

FROM THE SHALIACH TO YOU



Shalom Everyone! The Best of Both Worlds

The pink cherry blossoms in Washington D.C. reminded me that spring is upon us, and almost immediately got me thinking about home. It's hot (almost) year-round in Israel, but in the spring everything gets so colorful and vivid, it's a time to refuel yourself with energy and joy. Also, in Israel, you can't think about spring without thinking about Passover. The two just go together. In the past month we also commemorated Israeli Family Day (יום המשפחה), and it got me thinking about the two Passover seders I'm missing. My family is both Ashkenazi (dad, hence the name) and Mizrahi (mom), and every year we do seder in a different household, alternating my Moroccan grandmother's house and my Ashkenazi grandparents' house. Those evenings look completely different, from culture, language, traditions and of course, food. Growing up in those two completely different cultures, I thought a lot about my identity and how I fit in this big, complex mixture of cultures. For a long time I was carrying this feeling that I don't belong anywhere, and then it hit me - Israeli, that's my identity. Israel is this amazing melting pot of unique, special, phenomenal traditions and cultures, and we embrace and live all of them all at once. It was so clear to me - every year my Moroccan side of the family would celebrate Mimouna, this amazing celebration after Passover, and my Ashkenazi family would come and embrace it all - this is what Israel is all about. How didn't I see it before? I was so busy looking at the differences instead of seeing what brings us together. This year I'll get to do seder without my family, creating a new tradition, somewhat familiar, but also somewhat different; in my new home away from home.

"שמחה רבה - אביב הגיע, פסח בא!"

חג פסח שמח!

With love,
Snir

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Choco-nut Cake (Kosher
for Passover) Recipe



Israeli Movie Recommendation

The Band's Visit

(Bikur Hatizmoret) - ביקור התזמורת

What happens when you take a fancy ceremonial classical band and leave them stranded in a desert town in the middle of nowhere, Israel? Well, to find out, you'll have to watch the critically acclaimed movie - "The Band's Visit" - a film masterpiece that was turned into a massive hit musical on Broadway. The Band's Visit received critical acclaim, winning eight awards from the Israeli Film Academy and prizes at several international film festivals. The director, Eran Kolirin, in his cinema directorial debut, won the Israeli Film Academy awards for Best Director and Best Screenplay.



The movie tells the fictional story of the Alexandria Ceremonial Police Orchestra that arrives in Israel from Egypt. The band was booked to perform in Petach Tikvah in Israel. However, because of miscommunication they arrive in the Negev Desert, to a small, underdeveloped fictional town called Beit Tikvah. What seems at first like the worst thing that could happen to them, is revealed as a great opportunity to dig deep into their repressed feelings, desires and longings. You're probably thinking why on Earth I am recommending a movie set in the middle of the desert in a spring newsletter? The answer is really simple; this movie talks about rejuvenating, about new beginnings - and this is what spring and Passover is all about. Furthermore, Ben-Gurion's dream was to make the desert bloom, and this movie shows perfectly how much you can get from the amazing Negev Desert...

*This movie is available to rent on Amazon Prime and rated PG-13. Click the poster to watch.



What's Happening in Israel?



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).



