metaphor to determine where they feel they are in the swamp, and use the language to discuss the pain of the process. I have found the use of metaphors to be connecting not only in my work, but in all my relationships. This metaphor in particular depicts the nature of the process and can allow for understanding as so much of the recovery process can seem irrational and can leave people feeling misunderstood. When we can take the opportunity to connect using some type of common language, and practice listening—not just hearing—we can decrease judgment and better support those around us.

Temimah Zucker, LMSW, is the assistant clinical director of Monte Nido Manhattan and works in private practice specializing in working with those who struggle with eating disorders, body image and mental health. Temimah also speaks nationally on these subjects. She lives in Teaneck with her husband and two dogs. She can be reached and you can learn more at [www.temimah.com](http://www.temimah.com).

# Breaking the Walls of Silence



By Alex Grobman, PhD  
Part XIV

An editorial in Der Tog on January 25, 1940, expressed the paper's relief that the atrocity stories had broken through the "walls of silence" that the American press had erected and were now being published as front-page headlines in most American newspapers. Der Tog believed the press had felt "constrained" to publish this statement coming from such a high Catholic source, because of their millions of Catholic readers.

Der Tog feared that unless the atrocities were publicly acknowledged in the American press, American Jews might become skeptical about the veracity of the reports. Some Jews already doubted the authenticity of these horror tales because they believed American newspapers rarely suppressed news. If anything, they considered the press to be "over sensational." If these events actually occurred, some Jews asserted, they would have been reported in the American press.

The paper concluded that perhaps the only way to convince the New York press about the failure to include news from Poland was to urge the 2,000,000 Jews of New York to flood the editorial offices with letters of protest.

Reports from Poland were given further credibility when Congressman Samuel Dickstein (D-NY), chairman of the House Immigration and Naturalization Committee, read 11 dispatches of the JTA describing the "horrors of the Nazi occupation of Poland" to the House of Representatives on January 24, 1940. Dickstein reminded his colleagues that the U.S. has a responsibility for Poland, since America had been instrumental in its creation at the end of WW I. He then called the State Department to initiate its own investigation, and if the JTA information was correct, to convince the Nazi regime to stop their inhuman treatment of innocent Jewish men, women and children.

Three days later, Howard Daniel, writing in The Nation, observed that if there were still individuals inclined to regard Jewish reports as exaggerated, an account in the Breslau Schlesische Zeitung should dispel their skepticism.

Based on German police records in the Lodz district the information first appeared in the JTA of January 3, 1940. It read:

"A hundred Jews were executed because during the house to house to house search for arms, many Jews offered resistance. Acting on a report which came to the police that Jews surrounded a synagogue in Lodz in order to prevent Germans entering, fire was opened on the Jews and hundreds of them were shot..."

"Jewish streets were blocked hermetically. Jews were strictly forbidden to approach the local peasants, because it was alleged that they were obtaining milk, potatoes and vegetable for hoarding. As there was a typhoid epidemic, Jews were permitted to

consult Jewish doctors on condition that these doctors prepared their own medicine. In the town of Sieradz 36 Jews were shot because they had fired on German soldiers..."

"In the Kolo 217 Jews were publicly flogged because of a theft of provisions. Among the thieves were the town rabbi and 13 of his scholars.

"...The work of the authorities were simplified because in some houses many Jews committed suicide before they could be arrested. In many houses, the Jews resisted with iron rods and hatchets. More than 100 of these criminals were executed on the spot."

After publishing other reports about the deplorable condition of Jewish life in Poland appearing in the Nation, JTA, The Jewish Spectator, The New York Times, Congress Bulletin and the Contemporary Jewish Record, Howard Daniel concluded that to remain silent under these circumstances would be to "condone an unspeakable crime"—mass extermination.

The Vatican continued its expose of life in Poland on January 28, 1940, with the publication of a memorandum submitted to Pope Pius II by August Cardinal Hlond, primate of Poland. The report was a well-documented and highly detailed account of mass shootings, plundering and persecutions conducted against the Polish people "with cold-blooded brutality ferocity."

In The New York Times of January 30, 1940, the cardinal said that he believed Hitler was literally carrying out what he had written in Mein Kampf. Although the cardinal's report did not mention the persecution of Jews, the American Jewish Congress and Der Tog hoped that public opinion in America would be more receptive to the horrible conditions of the Jews in the ghettos in Lodz, Warsaw, Lublin and other Polish cities.

In an attempt to "whitewash" the Polish regime and halt the adverse publicity from the foreign press, Dr. Hans Frank, governor general of occupied Poland, held a news conference for foreign journalists, reported in The New York Times on February 10, 1940. Frank claimed that he had not "in any way restricted the trade of the Jews or in any way limited their other activities. He insisted "now as before, Poles and Jews may intermarry and may join in any business enterprise." He denied the existence of "a single concentration camp in the whole of Poland."

This attempt to conceal the appalling treatment of Jews in Poland was thwarted by the Vatican, when it announced in March 1940 that it possessed copious documentation on the persecution of Jews in Germany, Poland and Austria. Even though much of the information had been previously revealed in Howard Daniel's article in The Nation and elsewhere, its publication by the Vatican provided even greater credibility to the charges against the Polish government.

In April 1940, Ansel Mowrer, a Pulitzer Prize-winning American foreign correspondent and author, declared that the conditions in Poland were desperate and that help was needed immediately. His report,

which appeared in the New York Post and the Chicago Daily News, told of Poles being stripped of their property, of food being confiscated and of their daughters kidnapped in broad daylight from public streets to be sent to German houses of prostitution. Mowrer concluded that every German action seemed designed to "literally pulverize the Poles."

Samuel Margoshes called upon the American press to publish additional exposes to arouse the American people to demand that their government take action against the Nazis. "We have it in our power," he said, "to uncover all the German abominations in Poland, thus holding up the German regime to the contempt of all civilized mankind." He did not understand why the American government had not yet initiated this response. The U.S. maintained friendly relations with the German regime that wanted to make a favorable impression on the American public.

On July 1, 1940, The New York Times quoted the Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, the official German news agency, that several hundred Jews had been killed in Galati, Rumania, when the Rumanian army suppressed an armed Jewish rebellion. According to the German radio, 600 were confirmed dead and many wounded.

The New Republic, The New York Times and the Jewish press, including Der Tog, Opinion and the Forward, reported on this and other alleged incidents and the restrictive measures imposed on Rumanian Jewry.

They rejected the specious charge that Jews had been involved in the uprisings.

According to the Contemporary Jewish Record of September-October 1940, B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Committee, The Jewish Labor Committee and the American Jewish Congress issued a statement on July 8, accusing "dominant elements in Bucharest" of deliberately "whipping up a spurious alibi" to incite pogroms, in order to divert attention of the Rumanian people from the loss of territory (Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina) to the Soviet Government." Of particular concern was the possibility the "the reported massacre of 600 Jews in Galati maybe followed by even more awful slaughter..." Three days later, the United Rumanian Jews of America condemned these actions.

On August 8, The New York Times published a statement on "a peace without Jews" that appeared in Das Schwarze Korps, the official organ of the SS. The paper attacked the Jews for cooperating with Britain in an effort to "convert all Europe into a chaotic, blood-soaked battlefield," and declared that the Jews would pay for collaborating with Britain.

Once a German victory was secured, some area remote from Europe would be set aside from Jewish colonization. This place would be "far away from European labor and culture" and there "the scum of humanity may try to lead a life of its own toil or die a death it earned."

➔ CONTINUED ON P. 78

Black Box Studios PRESENTS  
from the writer of *BAD JEWS*

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BY JOSHUA HARMON

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## THE WORLD ACCORDING TO SCHMUTTER

# Everything You Wanted to Know About Phobias But Were Afraid to Ask



By Mordechai Schmutter

As part of my never-ending quest to force knowledge on my students against their will, I've been teaching them vocabulary.

They don't love it. Especially since they found out that they had to learn how to spell the words too.

I've been building my lesson themes around the Latin word roots, because otherwise we're just memorizing a dictionary. And that's how I came across a huge list of phobias. There are a lot of phobias out there—way too many, I would even say. And they all have names, like enough people were scared of a given thing that they decided it would be far more convenient to just make a word for it.

Sure, some of these phobias are serious conditions, but a lot of them sound like people are just looking for things to be afraid of. Kids in war-torn countries aren't scared of bananas or the number 13. So today, we're going to take some of these fears and shine a light on them, except for photophobia, which is the fear of bright lights.

Claustrophobia—fear of enclosed spaces. Other phobias might be more common, but this is the one that's definitely used the most in everyday conversation. People are proud to have it. They say, "I'm a little bit claustrophobic here!" like that's going to suddenly cause everyone to congratulate them and then back off.

Aerophobia—fear of flying. And it doesn't help to know that planes are hands-down the safest way for a human being to fly, or that for thousands of years, the only method of human beings achieving flight was angry giants. You're in a tube held aloft through some science you don't understand, and the person holding your life in his hands is someone who, every time he gets on the speaker, has to tell you that this is your captain speaking. Who else would it be?

Anatidaephobia—the fear that you're being watched by a duck. Maybe from behind a newspaper. I don't know why this duck is choosing to watch a crazy person.

Pediophobia—fear of dolls. Their eyes are always open, looking at you, like some kind of duck.

Sidonglobophobia—fear of cotton balls. "Don't be afraid of cotton balls," you can tell them. "They're soft." But your words will fall on deaf ears, because these people don't use Q-tips.

Alektorophobia—fear of chickens. Like you go to the zoo, and all the animals are in cages except for some random chickens that are just wandering around for some reason.

"They got out? These are the escape artists?"

It's them and the ducks. And one peacock. Though I suppose it's possible that the zoo management does it on purpose. ("Should we bother building a cage for the chickens?" "Nah; where are they gonna go?")

Arachnophobia—fear of spiders. A lot of people say, "Yeah, but spiders are our friends;

they eat insects." Well, I don't know who you hang out with, but I don't have any friends who eat insects. To me, a spider is an insect. I don't really see the difference. I'm not walking up to them and counting their legs. All I know is that I have slightly fewer harmless little insects crawling around, because the big scary insects that drop down from the ceiling are eating them.

Theophobia—fear of God. But not the kind of fear that you're thinking about. Or even the kind like where you're afraid that a duck is constantly watching you. It's more like arachnophobia, where you're afraid that God is suddenly going to drop down from the ceiling at any moment and bite you.

Triskaidekaphobia—fear of bar mitzvah boys. Actually, it's the fear of the number 13. In fact, a lot of buildings specifically don't have 13 floors—they just stop at 12. Which is ridiculous, because isn't there also a basement?

Pentheraphobia—fear of mothers-in-law. Plural, for some reason. You're afraid of yours and other people's. And you can't talk to your wife about it, because she thinks that *your* mother is the mother-in-law. And speaking of mothers-in-law...

Telephonophobia—fear of talking on the phone. I might have that. When I'm on the phone, I make it extremely obvious that my priority is to get the other person off the phone as quickly as possible.

Bananaphobia—fear of bananas. Though the more common fear by far seems to be touching the brown spot. (Also, apparently the Latin word for banana is banana, from the Hebrew banana, meaning banana.)

Chrometophobia—fear of money. This isn't the fear of not having money. That's called "adulthood." It's the fear of dealing with money at all. And who wouldn't be scared of money? It's germ paper festooned with dead people and eyeballs and giant birds and you have no idea how it works, yet you want to collect them all, like gedolim cards.

I recommend immersion therapy.

Omphalophobia—fear of belly buttons. Plural. And why not? They're weird. They're a small alcove that serves as evidence that you were born. The soft spot on your head goes away, so why doesn't your belly button? It just sits around, collecting dust. Literally.

Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia—fear of long words. That word is just mean.

Doctor: "I have your diagnosis, but you're not going to like it."

Patient: "To be honest, I didn't even like the word diagnosis."

My students actually have this fear, because as soon as I put this word on the board, they asked me if they need to know it for the spelling test.

Mordechai Schmutter is a freelance writer and a humor columnist for Hamodia and other magazines. He also has six books out and does stand-up comedy. You can contact him at MSchmutter@gmail.com.

# Schnitzel Shenanigans



By Jon Kranz

Schnitzel is not uniquely Jewish yet it is beloved by many Jews. The question is: why? According to most experts, including several top schnitzelologists, schnitzelicians and schnitzelographers, there are many possible reasons for the strong Jewish connection to schnitzel.

First, schnitzel, a German word, arguably has a Jewish-sounding (or at least a Yiddish-sounding) name. The “sch” prefix is in the same ballpark as the “sch” prefix of other classic Jewish/Yiddish words like schmaltz and schmutz. At the same time, the “el” suffix is similar to that found at the end of words like kugel and kichel. If your last name is Schnitzel, that certainly does not mean you are Jewish, but it does mean you should marry someone with the last name of Weiner: “You are cordially invited to the Weiner-Schnitzel wedding.”

