

FROM THE SHALIACH TO YOU



Shalom Chaverim! The Magic of Hanukkah

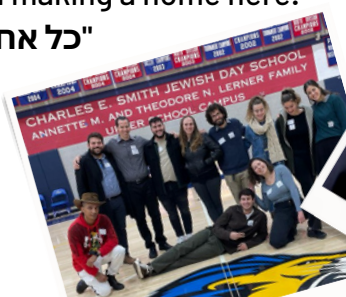
Hanukkah has always been magical to me. There's something about that time of year that just makes it special. The first memory of Hanukkah I can recall is the Israeli Kindergarten tradition of a "party" where kids put on a candle crown, and they dance and celebrate with their parents. My mom always insisted on us lighting the candles (and devouring donuts) together. For years, no matter where we were, she made us gather around the menorah and enjoy each others' company. When we grew older, this tradition disappeared from our lives.

I joined the IDF right around Hanukkah and, for the first time in my life, I missed it. I missed being 4 and dancing in a candle crown, I missed being 10 and getting fresh donuts with my grandma, I missed being 16 and getting dragged to the candle lighting. In a very out-of-character move on my behalf, I asked to light the candles in the first night of Hanukkah. There was something reassuring and special about it, me in front of the whole division saying the blessing. I was also the one lighting the candles on the last night of the holiday. Time went by, I became a Drill Sergeant, and I got the honor to light the candles in the first night of Hanukkah with the Base Commander and Rabbi. It was a great honor and really made me feel at home. My division also won the most creative Menorah competition made out of recycled materials! Now, far away from home, I get to experience this holiday with our amazing community, creating new traditions and making a home here.

"כל אחד הוא אור קטן וכולנו אור איתן"

חג חנוכה שמח!

With love,
Snir



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Sfinge (Moroccan
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Israeli TV Recommendation

Checkout (Kupa Rashit) - קופה ראשית

Who here loves to go to the supermarket? If you're the kind of person that does, I invite you to watch Kupa Rashit, this smart, sharp and witty comedy about a dysfunctional supermarket in Israel. Grocery shopping in the holy land is... different. The wide variety of cultures, personalities and agendas all mix, match and clash, and this sitcom presents that reality in an unapologetic way that is intelligent and hilarious. I personally like it so much because it shows Israeli *Chutzpah* (sassiness), making it fun and something to have a laugh about.



In the store you'll get to meet the Steve Jobs wannabe, Shira, who runs the supermarket; Ramzi, the dedicated assistant manager; Kohava, the sassy and lazy cashier and so much more. Together with the others they create this amazing show. The show gained praise and huge success, emphasizing its authenticity and the fact that it is so relatable. It was also nominated for an International Emmy Award in 2019 for Best Sitcom and won several Israeli awards. There are three seasons, and it was just announced that the fourth season is on its way, featuring special guests like Noa Kirel! You can watch it on Chaiflicks, the Jewish and Israeli streaming service. Click the picture of the cast to see more!

What's Happening in Israel?

For 1/12 - A special song about the "new" Hebrew by HaTikva 6, an Israeli band : tinyurl.com/NewHebrew

For Novy God - A video explaining what the holiday is and why it is so important: tinyurl.com/SnovemGodem



The calendar images are clickable and have more details! Also, for more information about those special days, please don't hesitate to reach out! (Contacts on the last page).

Israeli News

A Bride of Power - צמה של עוצמה

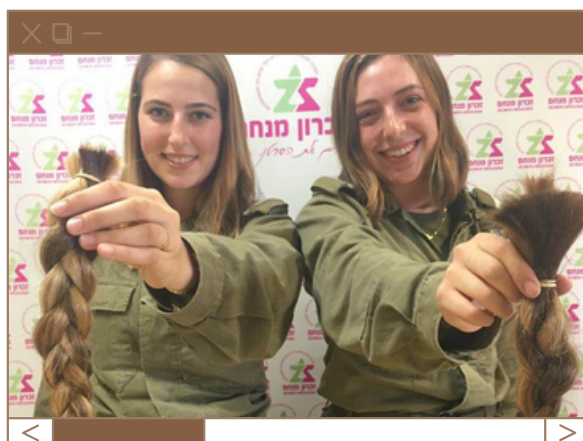
We all care for our hair. We go to the salon, we wash it, we love and nourish it, and, for some of us, it's a great source of confidence. Unfortunately, that is not the case for a lot of people, especially kids and teenagers. One of the side effects of cancer and chemotherapy is shedding of hair, which leads to baldness. For kids and teens dealing with this awful disease, it can cause a lot of shame and embarrassment. In Israel, one organization decided to put this important cause as one of its top goals: get every kid in need the wig they need.