Israel News

The Spark IL Initiative for Small Businesses

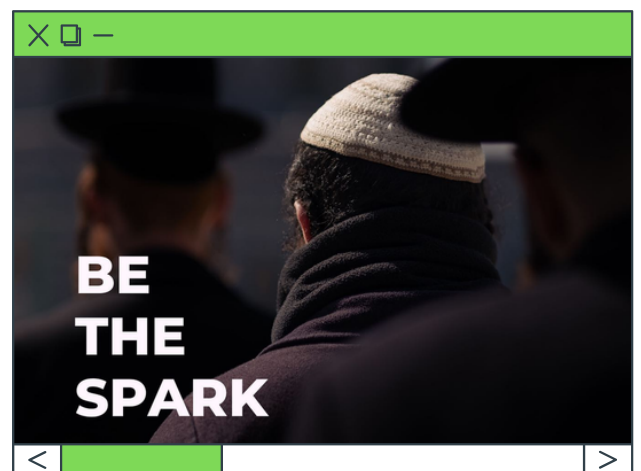
It's really hard to find what you're passionate about. It's also really hard to start a business from scratch. This incredible Israeli Initiative helps aspiring small businesses to bloom in a unique, special platform. The famous Talmudic passage כל ישראל ערבים זה לזה (kol Yisrael areivim ze laze) teaches that all Jewish people are responsible one for another. Despite our knack for disagreement, this value remains a cornerstone of Jewish Peoplehood. According to the Rambam, there are eight levels of charitable giving. The highest form is when a donor or lender empowers the recipient to become self-supporting. This is generally defined as giving someone a business loan or helping someone to find a job. This is exactly what Spark IL does.

Spark IL chooses business opportunities that are good for society and allows you to invest in them. Spark IL prefer using the word "invest" and not "loan" because once you invest in a business, you are fully aware of the development of the business. When the Borrower's goal is met, the full loan is released. If the Borrower doesn't meet his/her/their full funding goal, you can allocate your funds to a different business or have them returned. The borrower eventually repays the loan and advances their social impact goals. After that, you can re-invest your money. I think that's it's a great opportunity to build bridges and create meaningful connections to Israel and to the people living in it (not all Jewish!). That's the power of Spark IL. I invite you to check Spark IL out and make a difference, it really goes a long way!

Here at Temple Emanuel we're also very lucky to be a part of a Spark IL B' Mitzvah program, through a generous donation from a board member of JAFI. We give our B' Mitzvah students vouchers to invest in Israeli business opportunities through Spark IL, and, hopefully create a meaningful connection to the holy land while going through the B-Mitzvah process. We are very lucky to be a part of this program and with our B' Mitzvah students getting a \$3,250 Israel Trip from NFTY it seems like a perfect match, and maybe our students will even get to see the business they invested in come alive!



Spark IL promotional material
Click on the image to learn more!

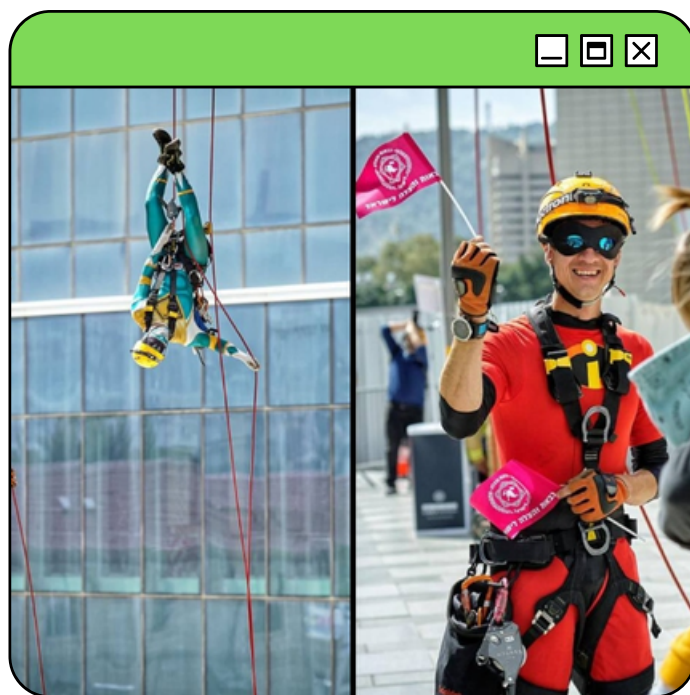


Spark IL promotional material
Click on the image to learn more!

Israel News (Mini Version!)

Firefighters Superhero Purim Project

"Lehave" (Hebrew: Flame) is a special forces unit in the Israeli Firefighting service, that came up with a special project for this Purim. The firefighters gathered up and dressed up as superheroes for Purim, and climbed the sides and windows of Children's Hospital Rambam in Haifa. The unit's commander said: "today we were fortunate enough to put a smile on those kids' faces. We will continue to work and put all of our efforts for the well being of our community". Yasher Koach to all the amazing firefighters that keep on showing us what it's like being a real life superhero!