Second, from an onomatopoeia perspective, the pronunciation of schnitzel reminds us that it is fried in sizzling (“schi”) and crackling (“tzel”) oil. (There are other words in Jewish/Yiddish parlance that have a similar onomatopoeic effect like schlep and schmooze.) The fact that schnitzel is fried in oil means that it is similar to classic

Jewish treats such as latkes and sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts), both of which are intended to remind us of the Miracle of Chanukah and the little bit of oil that burned for eight straight nights. Since latkes and sufganiyot are not normally consumed year-round, the oily schnitzel arguably serves as a more constant and filling reminder of the Chanukah miracle.

Third, schnitzel is breaded and many Jews love bread (see, bagels, bialys, pita and challah for further details). In fact, many Jews prefer food when it includes or incorporates bread. In other words, lox is good but lox on a bagel is better. Eggs are good but french toast is better. Pudding is good but bread pudding is better. Perhaps the Jewish love affair with bread is because it reminds us of the manna in the dessert. This, of course, raises a ques-

tion as to whether heavily-breaded schnitzel requires a “hamotzi” bracha. According to most scholars, the answer is: no. The correct bracha is “shehakol” because chicken is the star of the dish and the breading is used less for taste and more for practical purposes like preventing the chicken from sticking to the pan. This means that on Shabbat, you should not make a “hamotzi” bracha over two pieces of breaded schnitzel. You also should not make kiddush over dolmakadia (stuffed grape leaves).

Fourth, schnitzel perfectly stabilizes a sandwich like a real mensch. It fills the middle gap with gusto and bravely withstands condiment smothering, soaking up the excess without becoming overwhelmed. It graciously shares space with lettuce, tomato and other accoutrements, snugly greeting them with a warm but not oppressive embrace. In other words, when the flaming hot schnitzel collides with the tomato, it does not instantly reduce the tomato into ketchup.

Fifth, anything can be schnitzel. Yes, chicken, turkey and veal are the most common varieties but other things can be breaded and fried. In the south, chicken fried steak is popular and that dish essentially is beef schnitzel. Many scholars agree that chicken fried steak, like many wonderful things in life, was discovered by accident. As the story goes, in the early 1900’s a too-eager-to-please line cook mistakenly combined two orders, one for chicken and the other for fried steak, hoping to satisfy what he thought was a peculiar request. (Yes, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches likely have a similar “oops!” origin.)

Sixth, schnitzel goes swimmingly with nearly anything and is very flexible. In fact, many restaurants bestow special names on wacky schnitzel creations. In that vein, here are suggestions for some new customized schnitzel sandwiches:

➔ CONTINUED ON P. 78

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## FUN & GAMES

Yoni Glatt's

### JEWISH SPELLING BEE

How many common words of 5 or more letters can you spell using the letters in the hive? Every answer must use the center letter at least once. Letters may be reused in a word. At least one word will use all 7 letters and have a direct Jewish connection. Proper names and hyphenated words are not allowed. Score 1 point for each answer, and 3 points for a Jewish related word that uses all 7 letters. Rating: 12=Good; 16= Excellent; 19= Genius



Answers on page 88



## The Kosher Crossword

Answers will be printed next week.

### A OK

By Yoni Glatt,  
[koshercrosswords@gmail.com](mailto:koshercrosswords@gmail.com)

Difficulty Level: Medium

#### Across

1. Study spot
5. Basic rhyme scheme
9. \_\_\_ B'Tevet
14. Entry-level prosecutors: Abbr.
15. Journalist Logan
16. "Casa" components
17. Closing ceremony
19. Drive option
20. Heston's org.

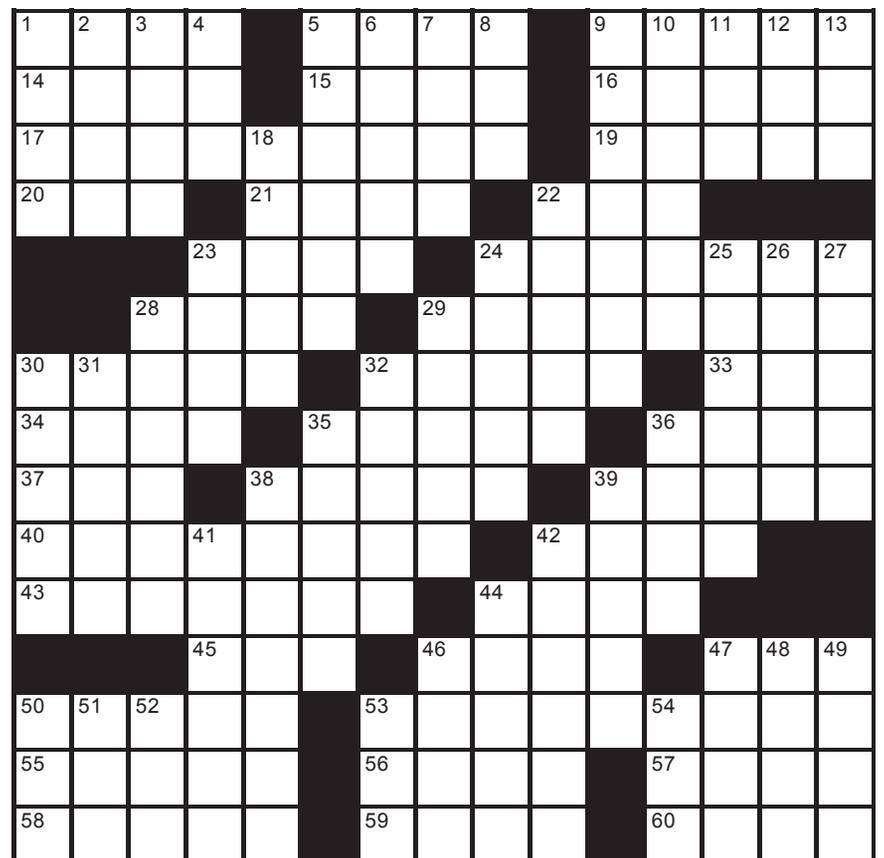
21. A neighbor of Minn.

22. Pulitzer-winner Shepard
23. Rabbinic ruling
24. Actress Lyonne
28. Alter, as a pet
29. Some Ethiopians
30. "Pick \_\_\_" (trick phrase)
32. Cow chow
33. Big name in home security systems
34. Chips option
35. Honey Boo Boo's real name
36. Mimicking bird
37. Palindromic ruler
38. They might make G-d laugh
39. Ragged and worn
40. Excessive sentimentality
42. A Reiner
43. \_\_\_ HaMishpacha
44. Like venison
45. Wily
46. Lipinski of note
47. Theater option
50. Capital of Yemen
53. Summer option for many a Jewish youth
55. He's treated like a god in Massachusetts
56. Org. that could give a G
57. "I \_\_\_ Little Prayer" (1967 hit)
58. Homeric works
59. Like Saul
60. "Cool", in somewhat dated slang

#### Down

1. 1944 Chemistry Nobelist Otto
2. Last month, perhaps
3. Chocolate \_\_\_ cake
4. Dangerous trip letters
5. What the impatient don't have
6. Eponymous parsha
7. Liquor of Mideast
8. 'Phooey!'
9. Simile for weight words
10. Hayak on the screen, and others
11. Words with mode
12. "Batman" villain \_\_\_ al Ghul
13. Dip for an evening in Av
18. Syrian big shot
22. "Saucy" dance?
23. Some fantasy football leagues, for short
24. Indian breads
25. Head covering option: Var.
26. Negative, verbal contraction
27. "I think I need \_\_\_ of execution" (Aerosmith lyric)
28. Request during a throat culture
29. Gregor was his most famous character
30. As \_\_\_ resort
31. "Envious" assassin of Caesar
32. Kosher (or this guy)
35. Calm
36. Rare name for a Jewish girl
38. Compound wagers
39. A daughter of David
41. Elevated Israeli tourist site
42. Kind of tunnel?
44. Notable Nasser
46. Bite-size Spanish appetizer
47. Biblical measurement
48. Poet Angelou
49. Shmooze
50. Henderson's forte, for short
51. Legendary Notre Dame coach Parseghian
52. Kvetch
53. TV channel based in Nashville
54. African cobra

#### Last week's crossword answers



# FOOD & WINE LINK

## OF NEW JERSEY

### No-Work Crockpot Vegetable Soup

By Jill Kirsch

Are you looking for an easy, delicious soup recipe to feed your family on those cold winter Shabbats, but you are maybe just a little tired of the old standbys? That was where November found me as well. After all the holidays, no one wanted chicken soup, and how much pea soup can you really eat? Then there is tomato soup: delicious, but best served with grilled cheese.

So what is a hungry family craving soup to do?

Do what I did. Try the produce aisle in your local supermarket. I walked into Aron's West Orange, picked up whatever vegetables they had cut up that week, and the rest is history.

**Ingredients:** (depends on the size of your crockpot)

- 3-5 containers of whatever chopped or cut-up vegetables the supermarket has in stock (literally anything works)

- 1 or 2 small red potatoes, if desired
- ½ to 1 cup barley
- Chicken stock or consomme powder
- Salt, to taste (always better to under salt and add more later)
- Other seasoning, if desired
- Water to cover

**Directions:**

I use a crockpot liner, which helps with cleaning, but it is not required.

Place all ingredients in crockpot, cover and turn on.

I like to do it first thing on Friday and cook it on high until right before Shabbat. Then I use an immersion blender (be careful if using a liner) so there are fewer veggie chunks (but you can leave it chunky also), and then I turn it down to low or keep warm. We have delicious soup on Friday night and Shabbat afternoon. The veggies change slightly every week, so it's like vegetable soup surprise, but it's always a hit!





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# FOOD & WINE LINK



## Wandering Que Feeds Teaneck

This past Sunday, Cedar Market in Teaneck hosted the pit boss himself, Ari White, and his team at The Wandering Que. Hungry carnivores were treated to delicious sausages and smoked meats. The newest item on the menu was debuted—BBQ Brisket Pizza!



### Breaking the Walls of Silence

CONTINUED FROM P. 73

According to the Times, the article implied that anti-Semitic measures “already put into effect in various European countries were too weak, and that a solution on a continental scale was necessary.”

Saul Friedlander noted that a number of months before publication of this article, Reinhard Heydrich, chief of the Reich Security Main Office, the SS and police agency, told a group of high-ranking SS officers that expelling Jews from one country to another had failed to solve the Jewish problem.

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### Schnitzel Shenanigans

CONTINUED FROM P. 75

(1) The “Klutz”: Served in bubble wrap because it definitely will wind up on the floor.

(2) The “Kvetch”: No matter how well you prepare it or how good it tastes, there still will be a litany of complaints.

(3) The “Pushy Panko”: served to those shopping in Machane Yehuda on a busy Friday morning and who must aggressively navigate the crowds with a certain amount of non-violent chutzpah.

(4) The “Plotz”: this sandwich is so shockingly good that you aren’t going to believe it. After just one bite, “you’re gonna plotz.”

(5) The “Chelm Special”: a cockamamie sandwich featuring a fried loaf of bread covered in chicken crumbs.

(6) The “Lettuce My People Go”: a special schnitzel sandwich served on Pesach featuring lettuce and kosher-for-Pesover breadcrumbs.

(7) The “Jewish Mother”: served in Tupperware so that you can take the leftovers back with you to share with your roommates.

(8) The “Mezuzah”: It’s so delicious that you’ll want to hang one in every room of your house.

Final thought: How should you describe a schnitzel restaurant that is far better than all other schnitzel restaurants? It’s a cutlet above the rest.

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## Yavneh Academy Holds Third Annual STEM Night

Yavneh Academy's educational technology department hosted its third annual Family STEM Night, for students in grades three to four, accompanied by their parents, grand-



parents or special adults. All who attended agreed it was an incredible event. This year, the event was driven by the middle school students who participated in Yavneh's STEM leadership program. The STEM leaders researched and then created an activity. They then facilitated the activities for the participating families. The evening consisted of numerous interactive, hands-on activities, with an emphasis on robotics, engineering and collaborative skills. These activities ranged from low-tech (build a straw house) to high tech (code a robot to complete a task). They encompassed all aspects of STEM including chemistry (self-inflating up balloons) and electricity (creating with paper circuitry).



## TABC Mock Trial Team Remains Undefeated



This past Wednesday night, the TABC mock trial team went head to head against Avery Mansion, allegedly getting injured on a ride known as the Hurricane at Captain Kidd's Pier Amusement Park due to the park's negligence. Attorneys Akiva Prag-

er and Rami Gertler along with witnesses Shaya Novogrodsky, Yoni Weinreich and Ned Krasnopolsky represented the defense, Captain Kidd's Pier, throughout the trial. At the end of the trial, TABC was announced the winner leaving the Mock Trial team with a 2-0 record.

## LPS Students Celebrate Tu B'Shevat With Seniors



Kindergarten students from Lubavitch on the Palisades had a wonderful experience planting for Tu B'Shevat with seniors from Brightview Assisted Living. Students acted with kindness and respect and shared their knowledge of the holiday with their special guests. Each senior participant brought home a lovely plant.