Zichron Menachem is a charity devoted to help kids and teens battling cancer in every way possible, helping families, organizing activities and camps, and so much more. One of the first questions that kids with cancer ask is, "Will I lose my hair?" Zichron Menachem collects hair from donors (in Israel and around the world) to make much-needed wigs for children who have lost their hair during treatment. One of their biggest campaigns is 'A Bride of Power' (Also known as Great Lengths). This project is about donating your hair ("bride"). In Israel, between December 5-8, more than 460 salons and several malls in Israel, welcome anyone that would like to donate to do so. You donate your "bride" and you get a certificate and a new haircut, for free! All the hair donated goes as material for making new wigs. Sadly, during the pandemic there was a decrease of 14% in hair donations, and this year's goal is to raise it again.

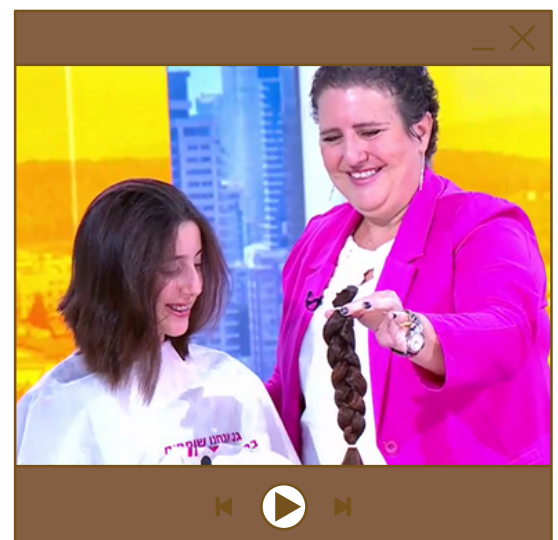
The result of this project are phenomenal, more than 5,200 donations were collected, adding up to 811 B'not-Mitzvah kids that decided to donate, and much more! One wig is made of approx. 7 donations, and all of those donations help give those who are fighting this terrible disease hope. Yasher Koach and Refuah Shlema!



Zichron Menachem's Hair Donation campaign:
A Bride of Power



Soldiers in the IDF's Officers
Course who donated hair



Click the picture to watch a donation made
on live TV in Israel, with a hairstylist that
battled cancer herself!

What's Going On?

Leadership Program on December 4th!

We had the second session in our Leadership Program for Madrichol/Apprentices. We dived deep into which qualities make a good leader and which people inspire us as role models. We also did some self-exploring about us as leaders! I had so much fun and I hope everyone learned something new! See you at our next session on January 29th!

Sigd Lecture with Yehoon!

Sigd is a special Jewish Holiday important to the Ethiopian Jews. We were very lucky to hear all about this fascinating holiday from Yehoon, a Shaliach at Olam Tikvah in VA. We heard about his incredible story, the Ethiopian Jewish culture and customs, this amazing holiday and we even got to taste some delicious Ethiopian food! Thank you Yehoon for an interesting and amazing time!



KESTY Relaxing Lounge Night on December 6th!

This month at KESTY we took some time to relax, enjoy each other's company and just rest. We made homemade stress balls from flour and balloons, put on face masks and played board game with friends. It is so important to take time to focus on yourself and get energized, and it feels so good doing it with people you love! See you all at the next event, KESTY Color Wars on January 10th!



More On What's Going On!

KESTY Katan (ב-א) Hanukkah Party!

On Saturday, December 10th right after Simchat Shabbat we had our KESTY Katan Hanukkah party, and it was a blast! We enjoyed latkes, we played bingo, and we made arts and crafts, such as candle crowns, just like the tradition in kindergartens in Israel! All of this wouldn't been possible without our incredible Katan Advisor - Marissa Sobel! Thank you Marissa and we'll see you all in the next Katan event on February 4th for Tu B'Shevat!