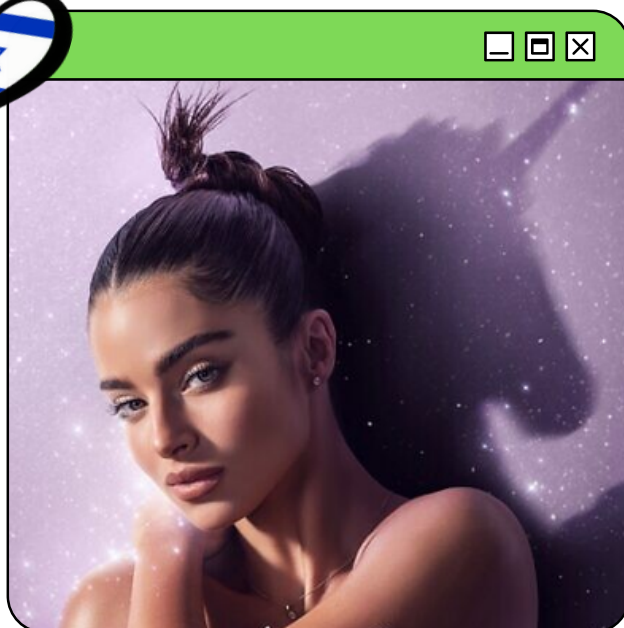


The "Lehave"
Unit
Firefighters
during the
Superhero
Project



Israel's Song to the 2023 Eurovision - Unicorn by Noa Kirel

21-year-old singer channels her inner unicorn in the song competition: 'It's a song that represents all of us, the whole country'. In recent years, Israel's Eurovision contestant was selected through a talent contest, but it was decided this year that it would be best for pop diva Kirel, whose videos receive hundreds of millions of views on YouTube, to represent Israel. The song, which is in English, is a self-affirmation anthem of the type which has come to dominate the contest in recent years Doron Madali, who wrote "Toy", that won in 2018, also wrote "Unicorn," in collaboration with Yinon Yahel, and May Sfadia and Kirel herself.



Click on the Photo to Listen to the Song!

What's Going on?

KESTY-Led Erev Shabbat Service

Our amazing KESTY teens led the Erev Shabbat service for the last Friday of JDAIM. it was a meaningful and special experience. Kim Hughes and Campbell Weiss also shared some important insights about teen mental health. We're grateful to all the people of our community that came to our service. A special thank you to Cantor Lindsay for helping us with song leading!

KESTY Lounge Night on 2/28

We had our Pre-Purim lounge night where we got to do a lot of arts and crafts and enjoy pizza and ice cream with the amazing KESTY youth! The best part was the arts and crafts contest, in which you could've won a big prize! Thank you for everyone participating!

KESTY Purim Lock-In on 3/4

Giving the Temple a complete makeover was so much fun! We spent the night working hard on giving the Temple a brand new look for the Purim Carnival! We also played games, ate some good food, learned about Purim and so much more. It was so fun doing it with friends and experiencing the holiday together! Can't wait for next year!

Purim Carnival on 3/5

The circus took over Temple Emanuel! It was such a blast to celebrate my favourite holiday with all Temple Emanuel community. We had moonbounces, great food, carnival games and prizes, and the list goes on! A huge thank you to all the volunteers, madrichol, apprentices and teachers that helped make this day possible. Also a big thank you to all who came, it was amazing! I'm already excited for next year, and I hope all of you are too!

Adult Hamilton Purim Shpiel on 3/6

Broadway is got nothing on our Senior Staff! We put on a Purim-themed production of the incredible musical Hamilton and it was so much fun! Thanks for everyone that came to see us perform and hopefully we weren't too embarrassing... Rise up!

Leadership Program on 3/12

We had our last session of leadership program for our talented Madrichol and Apprentices staff. It was great and we got to learn a lot more about ourselves and about our Religious School! Our students got the best RS staff!