## Tenafly Chabad Academy Cuddles Up and Reads

In school on Friday January 11, there was quite an unusual sight at school. Along with their backpacks, students in grades one to five came to school with sleeping bags, pillows, blankets and stuffed animals. No, there wasn't going to be a sleepover in school—it was Tenafly Chabad Academy's second annual Cuddle Up and Read event! Children spent time snuggling up and reading a good book while parent volunteers distributed warm cups of cocoa to everyone. Cuddle Up and Read marked the last day of the winter Scholastic Book Fair and was the kick-off event of the school-wide read-a-thon. Reading is fun at TCA!



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# MTA Sophomores Experience Another Incredible Week in Israel

By Akiva Kra, Gavriel Pudell, Yehuda Wildes, Avi Loew, Class of 2021

After an incredible week one on the MTA-Makor Chaim Israel Exchange Program, we had high expectations for week two and it did not disappoint! After leaving the YU Gruss Center, where we spent Shabbat, we made our way back to Yeshivat Makor Chaim. On the way, we briefly stopped at the Lone Tree in Alon Shvut. The tree represents a lot but, for us, it symbolized the continuity of the Jewish people and the settlement in Kfar Etzion, which we had learned about the previous week. When we

got back to Makor Chaim, we met our English teacher, a successful playwright and had a great class with her. After the usual, yet always special, seder erev, dinner and free time, we met the four Makor Chaim talmidim who will return to MTA with us in February, and got to talk and play games with them.

On Monday, Rosh Chodesh, we had an extra special davening. Hallel featured lots of singing and dancing, accompanied by guitars, clarinets, drums and trumpets! Next, we had our Gemara shiur with our rebbeim and Israeli classmates. The always exciting afternoon classes flew by and be-

fore we knew it, we had two night activities—playing basketball with Israelis and a kumzitz, improv plays in Hebrew and hanging out with our new classmates—our new friends.

Tuesday just made the week better! We had a short shiur in the morning, before davening, with an MTA class of 1974 alum! He helped us to strengthen our kavana for tefilla. After breakfast, we had a shiur about Eretz Yisrael and its connection to us. In the afternoon, we went to the Blind Museum. As we headed back to Makor Chaim, everyone mentioned how their Hebrew language skills have dramatically improved!

On Thursday, after shiur, pre-Shabbat kumzitz and secular classes, there was afternoon seder, dancing and an uplifting shiur from Makor Chaim Rosh Yeshiva Rav Dov. At dinner, MTA talmidim Akiva Kra and Aryeh Kolber were chosen to compete in the famous Makor Chaim chair-on-table competition, in which they tied. After dinner, we experienced an incredible all-night mishmar, which lasted until sunrise. It turns out that



Friday was also Rav Dov's birthday, so, in the middle of mishmar, there was a yeshiva-wide hitva'adut to celebrate. This Shabbat is our off-Shabbat, so it will be spent in more than 10 different communities across the country—some with friends, some family and at our new classmates' homes. We can't wait to see what week three has in store!

## RYNJ Holds Geometry STEM Night



What do you get when you mix 100 RYNJ third and fourth graders, some shape building activities and a few Chromebooks? Geometry STEM night, of course! From building shapes with toothpicks and clay, to finding the perimeter of a lego piece with graph paper, all RYNJ students, along with parents and grandparents, were engaged in and excited by the vari-

ous activities. At the end of the night, the winner of the grand prize was announced. Mazel tov to Rivky Geffner from 4G1, who took home the jar of 726 geometrically shaped Super Snacks, after providing the closest estimate of 715! Since everyone at RYNJ is a winner, every student received a different shaped colorful bean bag to remember the fantastic evening.

## Moriah Winter Mural Shows Adaptation, Hibernation, Migration



As winter is upon us, and Moriah's kindergarten began studying various aspects of this cold season, the children saw a common theme throughout, in terms of functioning with the cold weather: Hashem gave all creatures the means to protect themselves from the frigid temperatures. The students realized that people adapt, some animals hibernate and some animals migrate. They were particularly intrigued

to learn about the variety of wildlife that hibernate, including bears, some types of insects, some small mammals, and some reptiles among others. Furthermore, the classes discussed the migration behaviors of birds, green turtles, salmon and some butterfly varieties. The children created a mural out of various collage materials, depicting all three of these winter survival practices. The results were amazing!

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## BCHSJS Goes to Broadway



Students at the Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies took a trip to Broadway to see "Come From Away." The musical was a big hit with the students, as they enjoyed the music and the heartwarming story of this remarkable true event, a celebration of the best of humankind!



## Anshei Lubavitch Preschool Is a Winter Wonderland



Anshei Lubavitch Preschool transformed into a winter wonderland. Classes held indoor snowball fights, played inside an igloo, ice-skated across the classroom floor and had a blast of icy cold fun!

## Moriah Kitah Gimmel Learns Chumash



Moriah's kitah gimmel enjoys learning Chumash everyday. This year they started learning the last perek of parshat Vayera and are well into parshat Chayei Sarah. The students spend time reviewing their skills identifying prefixes and suffixes as well as learning many new skills that enable them to understand the text. Each student has a chavruta/learning partner with whom they work with daily to complete classroom work and to test one another on the cur-

rent list of shorashim. The class has been enjoying playing review games using online platforms such as Quizlet and Kahoot as a way of learning and practicing our new shorashim. The students were so excited to begin learning Rashi letters and are excited to read and understand Rashi's commentary inside the Chumash. The students are always enthusiastic to learn new skills and continue reviewing previous skills to become independent Torah learners.

## Ben Porat Yosef Fourth Graders Cross the Jordan (BPY) River



Sefer Yehoshua comes to life in fourth grade Navi class! Students acted out the story of Bnei Yisrael crossing the Jordan River with the aron habrit. They even went outside to cross their own BPY river, to further bring the story to life. The students picked up rocks, as Yehoshua commanded, so Bnei Yisrael will always remember that the power of God stopped the water flow and made it possible for us to cross. This is experiential learning at its best!

## RYNJ Sixth Grade Swims in the Shark Tank

RYNJ sixth graders spent an exciting afternoon pitching their invention ideas to some esteemed investment bankers, as a prelude to their upcoming Invention Convention. Some of the creative products shared included: the Anti Dark Backpack (a glow in the dark backpack), Swiftly Mail (a mailbox tunnel vacuum system for homes that have mailboxes far down the road), the Piz-z-a Slicomatic (to both slice and warm your pizza) and Comftapants, (A new lining for men's dress slacks that keep you as comfortable as sport pants). The inventors, "sharks" and guests all had an informative, illuminating and entertaining experience.



## Yavneh Academy Second Graders Are Scientists



Yavneh Academy second grade students transformed their classroom into a science lab. They worked together to conduct experiments, as they learned about light. The students observed the refraction and reflection of light, and were so excited to make their own kaleidoscopes and rainbows.

Everyone observed and concluded that oxygen is needed for flames to burn. The students enthusiastically participated in these hands-on experiments, as they used the scientific method to record their hypotheses, materials, procedures, observations and conclusions.

## Celebrating the Fruits of Our Labor: A Tu B'Shevat Message



By Yosef Gillers

One of the key roles Tu B'Shevat plays is in the Orlah calendar. The mitzvah of Orlah requires us to abstain from eating fruits of a tree for the first three years of its life (plus a fourth, for Neta Revai). Practicing this mitzvah requires incredible patience. We work the soil, prepare it for planting, and fertilize it with fresh nutrients when the tree is first planted. Every subsequent year we must prune back the branches at exactly the right time of the season to encourage optimal growth, and for fruits to blossom in the following year. We do this year after year, watching the blossoms turn into fruits, and watching the fruits fall off the tree and decompose. We cannot eat them until the fifth Tu B'Shevat arrives, at which point we are finally permitted to eat from the tree. It's a jubilant feeling. It's celebratory. It is joyous! It is so fantastic because we have given so much to this tree, and we have been forced to wait. It tastes so good because it WAS forbidden fruit.

This very restraint is precisely what makes the fruits seem so sweet and the Mishna in Avot (5:23) echoes a similar concept, "The reward is in proportion to the exertion." Oftentimes the harder we work, the more enjoyable the final result can be.



Students at The Idea School learn this value in a particularly fascinating way: They've been tending to a hydroponic garden tower in their classroom at the JCC since November. They fix broken pumps. They identify problems with the lights and work on solutions. They tend to each individual plant,



nourishing it, ensuring that it grows properly in these manufactured conditions. Growing lettuce and herb varieties indoors might seem like a circuitous route to understanding and appreciate the underlying values of Orlah and Tu B'Shevat, but the students internalize this message deeply and personally.

Ultimately, our motivation for keeping the mitzvah of Orlah (it DOES apply outside of Israel) should be the same as for any other mitzvah. However, if in the process, we are able to refine our midot and become more resilient, spiritual individuals, then we're better for it. May we practice hard work and patience, and may we enjoy the fruits of our labor this Tu B'Shevat.

## TABC Student Council Starts Wednesday Night Mishmar



TABC's student council organized a Wednesday night mishmar last week. Going forward, once a week, following the regular night seder, students will gather with a TABC rebbe, some food, some singing and some meaningful schmoozing. Last week, Rabbi Dovid Einhorn got the group off to a running start. He was thrilled to be the first to join this wonderful group of young men, who took it upon themselves to initiate a new after-school learning opportunity.

## Planting Is Fun at Leah Sokoloff Nursery School

The children of The Leah Sokoloff Nursery School of Shomrei Torah in Fair Lawn are learning about seeds and sequencing in conjunction with Tu B'Shevat. The children planted grass



seeds and lima beans to watch them grow and used branches to paint beautiful depictions of trees. They learned that we need trees for shade and fruit. They love climbing trees too! The infant-toddler class made beautiful almond trees with pink dot painting for the buds. All of the children learned and sang the song about the shkadia trees in Eretz Yisrael.

## Heichal Talmidim Reunite in Israel

This past week, Heichal Rosh HaYeshiva Rabbi Aryeh Stechler traveled to Israel to visit some yeshivas that current 12th grade talmidim are looking into for next year and to reunite and spend some quality time with Heichal graduates who are spending shana alef and shana bet at more than two dozen yeshivot throughout the country. Nearly 30 Heichal graduates spent Shabbat with Rabbi Stechler in Zichron Yaakov, and he got a chance to shep nachas while seeing firsthand how well they are all doing.



## Ben Porat Yosef Runs Bat Mitzvah Program



The bat mitzvah program includes sixth grade girls and their mothers and is taught by BPY shelichot. The program is about relationships between mothers and daughters and the meaning behind a bat mitzvah. This week, the topic was "My Name." A midrash was taught about how each person has three names and then each girl made a collage symbolizing herself.

## Ma'ayanot Goes to the Movies

To celebrate the end of the semester, Ma'ayanot faculty and students attended a private screening of the film "On the Basis of Sex" at the Teaneck Cinemas on Tuesday. The film explores the challenges of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as a young attorney and new mother fighting for equal rights. The groundbreaking case that Ginsburg takes on with her husband Marty ultimately changes the course of her career and the future of gender discrimination in the courts. The inspirational film was followed by a lively discussion among students and faculty.



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## Academies @ GBDS Welcomes A Cappella Group Kaskeset to Annual Israeli Dinner

On January 9, Academies @ GBDS held its annual Israeli Dinner, that featured delicious authentic Israeli food cooked by the seventh grade students and parents. This informal family event is a part of the school's annual fundraising and is a wonderful community building event bringing together many generations of GBDS students and their families. Last night the school welcomed Kaskeset, Binghamton University's Jewish A Cappella group. Han-



nah Greenwald, a Academies @ GBDS alumni is member of the group and it was extra special and exciting to see a former graduate performing. Hannah started her performing career inside the walls of GBDS as a member of the school's choir and annual show cast member. Other GBDS alumni joined the dinner to support a fellow graduate and to spend time with their beloved teachers. The event was generously sponsored by Jerusalem Restaurant of Livingston, Zaides

Bake Shop of Fair Lawn, Food Showcase of Fair Lawn, Shoprite of Oakland, Stop and Shop of Wyckoff and Franklin Lakes and Net Cost of Staten Island.

Academies @ GBDS features a strong academic program in an egalitarian, supportive environment. It pairs a strong Jewish identity with an innovative curriculum. Students undertake a journey of self-exploration, guided by warm and passionate educators. They graduate with a love of learning, a deep connection to Israel and the building blocks for extraordinary futures: knowledge, creativity, leadership, Hebrew fluency, analytical skills, confidence, humility, philanthropy and community.



## LPS Enjoys Tu B'Shevat Brachot Fair



Lubavitch on the Palisades students visited a brachot fair in honor of Tu B'Shevat. Children enjoyed hands-on experiences of all the brachot such as making wheat into flour, picking and squeezing oranges, planting beans and many other activities.