L'Taken Social Justice Seminar in D.C.!

Rabbi Adam, our amazing Temple youth and yours truly attended the L'Taken Social Justice Seminar (by the RAC) and it was an incredible experience! We got to learn a lot about the legislation process, our country, social action and advocacy, the connection to Judaism, how we can make a change, and so much more! We also toured D.C., visited interesting and important museums and had a great time in the city! We finished our weekend with lobbying and talking with our representatives on Capitol Hill and it was truly monumental and important. I'm so proud of our teens and the work they've done, truly remarkable! We learned so much and we can't wait to go again next year with another group of teens!



We have an Instagram page!

Our Temple got an upgrade! We joined the popular social network Instagram so you can get the latest updates, news and pictures of everything Temple Emanuel! Follow us on: @templeemanuelmd (and while at it check @kestymd out too!)



On The Horizon

KESTY Lock-In on December 17-18!

Join us for one of KESTY's biggest events of the year - The Hanukkah Lock-in! This is a huge sleepover at Temple, with a great Latka cook-off, special programming by our magnificent Board, games with your friends and so much more. Grab a sleeping bag and join us on December 17th at 7:00 PM! Sign up [HERE](https://tinyurl.com/kestylockin22)!

Festigal Screening and Hanukkah Party - Dec 18th!

The Festigal is one of the biggest events of the year in Israel. It's a musical that tours Israel around Hanukkah, with a different theme every year, starring the most successful stars in Israel. It is a huge part of Israeli pop-culture and I used to see it with my family every year growing up. I was fortunate enough to get my hands on a recording of the 2008 under the sea themed Festigal, starring the one and only Wonder Woman - Gal Gadot! Join us on 12/18 at 2:00 PM for a special screening for the whole family! English subtitles are provided! Right after the screening, we'll have our huge Hanukkah party, combined with Temple Emanuel's 70th anniversary! The party will feature stations for our kids and teens, yummy food and overall a very good time! Don't miss it, see you there!

Camp Shabbat on January 7th!

Who doesn't love camp?! On January 7th we're going to do Shabbat services camp-style, so everyone will get to know what camp is and how you can go there! We'll wear our camp shirts and eat some s'mores, and will have representatives from Jewish camps, showcasing to our community the amazing options we have around us! I was lucky enough to work at the URJ camp OSRUI for 2 summers (look at the pics!), and besides from having an incredible time all I can say is that Jewish camp is an experience you don't want to miss!



More On The Horizon

KESTY Color Wars on January 10th!

Our next KESTY event is Color Wars! A fun night of competition, sports and more! Grab a friend, a good pair of shoes and we'll see you there!



NFTY-MAR Winter Kallah January 13-16!

NFTY is the "parent" of our KESTY youth group. It is a youth movement for Reform teens and we are a part of the Mid-Atlantic Region (MAR). We invite our 8th-12th graders to join us for this event - at the 4-H Center in Wakefield, VA. This will be the BIGGEST MAR event in three years! Make lifelong friendships and get to know more Jewish teens, while having a great time together! Register [HERE](#) and more info [HERE](#).



Special Environmental Program in Israel for Young Adults: Next Gen Climate Changemakers Program at The Arava Institute!

Next Gen Climate Changemakers is an exciting new project which will bring together DC area Jewish young professionals (25-40) interested in learning more about the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, and sustainable efforts in cooperation with Israeli Jewish, Arab and Palestinian young professionals in the Middle East.

Over 6-months, participants in this program will explore regional environmental challenges and engage in dialogue, addressing questions of identity, ideology, and coexistence. With seed funding from the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, this project of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies will offer opportunities for this cohort to get to know each other over a series of virtual and in person gatherings (A virtual meeting every 2 weeks on Sunday afternoon + a trip to Israel). The application fee for this program is only 150\$ and include a trip to Israel for the participants to meet in person.

Next Gen Climate Changemakers will begin in January 2023.

Interested in learning more? Reach out to Lily Andrules at lily@friendsofarava.org.