On The Horizon

★KESTY Weekend - March 25-26

As we head towards spring break, we want to have a proper "send off" to our Temple kids and youth, so let me introduce you to the KESTY weekend! Two days of programming for all grades, a time filled with friends, creativity and fun! It's a great time to connect, create and celebrate our Temple youth!

NFTY X KESTY Event - 3/25 @ 5PM-8PM

Join us for a Shabbat filled with games, prizes, tie dye, bonfire and smores and so much more! We invite NFTY youth from the area to join us AND our 7th graders to get a taste of what NFTY and KESTY is all about! We'll meet at 5:00PM and will conclude the event with a nice traditional KESTY Havdalah! So excited to see you there! [RSVP HERE!](#)

KESTY Katan & 3456 Event - 3/26 @ 1PM-2:30PM

Two events in one day! Kids K-2 can enjoy a special screening of the amazing movie "Prince of Egypt" in the Passover theme and enjoy some flavored popcorn, and our 3rd-6th graders can enjoy a DIY session, making and decorating shoes, hats and more! Both events start at 1:00 PM, you don't want to miss that! RSVP in the links here -->

Israel Engagement Brunch with Speaker - 3/19 @ 9:30AM-11AM

Our amazing Israel Engagement Committee is organizing a brunch with special speaker Dr. Ilai Saltzman of the University of Maryland. Dr. Saltzman will discuss the relationship of the American Jewish community and Israel and will answer questions. This will be an exciting and enlightening talk expanding our understanding of our relationship with Israel. A \$10 donation is suggested, but not required. Please mark your calendars and join!

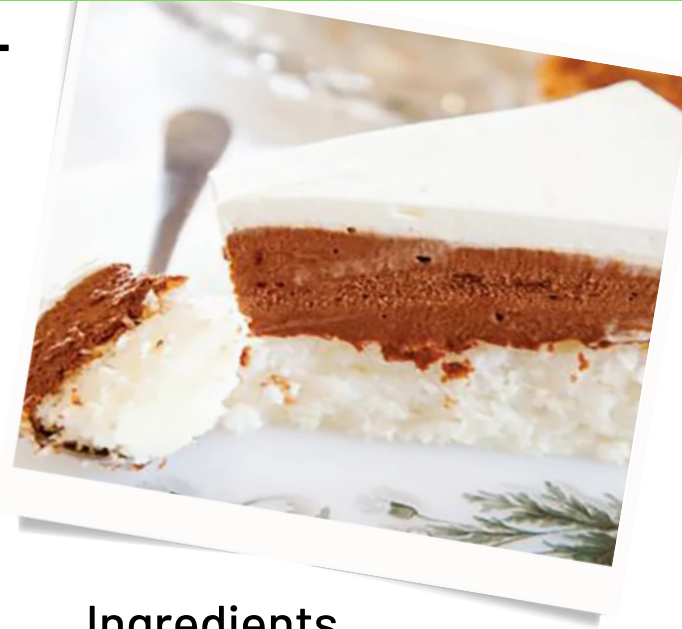
Adult Ed Class with me!

As we're getting closer to celebrate Israel 75th, I invite you for a 4-session classes with me, talking about Israel culture, arts, foods and everything that is amazing about my home and the Jewish homeland! Dates will be published soon, so get excited!



Time for Food! Seder Dessert Recipe - Kosher for Passover Choco-nut Cake!