## Idea School Leads Dvar Torah Discussion on Organ Donation

Idea School students have been learning the halachot related to organ donation as part of a unit on the pursuit of justice and the role each one of us plays in creating a caring and just society. As part of the unit, students researched how many Americans are in need of organs and assessed the risks of being a live donor. They heard presentations from Dr. Moshe Wertenteil who works with HODS, Halachic Organ Donor Society, and Iris Borger, a member of Rinat Yisrael who donated her kidney to Tikvah Wiener's father David Kramer. Then stu-



dents prepared source sheets on Sefaria, using the Talmud and texts such as the Sefer HaChinuch. The research culminated with

## MTA Freshmen Have a Great Time at Shiur Shabbatonim

On Shabbat, December 28-29, MTA freshmen had an incredible time at their shiur shabbatonim. This unique experience enables talmidim in each shiur to spend time bonding with each other and their rebbeim outside the classroom. Rabbi Kahn and Rabbi Stone hosted their shabbaton at Rabbi Kahn's home, where their families enjoyed getting to know their talmidim. Rabbi Genachowski's shiur had the privilege of spending Shabbat with their rebbe and his family, at his parent's home, where Rabbi Genachowski's father, an MTA alum, was excited to share his love for MTA with his son's talmidim. Throughout Shabbat, talmidim enjoyed lively meals, inspirational tefillot, fun games and learning more about each other and their rebbeim.



## Gan Yaldenu Tots of Bergenfield Gets Ready for Tu B'Shevat

The children at Gan Yaldenu Tots have been busy learning all about Tu B'Shevat, the trees' birthday. They have been learning about the different fruits that we get from trees. Along with the trees, the children have also been learning about the different fruits and vegetables that come from the ground. They enjoyed baking banana muffins!



the students opening a recent JCC staff meeting with their interactive Divrei Torah. Their conclusion: While not everyone

decides to be a live organ donor, we can all look for ways to better the world. Tzedek, tzedek tirdof, indeed.

## RYNJ Students Get a True Taste of Math



Talk about a delicious way to learn math! Mrs. Blumenthal's RYNJ 2B2 class learned about geometric shapes by eating them. The boys used toothpicks and mini-marshmallows to build quadrilaterals, trapezoids, pentagons and hexagons. What a great way to stay in shape!

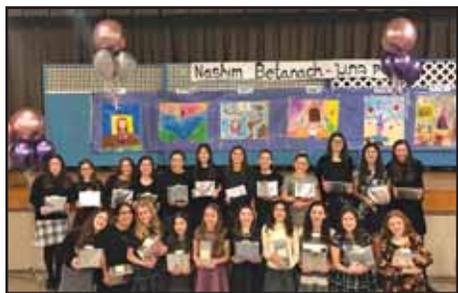
## MTA Talmidim Experience Kedusha of Shabbat at Mishmar Madness

On Thursday, December 27, MTA hosted its second mishmar madness of the year, where talmidim experienced the kedusha of Shabbat on Thursday night. The Shabbat-themed event included rotating

shiurim with MTA rebbeim on the topic of preparing for Shabbat, a delicious Shabbat seudah complete with cholent and kugel and a Q&A panel, where talmidim had the opportunity to have their halachic and hashkafic Shabbat-related questions answered by their rebbeim. MTA also welcomed a group of eighth graders to the event, where they continued experiencing all of the amazing things the yeshiva has to offer. MTA will expand further on the theme of Shabbat at its parent-son learning event on Tuesday, January 1, where parents, talmidim and rebbeim will explore the topic of turning Shabbat into Shabbat kodesh.



## Moriah Sixth Grade Enjoys Bat Mitzvah Celebration



Last Tuesday night was a lively and heartfelt evening as the Moriah sixth grade girls celebrated together on the occasion of reaching gil mitzvot. The auditorium was set up elegantly and was filled with the smiling faces of students, parents and teachers. To prepare for the event, the girls studied a special unit on nashim b'Tanach with Morah Gila Solomon and prepared art projects and presented speeches about each of these amazing women. In addition, to give back to others, the girls participated in an activity to benefit the organization Tomorrow's Children. Capping off the evening, each girl was called up and was presented with a set of personalized machzorim. It was a fun, meaningful and memorable event. Mazal tov to all!

## TABC Holds Matmidim Shabbaton in Passaic



On erev Shabbat December 28, 25 12th grade boys from the Matmidim advanced gemara shiur headed to Passaic to the home of their rebbe, Rabbi Jonathan Kessel for Shabbat. They davened at the Kessel home, led by Dovid Pearlman, and were also joined by Rav Yitz Rabovsky. After the seudah the boys went to a local beit midrash for a night seder. They returned to the Kessel house for a tish which finally ended at 11:45! The students led a local Shabbat morning minyan with Yonadav Rimberg and Ben Antosofsky davening for the amud. After a lavish kiddush, the Matmidim had an hour-long morning seder before another delicious

seudah at the Kessel home. This time they were joined by TABC rebbe, Rabbi Dovid Einhorn and his family. After Mincha the boys had an hour break where some boys learned or played mini-hockey in the Kessel basement, while others took a well-earned nap. The boys walked to the Einhorn's for an inspirational seudah shlishit and Havdala. The shabbaton continued with a melava malka held at TABC as the STORM finished off the beautiful weekend with a 8-0 victory against Rambam. A huge thanks to Rebbetzin Rachel Kessel and Rebbetzin Elana Einhorn for making this incredible Shabbat for the Matmidim

## BPY Third Grade Rashi Program Is Smashing Success

The third grade Rashi program was beautiful and special! The children showcased their learning of Rashi with skits, songs, projects and vignettes acting out the Chumash stories and highlighting Rashi's questions and thought processes. The play was all in Hebrew, of course, and the crowd was wowed!



## IBECC Has Shabbat With the Rabbi



Every week at IBECC ends with the children's favorite time: Shabbat with the Rabbi—who brings his guitar. The children love to sing Shabbat songs with Rabbi Mischel. What a great way to get ready for Shabbat!

## RYNJ Poses Spaghetti Marshmallow Challenge

RYNJ fifth graders participated in a challenge where they acted as engineers and using the design process, competed to construct the tallest tower. Each team was given



20 pieces of spaghetti, one yard of string, one yard of tape and only one marshmallow. The teamwork that was portrayed among each team was outstanding and the skills the students learned in their engineering unit were demonstrated very well. They gained so much from this introductory experience to engineering and are looking forward to continuing to learn about the ins and outs of this topic.



## Moriah Kindergarten Has Shema and PJ Party

Last week Moriah kindergartners and their parents came to school for a Shema and PJ party. The children came dressed in their pajamas and shared special activities and song together. In their individual classrooms they made personalized tzedaka boxes. They then joined together with the other classes for a story, read by Morah Divsha, followed by a kumzitz-style musical program led by Rabbi Alter. To add to the very special evening, the Izrailevs brought their new baby boy so he could have a brit Yitzchak or a vacht nacht. The



children sang Shema and Hamalach Hagoel as two of their songs. The program concluded with treats of ice cream, chocolate milk and their own emoji cookies! Fun was definitely had by all!

## MTA Juniors Bring Halacha to Life



Juniors in MTA's Yeshiva Fellowship program brought halacha to life as they toured Mikvah Yisroel in Flatbush with their mashgiach, Rabbi Mendelson, and Dr. Shlomo Neuhoff, whose mother the mikvah is named for. Talmidim learned how a kosher mikvah is built, including where the mikvah water comes from and how it is distributed. They saw the two waterways that fill the main pit of the mikvah with rainwater and the pit itself that contains 67 gallons of rainwater. After the tour, they enjoyed lunch before returning to yeshiva. The Yeshiva Fellowship program is unique to MTA and provides



talmidim with additional opportunities to grow in Torah learning and develop both communally and individually. Each grade has their own mashgiach and participates in additional talmud Torah programs and educational trips.

## BPY Students Create a Chain of Courteous Actions

Second grade's midah of the week was being courteous. The students discussed this midah during morning and afternoon meetings and also during reading workshop as part of their unit on character traits. The class read the book, "The Last Stop on Market Street" by Matt de la Peñawe, As the book was read aloud, the students had clipboards and pencils in hand to take note of the courteous acts in the book. After reading, they compiled a list of the different acts of courtesy and also came up with more that were not listed in the book. Finally, each student had the opportunity to create his or her own card with one example of courtesy and a matching picture to be added to a large courtesy chain. Just like a chain is connected and can continue forever, our courteous actions and words can create a chain reaction of more courteous actions and words.





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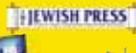
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## RKYHS Welcomes Choir to Mark MLK Jr.'s Birthday



RKYHS students welcomed the Jubilation Choir for a program in conjunction with the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday. Through spoken word and song, the group put the civil rights movement into historical context and brought MLK's dream to life on the stage.



Established in 1998 through the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), the Jubilation Choir, which performs around the world, has released six albums, earned a Grammy award and was the last choir to perform with music legend Ray Charles.



## JKHA Early Childhood Learns About Brachot at Bracha Fiesta

JKHA early childhood students, their parents and prospective early childhood families had a enjoyed themselves while learning about brachot at the early childhood Bracha Fiesta. Through interactive stations, attendees used all five of their senses to learn about and experience brachot. Each hands-on activity focused on a different bracha including the brachot for foods, the bracha on lightning, the bracha on first plantings, the bracha on making (and eating!) challah and more.



## JEC Sixth Graders Explore Density



When studying science, children are really learning about the abstract concepts that surround them in concrete ways. In the JEC Middle School, sixth graders used scales and meter sticks to understand the difference between mass and volume, and then explored the density of different liquids relative to water. The boys now have a new way of explaining the difference between Vanilla Coke and Vanilla Coke Zero—the difference in density!

## Bruriah Culture Club Heads to Broadway

By Chava Schapiro ('20)

On a bright Sunday morning in December, the Bruriah Culture Club stepped off the streets of New York City and into a Maycomb, Alabama courthouse. We experienced Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird," exploring the harsh reality of racism in Alabama in the 1930s. The Bruriah Culture Club started the excursion with a lecture from Touro professor, Dr. Adriana Schwartz and lunch, before heading to the theater. "To Kill a Mockingbird" was simultaneously hilarious, heart wrenching and eye-opening. The Culture Club left the theater with a new perspective and a wonderful appreciation for theater. The lecture in Touro afforded us a wonderful discussion about Atticus



Finch and what it means to be a mockingbird. There were so many wonderful aspects to this trip that every student has her own highlight. We can't wait for another amazing Bruriah Culture Club journey!



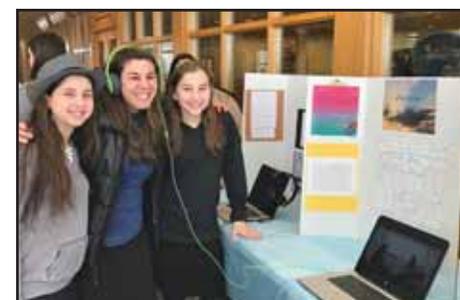
## JKHA Project Based Learning Explores Shuls and Community



As part of the JKHA seventh and eighth grade study of the building of the Beit Hamikdash in sefer Melachim students participated in a Project Based Learning unit where they learned about how our shuls are a *מקדש מנטש* patterned in many ways after the Beit Hamikdash.

Students were asked to consider what makes a place special and then asked to think about what makes the Beit Hamikdash and a shul special. They were then tasked to work in groups and create their own shuls with a name, mission statement, guidelines and an action plan to specifically implement one of those rules. They created trifolds with blueprints of their shuls and commercials encouraging people to attend their shuls. Students displayed their completed group projects in the atrium for their peers to see.

Rebbeim from area shuls—Rabbi Eliezer Zwickler of AABJ&D in West Orange, Rabbi Chaim Marcus of Congregation Israel in Springfield, Rabbi Elie Mischel of Suburban Torah in Livingston and Rabbi Yosef Sharbat of the Sephardic minyan at AABJ&D in West Orange—came for a panel



discussion about different aspects of a shul and community. Questions for the panel were submitted by the students while they worked on their projects.

## JEC Primer Has Around the World Celebration



"Though some things may be different, we're children just the same!" As children learn about their unique qualities, they also learn to recognize that while every person is different, we are all the same—"and we all like to sing and play!" These lyrics were the opening to JEC's fabulous journey around the world. Way back in September, Primer children began a social studies

unit that took them across the continents. They learned all about children in different countries—the foods they eat, the languages they speak, the places they visit and their toys and games. The culmination of this unit was a fantastic play showcasing what they learned through song and artwork display. Parents enjoyed visiting the different exhibits at the Primer World's Fair!

## Peer Leaders Help RKYHS Freshmen Prepare for Midterms



RKYHS senior peer leaders hosted the freshmen for breakfast and gave them a letter congratulating them on making it to their first midterms. The peer leaders presented the freshman students with tips to help them prepare for their upcoming exams. This program is one of the many programs, beginning at the start of the school year, that the senior peer leaders organize for the freshman to help with their transition to high school.

## IBECC Uses Natural Materials



At IBECC, the integration of natural materials and loose parts is a fundamental part of the Reggio-inspired preschool. Wood chips fulfill both categories. The addition of wooden arches opened up a world of possibilities.