Ready to start your application?
CLICK BELOW!



Time for Food! Hanukkah Special!

Amazing Sfinge (Moroccan Donuts) Recipe!

Donuts are the most prominent symbol of Hanukkah. Back home in Israel, right after Rosh HaShana, it's all about donuts. Bakery and Pastry Stores are heating the oil and putting out the most decadent "collections" (yes, that's how they call them) of donuts. New flavors, fillings and frosting are added up every year and the donut game goes to the next level.

As someone who grew up with a Moroccan Grandmother, the Sfinge, traditional Moroccan donuts, are always the star of the show. Sfinge is the fluffiest, most simple donut you could ever imagine, one you just can't stop eating. They are served in any happy gathering, as they are sweet (sometimes served with extra honey!) and symbolize happiness, but they get a special honor during the Mimuna (The Moroccan Passover after-party we're going to celebrate together this year!) and, of course, during Hanukkah. Those rustic sugar-coated donuts remind me of the Hanukkah Shabbat dinner at my Grandma's where all my cousins and family would gather and feast on Sfinge for dessert. I hope you'll have fun making (and eating!) this delicious Hanukkah treat! Bon Appetit!



Ingredients

For the Dough:

- 1 kg / 2.2 lbs / 7 cups of plain flour
- 2 tablespoons of dry yeast
- ½ cup of white granulated sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3⅓ cups of lukewarm water

For Frying:

- Deep pot filled with Vegetable oil of choice
- Small bowl with oil for dipping your hands

For Coating:

- 1 cup of white granulated sugar

Directions

Making and Proofing the Dough:

- In a big bowl, mix the flour and yeast.
- Add the sugar and mix, only then add the salt.
- Add half the water amount and knead the dough in a lifting and folding manner from the bottom of the bowl and up. Do this for about a minute.
- Gradually, add the remaining of the water while kneading constantly, do this for another minute.
- Don't overwork the dough, it will be very liquidy and that is totally fine.
- Cover with plastic wrap and let the dough rise until doubled in size (1-2 hours).
- After the dough has risen, punch the air out and knead for a few moments, then leave for another 1-2 hours, the dough will rise again. Start heating the oil when the dough is almost done rising.

Directions

Frying and Serving:

- When the frying oil is hot, deep your hands in the cold bowl of oil and start making balls from the dough. It will resist because it's very sticky but that's okay.
- Poke a hole in the dough and stretch it around to resemble a donut and drop carefully in the hot oil. They will get very fluffy and will puff up, so they won't look like a perfect donut - and that's how it's supposed to be!
- Fry on each side for about 2 minutes.
- Once out of the oil put on a plate with paper towels to absorb excess oil and immediately roll in the granulated sugar for coating.
- Serve hot! Enjoy!
- If you make it, send me a pic! **בתאבון !**



See You Later & Keep In Touch!

For any question or just to chat:

Mobile: +1-240-204-3033

WhatsApp: +972-54-984-6312 (Add to contacts and then you'll see me on the app)

Email: youth@templeemanuelmd.org

That's it for this time!

Hope you enjoyed this special holiday issue! I want to wish you all a happy Hanukkah! I would also like to wish you a happy new year and Snovem Godem! (hope you read about Novy God...)

Stay safe and have fun!

Chag Shameach!

La'Shalom,
Snir

A Farewell Song

This song by Israeli singer-songwriter Dana Spector is just what I want to remind myself for the new year, and I want you to remind this to yourself too. The whole song is composed out of those 5 magical lines that you can read below.

CLICK HERE TO LISTEN - 🎵

"כָּל הַדְּבָרִים הַיְּפִים בְּאֶמֶת

מִתְגַּלִּים בְּזִמְנָם

הָאֵטִי, הַבִּלְתִּי מִתְחַשֵּׁב

הָאוֹהֵב

"הַפּוֹעֵם בְּקֶצְבוֹ שֶׁל הַלֵּב"

"ALL TRULY BEAUTIFUL THINGS ARE UNRAVELED IN
THEIR OWN SPECIAL TIME,
SLOWLY, WITHOUT ANY NOTICE,
LOVINGLY,
BEATING TO THE RHYTHM OF THE HEART."