### Jewish Spelling Bee Answers (puzzle on page 76):

Jewish Answer- CHILONIM. Here is a list of some common words (Yes, we know there are more words in the dictionary that can work, but these words are the most common)- CHILI, CHILONI, CHINO, CINCH, CLINCH, CLINIC, COCOON, COLON, COMMON, CONCH, CONIC, HONCHO, ICONIC, IONIC, LINCH, MILLION, MINIM, MINION, ONION - Questions/comments- email Yoni at koshercrosswords@gmail.com

## JKHA Gemara Vocabulary League Offers Creative Way to Learn

The Chumash Vocabulary League (CVL) and Gemara Vocabulary League (GVL) is a creative program developed by the JKHA middle school Judaic studies faculty that presents acquisition of key Chumash vocabulary words and creates a strong foundation in a fun and engaging manner. Students compete against other teams in their classes, culminating in a grade-wide league championship.



The seventh and eighth grade Gemara classes have mastered many of the common words and concepts of the Gemara. With the use of official buzzers and a quizlet on the Smartboard, students battled

this week in the playoff tournament. The intensity in the room was palpable, but more importantly, students walked away with Gemara vocabulary skills that will last a lifetime.

## Bruriah Seniors Advance to Math Finals

Chana Schwartz and Adina Strong, seniors at Bruriah, advanced to the final round of the Michlala College Ulpaniada Mathematics Competition. Girls from Orthodox high schools worldwide were invited to participate. Schwartz and Strong are among hundreds of students who participated in the second round. Ulpaniada is a problem-solving competition for Orthodox girls, based on math skills and logical reasoning. Schwartz and Strong "entered this competition because of our love of math, and the Ulpaniada challenges sounded like they would be challenging and enjoyable. Now, we are both so excited for the opportunity to ad-



vance to the third round!" Junior Rina Finkelstein advanced, as well. An ulpana is a high school for girls and olympiada in Hebrew are the Olympic Games. The two words were merged to form Ulpaniada, The Olympic problem-solving game competition for Orthodox high-school girls! Qualifiers for the final round are invited to Jerusalem to compete against other finalists from around the world and will receive a certificate of participation from the Israeli minister of education. In addition, the top contestants will receive a partial scholarship for the Michlalah Jerusalem College or other valuable prizes!

## RKYHS Students and Faculty Engage in Midterm Week Torah Learning

As RKYHS students embark on midterms, the Judaic studies faculty hosted midterm week Torah learning sessions in the RKYHS beit midrash. These sessions provide the students with Torah learning opportunities outside of the traditional classroom setting. They used this time as an occasion to emphasize to the student body the value of talmud Torah in all times and places. Topics discussed throughout the multi-day offerings include The Meaning of Tu B'Shevat, Halachot of Snow, Hilchot of Travel, Top Five Pesukim in the Torah and more.

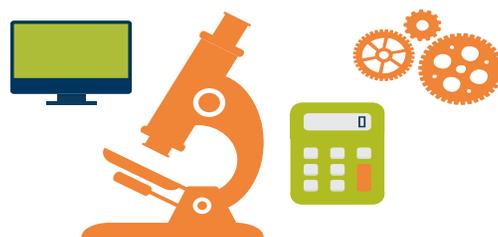


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## Winning Streak Continues for MTA JV Basketball Lions

By Donny Book ('22)

Coming off a five game winning streak, the MTA JV basketball Lions were feeling good as they headed into their second to last game of the season against Westches-



ter on Thursday, January 10. The starters started off the game strong as usual, then the bench capped off the win. Shai Friedman came in the clutch with a career high of 14 points. Shmuli Nerenberg created many shots with his many assists and Eli Sheer had a James Harden-like crossover on a Westchester guard. Isaac Rubenstein scored a few points, but his passing was key to many other points. It was also a big game for Akiva Coan, Gershon Colton and Aron Skoczylas, who grabbed many offensive boards and put them back up for easy second chance points. At the end of the third quarter, the scoreboard read 46-7 MTA. Great offensive passing and lockdown defense led to this and a final score of 72-18. The team was happy with the win and team members are also excited for superstar Yosef Zakon, who will join the Team USA Junior League basketball team and play in the Maccabi games in Budapest this summer.

## Frisch Ice Hockey Battles Back to Erase 5-1 Deficit

Despite a shaky start and a five goal performance from West Orange standout Dave Campbell, the Cougars were able to stage another big comeback to earn a 6-6 tie at Mackay Park, in Englewood, this past Sunday evening. With a bit of a depleted blue line, Frisch opened the scoring on a Noah Petak goal, but yielded the next five goals of the contest to the visiting West Orange



Jack Margolius (93) scores to tie the game with three minutes left. (CREDIT: BEN WASSERMAN)

High School team. The comeback started in the second period with two quick goals by Jake Fromen, 46 seconds apart, assisted by Petak, with the first coming on a power play. Shortly thereafter (1:14), Aryeh Bloom struck off a two on one with Fromen to cut the lead to one. Petak tied the game at five, with 1:51 left, before the second intermission. Campbell scored his fifth with a little over six minutes left, but Jack Margolius took a nice feed across from Fromen to tie the game at six—and that is how it ended.

Fromen finished with two goals and two assists, Petak had two goals and three assists, Margolius a goal and two assists with Judah Volodarsky picking up an assist. The two teams meet again on January 28 at Codey Arena in West Orange.

## Frisch Senior Ice Hockey Night Celebrates Players and Families



Max, Lily, Sisie, Aiden, Noah and Jonathan Petak. (CREDIT: AC COREN)



Jakey, Shira and Ranaan Zackai. (CREDIT: AC COREN)



Judah, Tami, Sammy and Isaak Volodarsky. (CREDIT: AC COREN)



Leslie Ann, Jake and Heshy Fromen. (CREDIT: AC COREN)



Richie, Brett, Susan and Mikey Nadritch. (CREDIT: AC COREN)



(l-r) Aryeh Bloom, Noah Petak, Isaac Markovitz, Sammy Volodarsky, Jake Fromen, Jakey Zackai and Mikey Nadritch. (CREDIT: AC COREN)

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## SPORTS SCENES



SAR JV boys basketball hosted IVDU, the Yachad high school, in an exciting basketball exhibition game, followed by pizza together as a group. This was the second annual sports event celebrating inclusion.



Cousins Chaim Mermelstein and Jordan Rieder.

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# MGBL Minute



By JLNJ Sports Desk

This week's spotlight game takes us to the second grade division in the back gym at Yeshivat Ben Porat Yosef. Congregation Ahavath Torah vs. Akari Therapeu-



Ben Safier sinks a pair from the line for the Buckets team.



Coach Wenger talks it over with the Chopstix team.



The New Jersey Yachad team after a great game.

tics Plc. The boys went from zero to full speed in the first seconds of the game. Both squads played tenacious defense, contesting dribble penetration and every shot attempt. Akari Therapeutics Plc got an early boost on a free throw from Coby Shatzkes and two baskets from Zachary Nelson. Congregation Ahavath Torah battled back with two baskets from Natan "the scoring machine" Pearlman, to go along with one a piece from Ephraim Aschkenasy and Yoel Eiselt. At the half, Congregation Ahavath Torah was clinging to three point lead.

The second half was back and forth, but Akari Therapeutics Plc overcame the



Coach Brotsky and Team Granolachik during a timeout.



Team Nothing But Net...Work Doctors are nothing but smiles.

deficit as Nelson sank three of four shots from the charity stripe sending the game to overtime. As time was winding down in the extra frame, Aschkenasy found Pearlman in the corner, and Pearlman cashed in hitting nothing but net for the win.

The Mitch Gross Basketball League

will be taking the next two weeks off. The action resumes February 2-3 at Ma'ayanot High School, Yeshivat Ben Porat Yosef and Yavneh Academy.

Please submit pictures to be featured weekly in this section to Sports@jewish-linknj.com

## The Toppan Merrill 2nd Grade Boys Division

| DATE                    | TIME     | TEAM                             | TEAM                       | GYM       |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Sunday February 3, 2019 | 10:30 AM | Bernie Mev                       | Congregation Ahavath Torah | BPY Small |
| Sunday February 3, 2019 | 11:45 AM | Rangers                          | Jaguars                    | BPY Small |
| Sunday February 3, 2019 | 1:00 PM  | Malka Abrahams-Links Residential | Akari Therapeutics Plc     | BPY Small |

## The 3rd and 4th Grade Boys Division

| DATE                    | TIME     | TEAM                       | TEAM                                 | GYM         |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Sunday February 3, 2019 | 10:15 AM | Center for Dermatology     | Design Statements LLC                | BPY Court 2 |
| Sunday February 3, 2019 | 11:30 AM | Tree Point Play            | Fertility Institute                  | Yavneh 2    |
| Sunday February 3, 2019 | 11:30 AM | Hey Boyzz                  | EJ's Place                           | Yavneh 1    |
| Sunday February 3, 2019 | 11:30 AM | Wolverines                 | GYMGUYZ #1 in Home Personal Training | BPY Court 2 |
| Sunday February 3, 2019 | 11:30 AM | Triumph Hotels             | Gan Henel                            | BPY Court 1 |
| Sunday February 3, 2019 | 12:45 PM | Camp Lavi                  | Rofeh Cholim Cancer Society          | Yavneh 2    |
| Sunday February 3, 2019 | 12:45 PM | Jawbreakers                | Coolkippahs                          | Yavneh 1    |
| Sunday February 3, 2019 | 2:00 PM  | Bergen Veterinary Hospital | Frankowitz Orthodontics              | Yavneh 1    |
| Sunday February 3, 2019 | 2:00 PM  | NJ Yachad                  | Clifton Pediatric Dental Care        | Yavneh 2    |

## The Kosher Experience 5th and 6th Grade Boys Division

| DATE                      | TIME     | TEAM                            | TEAM                  | GYM         |
|---------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Saturday February 2, 2019 | 6:45 PM  | The Humble Toast                | Redwood Funding       | BPY Court 1 |
| Saturday February 2, 2019 | 6:45 PM  | Project Ezra                    | The Jewish Link of NJ | BPY Court 2 |
| Saturday February 2, 2019 | 8:00 PM  | EmbroidMe                       | Mathnasium            | BPY Court 1 |
| Saturday February 2, 2019 | 8:00 PM  | Goldman Orthodontics            | Kindersmiles          | BPY Court 2 |
| Sunday February 3, 2019   | 9:00 AM  | Buckets                         | Chai Lifeline         | BPY Court 1 |
| Sunday February 3, 2019   | 9:00 AM  | Cross River                     | Family First Funding  | BPY Court 2 |
| Sunday February 3, 2019   | 10:15 AM | Ken Goffstein - Guaranteed Rate | Core Home Boys        | BPY Court 1 |

## The Phil Green MD 7th and 8th Grade Boys Division

| DATE                      | TIME     | TEAM                          | TEAM                                           | GYM         |
|---------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Saturday February 2, 2019 | 6:45 PM  | Nothing But Net...work Doctor | Wolverines                                     | Maayanot 1  |
| Saturday February 2, 2019 | 8:00 PM  | Granolachik                   | V&N Realty                                     | Maayanot 1  |
| Saturday February 2, 2019 | 9:15 PM  | Arnold Schoen MD              | Space Jam                                      | Maayanot 1  |
| Saturday February 2, 2019 | 9:15 PM  | Prime Ortho Rehab             | The Rothenberg Law Firm LLP - InjuryLawyer.com | BPY Court 2 |
| Sunday February 3, 2019   | 12:45 PM | Knoll Orthodontics            | Sharsheret                                     | BPY Court 2 |
| Sunday February 3, 2019   | 2:00 PM  | Chopstix                      | Congregation Rinat Yisrael                     | BPY Court 2 |

## Teaneck Doghouse Sportstar of the Week: Shayna Eizikovitz

By JLNJ Sports Desk

The Jewish Link of New Jersey and Teaneck Doghouse would like to recognize 10-year-old Shayna Eizikovitz as this week's Sportstar of the Week. The fourth grader at the Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey, is coming off of an amazing MGBL season. Coach Efrem Billauer of the Poppy's Bagels, Pizza and TCBY team told the JLNJ, "Shayna was the heart and leader of the team. She made the other players on our team better and always approached the games with a smile and with great sportsmanship!" Eizikovitz led the team all season and pulled off a Willis Reed moment when she shocked all by leaving her



and why?

Brady Skjei because he kinda has the same name as me. (People call me Shay.)

sickbed to play in the championship game.

Shayna, congratulations on a great season and a gutsy performance in the championship game. Who are some of your role models and why?

My dad and my brother because they're always teaching me new tricks.

What is your greatest sports accomplishment?

Going to the championships in MGBL twice in a row.

Who is your favorite athlete

What is your pregame routine, if you have one?

Practicing layups and running back and forth.

What is your earliest sport memory?

Playing hockey with my brother.

What is your weirdest sports memory?

Totally losing control of the ball in basketball—it ended up going through my legs, but then I was able to grab it again.

What is your favorite sports memory?

When I was in second grade I shot the ball from really far away and it went in.

What is your favorite thing to do when you are not playing sports?

Hanging with my friends.

What is the best thing about being a Sportstar?

Knowing that I'm pretty good at basketball.

The Teaneck Doghouse Sportstar of the Week will receive a \$15 gift at the Teaneck Doghouse. Please send nominees for an upcoming Jewish Link of New Jersey and Teaneck Doghouse Sportstar of the Week to Sports@jewishlinknj.com.

## Vote for Noah Petak!



Frisch senior, and ice hockey team captain, Noah Petak has been nominated as top senior in the state. Everyone can vote - early and often! Vote at <https://tinyurl.com/yab439n5>.

# SPORTS STANDINGS

## Metropolitan Yeshiva High School Athletic League

### MYHSAL

#### Girls Varsity A Basketball Standings

Western Division

| Team     | Wins | Loss | Winning Percentage |
|----------|------|------|--------------------|
| SAR      | 11   | 0    | 1.000              |
| FRISCH   | 9    | 2    | .818               |
| MAAYANOT | 7    | 4    | .636               |
| BRURIAH  | 6    | 6    | .500               |
| HESCHEL  | 4    | 5    | .444               |
| HILLEL   | 3    | 8    | .273               |
| KUSHNER  | 1    | 10   | .091               |

#### Girls JV Volleyball Standings

Western Conference

| Team     | Wins | Loss | Winning Percentage |
|----------|------|------|--------------------|
| MAAYANOT | 7    | 0    | 1.000              |
| FRISCH   | 5    | 2    | .714               |
| SAR      | 4    | 3    | .571               |
| RAMAZ    | 2    | 5    | .286               |
| BRURIAH  | 2    | 5    | .286               |
| KUSHNER  | 1    | 6    | .143               |

#### Girls Varsity B Volleyball Standings

| Team         | Wins | Loss | Winning Percentage |
|--------------|------|------|--------------------|
| MAGEN DAVID  | 9    | 1    | .900               |
| BRURIAH      | 7    | 2    | .778               |
| SKA          | 6    | 4    | .600               |
| MAAYANOT     | 3    | 7    | .300               |
| SHULAMITH-BK | 3    | 7    | .300               |
| SHULAMITH-LI | 1    | 8    | .111               |

#### Girls Varsity A Volleyball Standings

Western Conference

| Team        | Wins | Loss | Winning Percentage |
|-------------|------|------|--------------------|
| MAAYANOT    | 8    | 1    | .889               |
| FRISCH      | 8    | 2    | .800               |
| RAMAZ       | 7    | 2    | .778               |
| KUSHNER     | 5    | 4    | .556               |
| SAR         | 3    | 6    | .333               |
| BRURIAH     | 2    | 8    | .200               |
| WESTCHESTER | 0    | 10   | .000               |

#### Girls Varsity B Basketball Standings

| Team           | Wins | Loss | Winning Percentage |
|----------------|------|------|--------------------|
| SKA            | 10   | 1    | .909               |
| BRURIAH        | 7    | 2    | .778               |
| MAGEN DAVID    | 7    | 2    | .778               |
| ILAN           | 6    | 4    | .600               |
| SHULAMITH-LI   | 6    | 5    | .545               |
| SHAARET, Girls | 2    | 8    | .200               |
| MSH            | 1    | 9    | .100               |
| NAALEH         | 0    | 8    | .000               |

#### Girls JV Basketball Standings

Western Division

| Team     | Wins | Loss | Winning Percentage |
|----------|------|------|--------------------|
| MAAYANOT | 9    | 1    | .900               |
| FRISCH   | 6    | 2    | .750               |
| SAR      | 3    | 4    | .429               |
| RAMAZ    | 2    | 6    | .250               |
| BRURIAH  | 2    | 7    | .222               |

#### Boys Varsity Basketball Standings

Western Division

| Team      | Wins | Loss | Winning Percentage |
|-----------|------|------|--------------------|
| FRISCH    | 9    | 3    | .750               |
| HESCHEL   | 8    | 3    | .727               |
| SAR       | 8    | 3    | .727               |
| TABC      | 8    | 4    | .667               |
| JEC       | 6    | 5    | .545               |
| MTA       | 5    | 7    | .417               |
| KUSHNER   | 5    | 8    | .385               |
| WATERBURY | 4    | 7    | .364               |
| RAMAZ     | 4    | 9    | .308               |
| HILLEL    | 3    | 8    | .273               |

#### Boys Varsity Hockey Standings

Western Conference

| Team    | Points | Wins | Loss | OTL | Ties |
|---------|--------|------|------|-----|------|
| FRISCH  | 26     | 13   | 0    | 0   | 0    |
| TABC    | 20     | 10   | 3    | 0   | 0    |
| RAMAZ   | 15     | 7    | 3    | 0   | 1    |
| KUSHNER | 14     | 7    | 5    | 0   | 0    |
| SAR     | 14     | 5    | 4    | 3   | 1    |
| JEC     | 12     | 6    | 7    | 0   | 0    |
| MTA     | 11     | 5    | 7    | 1   | 0    |
| HILLEL  | 0      | 0    | 14   | 0   | 0    |

#### Boys JV Basketball Standings

Western

| Team        | Wins | Loss | Winning Percentage |
|-------------|------|------|--------------------|
| SAR         | 9    | 1    | .900               |
| MTA         | 8    | 1    | .889               |
| FRISCH      | 8    | 2    | .800               |
| TABC        | 7    | 2    | .778               |
| HESCHEL     | 5    | 3    | .625               |
| RAMAZ       | 5    | 4    | .556               |
| JEC         | 4    | 6    | .400               |
| KUSHNER     | 3    | 7    | .300               |
| HILLEL      | 2    | 7    | .222               |
| WESTCHESTER | 1    | 9    | .100               |
| MAOR        | 0    | 10   | .000               |

#### Boys JV Hockey Standings

Western Division

| Team    | Points | Wins | Loss | OTL | Ties |
|---------|--------|------|------|-----|------|
| KUSHNER | 18     | 9    | 0    | 0   | 0    |
| TABC    | 16     | 8    | 1    | 0   | 0    |
| SAR     | 13     | 6    | 3    | 0   | 1    |
| RAMAZ   | 10     | 5    | 3    | 0   | 0    |
| FRISCH  | 7      | 3    | 5    | 0   | 1    |
| MTA     | 4      | 2    | 7    | 0   | 0    |
| JEC     | 0      | 0    | 9    | 0   | 0    |

#### Boys 8th Grade Basketball Standings

Division 1

| Team   | Wins | Loss | Winning Percentage |
|--------|------|------|--------------------|
| Noam   | 7    | 0    | 1.000              |
| RYNJ   | 6    | 2    | .750               |
| SAR    | 3    | 2    | .600               |
| Moriah | 2    | 4    | .333               |
| Yavneh | 2    | 5    | .286               |
| BPY    | 0    | 7    | .000               |



Division 2

| Team  | Wins | Loss | Winning Percentage |
|-------|------|------|--------------------|
| MDS   | 7    | 2    | .778               |
| Ramaz | 5    | 2    | .714               |
| PEDS  | 3    | 4    | .429               |
| Ashar | 1    | 5    | .167               |
| WDS   | 0    | 7    | .000               |

Division 3

| Team    | Wins | Loss | Winning Percentage |
|---------|------|------|--------------------|
| JEC     | 9    | 0    | 1.000              |
| Hillel  | 6    | 3    | .667               |
| RPRY    | 4    | 4    | .500               |
| JFS     | 2    | 6    | .250               |
| Kushner | 1    | 5    | .167               |

#### Boys 7th Grade Basketball Standings

| Team   | Wins | Loss | Winning Percentage |
|--------|------|------|--------------------|
| Ramaz  | 5    | 2    | .714               |
| SAR    | 4    | 0    | 1.000              |
| RYNJ   | 4    | 2    | .667               |
| Moriah | 3    | 3    | .500               |
| Yavneh | 3    | 4    | .429               |
| Noam   | 1    | 4    | .200               |
| Hillel | 0    | 5    | .000               |

#### Boys Hockey Standings

| Team                | Wins | Loss | OTL | Ties | Points |
|---------------------|------|------|-----|------|--------|
| RYNJ Jaguars        | 10   | 0    | 0   | 0    | 20     |
| Kushner Cobras      | 8    | 1    | 0   | 1    | 17     |
| Moriah Mighty Ducks | 8    | 2    | 0   | 0    | 16     |
| SAR Sting           | 6    | 3    | 0   | 1    | 13     |
| Yavneh Redhawks     | 6    | 3    | 0   | 1    | 13     |
| Noam Knights        | 5    | 3    | 1   | 1    | 12     |
| MDS Mavericks       | 5    | 5    | 0   | 0    | 10     |
| WDS                 | 4    | 6    | 0   | 0    | 8      |
| Ramaz Rams          | 3    | 7    | 0   | 0    | 6      |
| JEC Thunder         | 2    | 8    | 0   | 0    | 4      |
| Ashar Sharks        | 1    | 9    | 0   | 0    | 2      |
| Hillel              | 0    | 10   | 0   | 0    | 0      |

## GEMACHS

### SIMCHAS

#### Bergen County Wedding Shtick Gemach

Parachutes, arches, hats, leis and other things to make your simcha special. Please call Wendy Shindler 201-387-0719 or 845-538-3249.

#### The Beth Aaron Centerpiece and Tree Gemach

Please contact bethaaroncenterpiecegemach@gmail.com or see the Beth Aaron website under the Community pull down.

#### A C.H.A.I.N.A Chesed and Inspirational Network

A C.H.A.I.N.A Chesed and Inspirational Network provides checklists and resources for brides as well as referrals to kallah teachers, etc. For more information call (201) 837-2058 or email jrflisher@gmail.com.

Hosting a Simcha in your home? The **Teaneck Simcha Gemach** has folding tables, cocktail tables, chairs and coat racks (w/ hangers) available for loan. Contact Teanecksimcha@yahoo.com

#### Tablecloth Gemach

In memory of Chaim Yissachar ben Yechiel Zeidel Dov Z"l. Specialty cloths in all colors and sizes for every type of simcha. Donations will go to Project Yi'che and are tax deductible. Please contact chayemf@aol.com for an appointment

### The Simcha Bencher & Tefillot

**Gemach** has black hard-covered custom made מול טורב benchers, great for aufruf, shevah brachot, or bar/bat mitzvah family meals. Small matching siddurim also available, good for small Simcha minyan in your home. The Gemach also has Chuppah cards available! (Donations will go to Bayit Lepletot in Israel). Please email Karen at simchabenchergemach@gmail.com  
**Bat Mitzvah Gown/Dress Gemach** Now accepting dresses in excellent condition. Current styles only please. We are happy to pick up or you can drop off in Teaneck. If your unused gorgeous dress is hanging in a closet let it put a smile on a Bat Mitzvah girls face. For more info, questions or drop off location please contact bmdressgemach@gmail.com. Enhance a simcha and do a mitzvah!

### Fairlawn Gown Gemach

Gowns (wedding gowns, mother of the bride, bridesmaids and flower girls) are loaned free of charge. Please call for appointments. The number is 201 797-1770. For donations or any other inquiries please contact Fairlawngemach@aol.com. Appts are not made by email. The Fair Lawn Gemach is under the auspices of Anshei Lubavitch of Fair Lawn.

### Congregation Ahavath Torah

240 Broad Avenue, Englewood) collects flower centerpieces that can be brought to the homebound or those in the hospital. For more information call the Shul at 201-568-1315.

### FURNITURE DONATIONS

Email rodzeen@gmail.com of a picture of what you'd like to donate and a recipient can be matched.

### Down the Aisle - Chosson and Kallah G'mach

Setting up a home can be daunting and expensive. Help couples by donating new or unopened gifts. We accept Judaica, household items, gift ware, linens, engagement and wedding gifts that perhaps are not your taste but others would enjoy as they start their new lives together. Teaneck Drop off: Carrie Cooper 1060 Windsor Rd. 201-801-9028 candcooper@gmail.com  
Bergenfield Drop off: Meredith Yager 65 Lee Place 201-321-4301 meredithyager@gmail.com.

### MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

#### Bikur Cholim Bergen County (BCBC) Medical Gemach

Wheelchairs, walkers, canes, shower chairs and commodes are available. Text (917) 748-2956 or email bas4home@yahoo.com.

#### The Bikkur Cholim of Passaic-Clifton's Medical Equipment Gemach

Wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes, scooters and other medical equipment to lend at no charge. For more information or to schedule a pick up contact Yael Gotteib at 973-778-9320.

### The Rinat Chaim Gemach

Lends new and used medical equipment. To contact the Gemach, to borrow equipment, or to contribute, please visit their website, www.rinatchaimgemach.com, or contact Yehiel Levy, info@rinatchaimgemach.com.

### CLOTHING

**Yad Leah** collects modest and contemporary clothing, infant through adult, to be sent to Israel. Donated clothes must be in either excellent or like- new condition. For more information regarding drop off locations contact Jessica Katz at 973-955-0861 or via email Jessica@yadleah.org

### BABIES AND CHILDREN:

#### Teaneck Baby Gemach

Collects baby equipment, clothing to size 5T, toys, diapers, formula, and baby food for Jewish families in Bergen County. For more information contact Avi and Ginnine Fried at 718-753-6275, or by email at Teaneckbabygemach@gmail.com. Tax donation letters are available for any financial and/or item donations.

#### Preemie Clothing

Yad Yocheved – 201 836 2071

#### Passaic Baby G'mach

Collects baby clothing in excellent condition up to size 2T as well as other

baby gear including high chairs, cribs, strollers, carriages, changing tables, diapers and formula. They pick up in NJ/NY area. For more information contact Siggy Berger at 201-486-1492 or via email siggy@aishdas.org.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### Bicycle Gemach

Rivky Klar at bikegemach@gmail.com

#### Headphone Gemach

Protect your child's little ears from big noises! New gemach in Bergen County offers infant and toddler sized hearing protection headphones that you can borrow for use at weddings, bar mitzvahs and other loud occasions. Visit http://musicalears.org for more info or email reservations@musicalears.org to reserve your pair.

#### Laptops and More "Gemach"

Seeking a refurbished laptop, tablet or smart phone? Have an old one, or any parts or accessories, to donate to needy individuals? Contact Mordechai Luchins at mordechai@luchins.com. This is a donation, NOT a loan.

#### The Teaneck Costume Gemach

Lilyluy nishmat Eliyahu Aharon Ben Yaakov Eliezer. Contact 551-243-2253, teaneckcostumes@gmail.com or www.teaneckcostumegemach.webs.com

## CLASSIFIEDS - HELP WANTED

### FAMILY PHYSICIAN

Vanguard Medical group is seeking a Family Physician to join our cutting edge primary care practice at our Verona location. This is a part time position (Sundays plus flexible additional shifts) and includes pediatric, adult and geriatric care.

We strive to practice patient centered, comprehensive, longitudinal care supported by an effective management team and enabled by advanced healthcare technology. We are NCQA recognized PCMH Level 3 and were the New Jersey Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative champion. See our web site to learn about our vision and culture: [www.vanguardmedgroup.com](http://www.vanguardmedgroup.com)  
Please contact  
Anya Barrett  
Manager, Talent Acquisitions  
[Anya.barrett@vanguardmedgroup.com](mailto:Anya.barrett@vanguardmedgroup.com)  
973-559-3701 x.222

### WAITER/WAITRESS

Busy Teaneck restaurant Looking for Waiter/Waitress  
Please call: 917-355-2121 for more information.

## FOR RENT

### LARGE, SPACIOUS, UPDATED APARTMENT FOR RENT IN BERGENFIELD

Spacious open layout. 3 bedroom/2 Full Bath. Modern eat-in kitchen w/ Granite Counters. Jacuzzi. Master bathroom. Easy walk to Ohr Hatorah, B-Mob, Beth Abraham. One unit of 2 family house. Available beginning March 15. \$2795, no realtor fee.  
Call or text Yoel 201 310 2485

## Buying a Home in NY or NJ?

Call today for a HOME INSPECTION  
908-451-3905

Eli Klugmann

Best Nest Inspections LLC  
[eli@bestnestinspections.com](mailto:eli@bestnestinspections.com)  
11 Swift Ct., Clifton, NJ 07014  
NJ Lic #24GI00163300  
NY Lic #16000094166  
Radon Lic #MET13804

### ASSISTANT PRESCHOOL TEACHER

Bergen County yeshiva preschool seeks ASSISTANT TEACHER to begin the first week in February. Candidate must be warm, loving and have experience leading preschool children. Please send resumes and cover letter to [bergencountyteacher@gmail.com](mailto:bergencountyteacher@gmail.com).

Congregation Shaare Tefillah in Teaneck, NJ seeks either an individual or a husband/wife team with warmth and energy to head youth activities and programming for ages 2-12, beginning September 2019. This is a part-time position with much of the activities taking place on the weekends but requiring weekday preparation and communication. Youth Directors should have a passion for working with and assisting children, as well as strong leadership skills. A positive attitude and enthusiasm for the job are important when working with kids.

Duties include coordinating and supervising weekly Shabbat morning youth groups, holiday programming, educational programming and social activities. This position comes with flexibility to be creative and ignite excitement to the youth department. We are looking for passionate youth directors who will take ownership of their responsibilities and partner with us to develop warmth and Jewish identity for our youth.

### Qualifications:

- Personal experience with Jewish youth group work strongly preferred
- Innovation and creativity
- Strong leadership and communication skills
- Excellent organizational skills

### Key Responsibilities:

- Overall supervision of and active participation in Shabbat and Yom Tov morning groups
- Managing & training group leaders
- Advance planning to develop the schedule and content for each age group
- Planning and implementation of holiday programming- including but not limited to the following holidays- Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur, Simchat Torah, Shavuot, Chanukah and Purim
- Planning and implementation of programming options that appeal to our youth, outside of Shabbat and Chagim
- Create new programming for pre-teen population
- Acting as liaison to the shul's youth committee

To Apply: Please send cover letter and resume to [youth@shaaretefillah.org](mailto:youth@shaaretefillah.org)



### EXPERIENCED RN

Camp Simcha Special is looking for experienced RNs to join its staff of talented nurses, doctors, and therapists for an opportunity of a lifetime this summer. Make a difference in the lives of chronically-ill children. Girls session: 7/9-7/24 /Boys session: 8/12-8/26. Family housing not available. Please send resume to [reichmann@chailifeline.org](mailto:reichmann@chailifeline.org).

### MIKVAH ATTENDANT

Local mikvah looking for part time attendant. Contact [englewoodmikvahassociation@gmail.com](mailto:englewoodmikvahassociation@gmail.com), for information.

# WOMEN'S SHIURIM

| DAY | SPEAKER                 | TOPIC                    | TIME         | LOCATION                                                                 |
|-----|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MON | Rebbetzin Leah Kohn     | Bamidba                  | 10-11:15am   | 1510 Jefferson, Teaneck                                                  |
|     | Rabbi Binyamin Krohn    | Parsha                   | 1:15-2pm     | Contact <a href="mailto:janethod613@gmail.com">janethod613@gmail.com</a> |
| TUE | Rabbi Ephraim Simon     | Parsha                   | 9:45-10:30am | Contact <a href="mailto:merav@dahaninc.com">merav@dahaninc.com</a>       |
|     | Rebbetzin Chana Reichma | Parsha                   | 10am         | East Hill Synagogue, Englewood                                           |
| WED | Mandana Bolou           | Shalom Bayit             | 9:30am       | Contact <a href="mailto:merav@dahaninc.com">merav@dahaninc.com</a>       |
|     | Yael Weil               | Parsha                   | 10:30am      | Keter Torah, Teaneck                                                     |
|     | Rabbi Adler             | Chumas                   | 12:30am      | Rinat Yisrael, Teaneck                                                   |
|     | Rabbi Yudin             | Sefer HaChinuch          | 1pm          | Congregation Shomrei Torah of Fair Lawn                                  |
|     | Rabbi Adler             | Mishna, Gemara           | 8pm          | Rinat Yisrael, Teaneck                                                   |
| THU | Yael Weil               | Parsha                   | 8:30pm       | Keter Torah, Teaneck                                                     |
|     | Rabbi Ephraim Simon     | Tanya                    | 9:15am       | Contact <a href="mailto:merav@dahaninc.com">merav@dahaninc.com</a>       |
|     | Chani Juravel           | Change, Making it Happen | 10am         | Ohr HaTorah, Bergenfield                                                 |

TO ADD A SHIUR TO THIS LIST, PLEASE EMAIL  
[EDITOR@JEWISHLINKNJ.COM](mailto:EDITOR@JEWISHLINKNJ.COM)  
SHIUR SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

The Soap Myth: A Reading, With Ed Asner and Tovah Feldshuh  
7:00PM, Kaplen JCC, 411 E Clinton Ave, Tenafly  
Order tickets at [jccotp.org/soapmyth](http://jccotp.org/soapmyth)

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

Yeshiva Noam PSP Presents LIKE: A Documentary About Our Lives on Social Media  
8:00PM, Yeshivat Noam Middle School, 70 West Century Rd  
Expert panel discussion following the film. Free and open to the community. For more info, contact [PSP@yeshivatnoam.org](mailto:PSP@yeshivatnoam.org)

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Open Hearts and Minds: Softening Bias and Racism in Ourselves and Our Teaching  
4:30-6:00PM, Jewish Federation

of Northern New Jersey, 50 Eisenhower Drive, Paramus Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey is hosting a workshop for teachers and educators on anti-bias and diversity. The program demonstrates the benefits of reducing unconscious bias, personally and professionally and provides resources to help K-12 educators. RSVP to: [jfnnj.org/training](mailto:jfnnj.org/training) For more information contact Ariella Novek at [AriellaN@jfnnj.org](mailto:AriellaN@jfnnj.org) or 201-820-3946.

### MOTZEI SHABBAT, FEBRUARY 9

Frisch Dinner  
8:00PM, Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe  
Guests of Honor: Ruth and Edward Lubat; Alumni Recognition Award: Jennifer Wolf Seidel '87; Nediv Lev Award: Natie Fox; Rav Shlomo Kahn

Memorial Educator's Award: Rabbi Neil Fleischmann. RSVP at [www.frischdinner.com](http://www.frischdinner.com).

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

TABC 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner  
6:30PM, Congregation Keter Torah, 600 Roemer Ave, Teaneck  
Guests of Honor: Nomi & Yechiel Rotblat; Faculty Service Award: Rabbi Joel Grossman; Alumni Tribute Award: Aaron Safier '01. To RSVP and/or donate, please visit [www.tabc.org/annualdinner](http://www.tabc.org/annualdinner).

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Sinai Schools Annual Benefit Dinner  
Mariott Glenpointe Hotel, Teaneck  
Honoring Dr. Robert & Shari Alter, Dr. Bin & Penina Goldman and Rabbi Michael & Ayelet Hoenig. Special tribute in memory of Rachel Schulman, a"h. RSVP at [www.sinaidinner.org](http://www.sinaidinner.org).

# HOME & LIVING LINK

## OF NEW JERSEY



## Government Shutdown and the Mortgage Impact



By Shmuel Shayowitz

As of this writing, the government shutdown is ongoing and has surpassed the longest in history. Though only a partial shutdown, the influence on banks, credit unions and mortgage lenders across the country is slowly starting to surface. While the consequences of a shutdown are more comprehensive than the few items I will account for in this article, these have a considerable impact on the timing or availability of mortgage loans at this time.

Small Business Administration Loans (SBA) are being hindered as the agency is unable to process and approve loan applications promptly. While the SBA doesn't lend money directly to small business owners, the agency works with lenders to provide loans to small businesses through defining guidelines for loans made by its partnering banks, community development organizations, and lending institutions. The current shutdown is creating a backlog that is limiting new funding or pushing small businesses to costlier alternative financing.

FHA loans are government-backed mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration or "FHA." FHA home loans are popular with first-time homebuyers as they require lower minimum credit scores and down payments than many conventional loans. According to National Mortgage News, the Federal Housing Administration has continued to process government-backed loans during the shutdown, but since only a fraction of the mortgage insurance agency is at work, a paperwork backlog has built up and is expected to grow as the shutdown goes on.

In addition, the FHA has stopped assisting financial institutions in the underwriting of FHA loans. This is causing delays for smaller banks, credit unions and brokers that don't have authorized "in-house" underwriting. Fortunately, direct mortgage lenders, like Approved Funding have direct FHA endorsements and can underwrite these loans without requiring prior approval from the FHA.

For most bank loans, one of the necessary procedures that a bank does for quality control before a loan closing is the review of an individual's tax returns (taxable income) as reported to the IRS. Through the IRS "4506" form that is signed by most applicants

when applying for a mortgage, creditors can confirm the income that a borrower is claiming. Luckily, after intense lobbying by the banking industry, the Treasury Department recently restarted the program by bringing back some of the clerks who are instrumental in processing these confirmations.

That said, during a "normal" functioning IRS office, almost 20% of the 4506s submitted to the IRS are rejected for incomplete or illegible information. You can imagine what that backlog must be now that there are a fraction of the people begrudgingly doing the necessary work to confirm income numbers. Again, fortunately for lenders such as Approved Funding that can use alternative verification sources other than the IRS, loans can continue to be approved and confirmed without delay or issue.

The recommendation here for anyone in the process of a mortgage, or about to begin a mortgage application is to be in proactive contact with your lender to see how this shutdown will impact your loan approval and closing. Sometimes banks will be able to issue a loan approval "subject to these verifications," but without knowing when the shutdown will end, there is no assurance that a loan will be handled on time. Similar-

ly, if you are experiencing delays or procrastination by your loan officer, this might be a sign that your loan application is affected.

If you feel that you are in any of these categories where your loan might be impacted, feel free to reach out to me for a no-obligation consultation and advise on how you can try to successfully navigate through your current predicament, or for potential alternatives for your situation. Safe travels to anyone navigating their loan through these challenging times and to those leaving for "Winter Break!"

*A shout out and Happy Birthday to Gitty Eisner, Adena Goldman, Dena Kaye, Yossi Kaufman, and Zohar Zamir.*

Shmuel Shayowitz (NMLS#19871) is President and Chief Lending Officer at Approved Funding, a privately held local mortgage banker and direct lender. Approved Funding is a mortgage company offering competitive interest rates as well as specialty niche programs on all types of Residential and Commercial properties. Shmuel has over 20 years of industry experience including licenses and certifications as certified mortgage underwriter, residential review appraiser, licensed real estate agent, and direct FHA specialized underwriter. He can be reached via email at [Shmuel@approvedfunding.com](mailto:Shmuel@approvedfunding.com)



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# Make a Style Statement in Every Room of Your House

(StatePoint) Want to elevate your home décor in the new year? Whether you're going for farmhouse style or mid-century modern décor, make a statement in every room, even the most neglected spaces.



From the laundry room to the garage, to your home gym and game room, these easy and simple ideas from the design experts at Hunter Fan Company will add comfort and beauty to your home.

## The Laundry Room

While this space is one of the most used on a weekly basis, it's often forgotten in terms of décor and style. Simple touches, like matching laundry bins, wall art and coordinated shelving can really change the ambiance and help organize laundry day chaos.

While this space has a ton of potential, it also comes with its share of challenges. Many laundry rooms tend to be cramped and get steamy easily. Adding a circulating element, like a ceiling fan, can remedy this woe and make chores more pleasant. Smaller options like the Loki from Hunter Fan Company come in options as small as 36-inches and can seamlessly coordinate with your updated space.

## The Game Room

Game rooms are often the most aesthetically neglected rooms of the home. Often a culmination of mismatched and hand-me-down furniture, the game room is most likely in need of some tender love and care. Some new pillow covers for the couch and an added cowhide rug can provide a refreshing update to this room. Consider adding an accent wall in a bold color and replacing those outdated band posters for a grown-up look.

## The Garage

For many people, the garage is the first interior space they encounter after a long day. Unfortunately, it's also often the dumping ground for old tools, children's toys and items with no place to call home. Built-in storage can help with organization, and adding a layer of colored floor protectant will make your garage seem more polished and presentable.

If you use the garage as a workshop, the introduction of a cool breeze can revitalize strenuous home projects and ensure proper ventilation. Check out ceiling fan design options that can stand up to the elements, such as the Brunswick or Cedar Key from Hunter Fan Company.

## The Home Gym

When it comes to getting in shape, motivation is key, and having a beautiful, enjoyable space while working towards your goals can make all the difference. Get a better workout by updating your home gym with new mats, colorful dumbbells and a brand-new sound system. Avoid overheating with the latest smart tech, such as the SIMPLE-connect Symphony, a fan that can be controlled from your mobile device or an automated virtual assistant, such as Siri, Google or Alexa, so you can be comfortable without interrupting your treadmill session.

For greater comfort, health and use of your home at the start of the new year, consider how you can incorporate beautiful and easy interior design elements into every room.

# Boca Raton Home For Sale



Beautiful home for SALE located in Del Mar Village in Boca Raton, Florida. This home is selling for \$795,000 and has 4 Bedrooms, 2.1 Bath, 2 space parking garage, backyard patio and pool. New storm proof windows, new oversized pool and new roof. Perfect location, close to three houses of worships and Grade A Elementary, Middle and High school.

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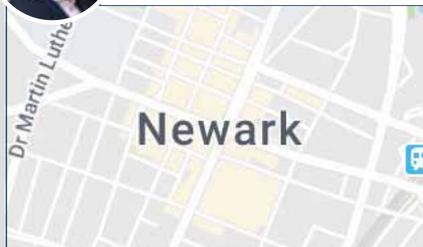
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tures a large rec room, powder room, and laundry. Many updates including central air, newer windows, hardwood floors throughout, and much more. Listed by Zeevyah Benoff.



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### Featured Real Estate Professional Of The Week



**Louis B. Chapman** ... The Law Offices of Louis B. Chapman, a firm founded on referral business relationships, has been representing clients across Bergen and Passaic counties for more than 30 years.

They professionally handle all aspects of residential and commercial real estate transactions for individuals and businesses. Mr. Chapman's clients have come to know him as a strong negotiator, who is extremely responsive, and very attentive to his client's needs.

Lou can be reached directly at (201) 833-4500 ext 20 or via email, [LouisBChapman@gmail.com](mailto:LouisBChapman@gmail.com)

# Real Estate in Winter Months



By Ruby Kaplan

Knee-deep in the cold winter months, and having our early snow disaster this past fall, we can brace ourselves for more cold weather and snowfall in the near future. Busy with living life with daily chores and responsibilities, it seems that real estate is not on everyone's top list of interest. Even curiosity seekers wane at this time and we are casually asked less in shul and around the community what is going on with the real estate market. The height of buying and selling starts in early March, yet as a real estate agent I am busy all year long for various housing needs even though it is not in the height of the busiest season.

So if you are wondering how the real estate market is, here goes! The booming U.S. economy continues to prop up home sales and new listings in much of the nation, However, the concern lingers whether housing affordability is a hovering issue and for how long. Historically, housing is considered relatively affordable. Yet it is disheartening to know that Freddie Mac reported a 30-year fixed rate at its highest average in seven years, reaching 4.94 percent even though average rates were 5.97 percent 10 years ago, 6.78 percent 20

years ago and 10.39 percent 30 years ago. In comparison of a decade or two ago and more, rates in comparison do not look as threatening. Nevertheless, since your buying power is lowered, affordability concerns are truly causing a slowdown in home price growth in some markets. Price reductions are becoming more common and prevalent to get the house moving off the market.

Since home buying and selling activity relies on gainful employment, the low national unemployment rate of 3.7 percent has helped the housing industry during the extensive period of U.S. economic prosperity. It allowed for a healthy home-buying and -selling climate. In contrast, since the housing industry also relies on demand as well, builders have become cautious for single-family home construction projects due to the concern of rising mortgage rates with the result of fewer showings overall.

Facts to consider according to the New Jersey Multiple Listing System report:

Single-family median sales price increased 4.9 percent to \$430,000 while townhouse-condo median sales price increased 4.7 percent to \$335,000, with a decrease of 0.5 percent to \$359,000 for adult communities.

Single-family closed sales were up 2.3 percent to 915 while townhouse-condo

closed sales were also up 1.8 percent to 333 in contrast to adult communities closed sales, which were down 15.0 percent to 17.

Taking all this into consideration, the winter months are typically the quietest. People are careful with their buying and selling power and are cautious in using time on their side. But be aware, spring is around the corner and, who knows? You might be right back into the grind of real estate for optimal results.

Hope these facts help with your decision landscape, but for now, just sit back

and watch: Home is where the heart is; make sure you are there!

Ruby Kaplan is a realtor with United Real Estate, licensed in both New Jersey and New York. Her passion is to help people meet their housing needs and goals. Having bought, sold and built homes, she has acquired an expertise to represent both sellers and buyers. She is sensitive to her clients' needs and has a driven commitment to oversee all her transactions with honesty, integrity, knowledge and dedication. Ruby can be reached at 917-576-4177 or at rubykaplan@aol.com.

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# Great Tips for Houseguests and Hosts

(StatePoint) Whether you're a houseguest or a host, there are easy ways to ensure that everyone enjoys their time with family and friends. Check out these tips for an easy stay:

**A Helping Hand**

Hosts are often bogged down by tasks and chores. Make yourself useful. Keep areas you are using clean and offer to help around the house.

If you're the host, don't be shy about delegating simple tasks to your guests. Most guests will appreciate the opportunity to make their stay less stressful on you.

**Comfort Is Key**

When extended family or friends get together, ensure everyone has a comfortable place to sleep. A must-have for both travelers and hosts is a high-quality air mattress that's compact and easy to inflate, and these days, some brands have elevated their offerings to luxury standards, helping to create a more comfortable night's rest.

For example, Intex offers a range of comfortable airbeds with impressive features, such as a headboard, raised bed height (up to 24 inches), built-in USB chargers, a plush dual air pillowtop system, various sizes and supports to choose from and more. Their airbeds provide enough comfort and luxury that guests may even consider extending their stay.

Worried about the time and energy of set-up? With internal electric air pumps, these high-quality, durable airbeds take just minutes to inflate and deflate, saving families both time and energy. That means more time spent enjoying each other's company and making memories. And they're super easy to stock up on, available online or in-store at most major big box retailers.

**Snack Time**

Beyond main meals, there are breakfasts, snacks and other meals to consider. Guests and hosts should work together on this one to ensure that there are foods and beverages on hand that meet everyone's dietary needs and restrictions. Hosts should ask their guests in advance if there are any allergies, sensitivities or particular foods to avoid. Children can be picky about food, so knowing if there are any favorites to stock the fridge and pantry with can also be helpful. As a guest, consider packing your own snacks to take with you. You can also help your hosts by letting them know of any issues in advance, from peanut allergies to medical restrictions.

Whether you are traveling or staying put, with a bit of preparation you can make sure everyone feels comfortable, so that you can focus on making great memories together.



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# Ramat Givat Zeev Development Almost Complete

(Courtesy of Ramat Givat Zeev) Over 200 million NIS has been invested in the development of the most beautiful neighborhood in Israel. Over 80 percent of apartments have already been sold.

The development of Ramat Givat Zeev, with its attention to the highest possible quality of construction, and concern for creating a safe, friendly neighborhood for its residents, has made the project extremely popular among new immigrants.

The meticulousness of creating institutions along with the great educa-

tor Rabbi Horowitz makes the neighborhood a magnet for the Jerusalem residents who want to be part of something unique, and want their children to have the best educational experience possible.

The Kass Group made sure to develop the neighborhood to the highest standards in the country, not only by building amazing houses, but also by planting thousands of trees, and erecting playgrounds, sports courts and a mikvah, all of which have led to the increase in pub-

lic demand. In fact, the neighborhood is in such high demand that the real estate experts predict that the price of apartments in Ramat Givat Zeev will soon surpass the price of apartments in Jerusalem.

Find out how you can own property in the most sought-after neighborhood in Israel at [www.nofei-israel.com](http://www.nofei-israel.com) or email [office@nofei.com](mailto:office@nofei.com) to schedule a meeting with a representative.





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 ★ "Carl was very responsive and helpful - he seemed to really have my best interest in mind and advised me accordingly. He was proactive and reached out to me to lock in my rate when he saw that rates / fees could be going up imminently."  
 ★ "As first time home buyers, we had a great experience with Carl Guzman. He was very persistent with full follow through. He responded right away to any questions we had and was very involved in the process all the way through til closing."  
 ★ "Very knowledgeable and helpful. Always available when we had questions or concerns. :) 2 thumbs up ... worked well with our attorney and made this a very smooth process"  
 ★ "Carl Guzman gave me competitive rates and closing costs. It took less than 4 weeks from the moment I made my first inquiry to the closing date. The entire process was smooth. I would definitely recommend Carl to anyone looking for a mortgage."

 **Carl Guzman, CPA**  
 President  
 NMLS# 65291  
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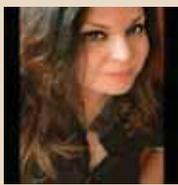
Actual Photo #1



Spotlight Photo #1



**170 South Prospect Ave, Bergenfield NJ**



*Listing Provided Courtesy Of:*

**Helen Pieri**  
**KW Town Life**  
25 Washington St.  
Tenafly, NJ  
201-894-8004 Office  
201-937-7365 Cell  
hpieri.kw.com

Welcome to this beautifully renovated stone front home resting on a 81x 56 lot with approx 2148 sq ft of living space not including the basement! Beautiful details with the main level featuring an open layout, gourmet kitchen, stainless steel appliances, gorgeous cabinetry, granite counter tops, spacious living room, dining room area, large bedroom and full bathroom with Jacuzzi tube, exquisite hardwood floors throughout. The upper level features four additional bedrooms, office/library with potential to close up and make it into an additional bedroom, and 1 full bathroom. Large driveway and finished basement. 2 Zone heating. Close to places of worship, schools, major highways, public transportation, and stores. This home is an absolute must see! Now offered at \$575,000.

Actual Photo #2



Spotlight Photo #2



**780 Hartwell Street, Teaneck NJ**



*Listing Provided Courtesy Of:*

**Farhan Yousufi**  
**Panthera Realty**  
100 Challenger Rd,  
Ridgefield Park, NJ  
201-351-1911 Office  
201-538-0389 Cell  
pantherarealtynj.com

This beautiful colonial in a sought after neighborhood is conveniently located only one block away from NYC transportation and adjacent to Holy Name Hospital, schools and easy access to all major highways. First Floor: Entry foyer with coat closet, spacious living room and dining room which leads to a very large kitchen with a washer/dryer hook up and a half bath. Second Floor: 3 spacious bedrooms and one full bath. The walk-out basement is finished with one full bath and a laundry room. The private fenced-in backyard provides a great space for entertaining your guests. Don't miss this opportunity to be in one of the most desirable areas of Teaneck for a competitive price! Now offered at \$424,000.

To have your home featured, email [Approved@ApprovedFunding.com](mailto:Approved@ApprovedFunding.com)



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**Circle the 5 correct mistakes on each of the listings and email your submission to [Contest@ApprovedFunding.com](mailto:Contest@ApprovedFunding.com)**

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Happy

Tu B'shvat