In my opinion - this is the ultimate Passover dessert. This three layered cake, with a cloud-like coconut base, chocolate mousse and cream top is a gluten free dessert you don't want to pass on (get it? Passover...). This cake started as a big controversy in my house. A famous celebrity pastry chef in Israel made it on her cooking show, and it was a hit all over Israel. Of course, my mom and grandmother didn't skip on the trend and made it too, to the dislike of my brother - who hates coconut. One taste was enough to make him forget that he hates the tropical delicacy, and from a Passover dessert this cake became a Shabbat dinner fundamental. This cake looks complicated, but it's really straightforward, uses few ingredients and super easy. It does require some time to set - but it is guaranteed to wow all of your guests! בתיאבון



Ingredients

For the Coconut Layer:

- 6 egg whites
- 1 cup of white sugar
- 2 cups (200g) of shredded coconut

For the Chocolate Layer:

- 7 oz of bittersweet chocolate
- 3½ tablespoons of butter
- 6 egg yolks

For the Cream Layer:

- 2½ cups of heavy whipping cream
- ¼ cup of white sugar
- 2 tablespoons of vanilla pudding mix

Directions

Making the First Layer:

- With a standing mixer (or A LOT of elbow grease), whip the eggs white while adding the sugar gradually. The mixture is supposed to somewhat resemble shaving cream.
- Add the coconut to the mixture and fold it in carefully, trying to deflate as little air as possible.
- Transfer to a springform pan and bake in an oven preheated to 350°F for 30 minutes until golden and firm to the touch. Let it cool completely before moving to the next step.

Making the Other Layers and Assembling:

- Melt the chocolate and butter in a microwave safe bowl.
- Add in the egg yolks and pop in the microwave again for 10-15 seconds, making sure to mix rapidly later, to avoid curdling the eggs. This will make sure you don't consume raw eggs. Let it cool.
- While cooling, with a standing mixer (or A LOT of elbow grease), whip the heavy cream, pudding mix and sugar until soft peaks form.
- Take half of the cream mixture and incorporate it to the chocolate mixer. When combined, spread over the cooled coconut layer and put in the fridge for an hour to set.
- Once the chocolate layer sets, spread the remaining of the cream mixture on top and pop in the fridge again until completely set and preferably overnight.
- Serve and enjoy! If you make it, send me a pic ! בתיאבון

The Way to Israel 75th!

Israel is turning 75 and it's kind of a big deal! As we get closer to the big day (4/26, or 5 of Iyar, ה' באייר) I will share some fun facts, songs, videos and more about the beloved Jewish state!

Stay tuned for our Yom Ha'Atzmaut upcoming programming 4/28-4/30, Save those dates!

In the last month we commemorated JDAIM, and I talked a lot about the "Special in Uniform" program, that incorporated teens and young adult with disabilities in the service process in the IDF.

I invite you to watch [this YouTube video](#) to learn more about the project and the people involved.

ISRAEL'S 75TH BIRTHDAY COUNTDOWN: 42 DAYS!

WHEN ISRAEL WAS FOUNDED IN 1948, THERE WERE ONLY 806,000 RESIDENTS. THE POPULATION REACHED TWO MILLION IN 1958, AND IS EXPECTED TO REACH 10 MILLION IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS.



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@templemanuelmd.org

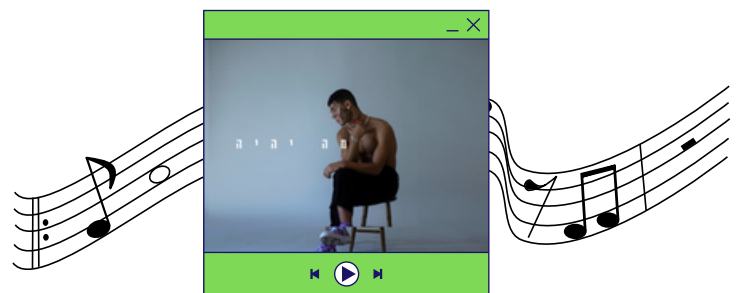
That's it for this time!

Hope you liked this issue!

I want to wish you all a very Happy Passover and a relaxing, rejuvenating and fun spring break!

La'Shalom,
Snir

Israeli Music Recommendation



The EP "מה יהיה" ("What's Going to Happen") by Israeli artist Mergui dropped in the middle of my military service. It's catchy, poppy, comforting and pretty impressive, considering the artist was only 19 when he released the EP. We used to finish long days on base and listen to this mini-album through the night while working in the office. My favorite song is "Madagascar", so if you listen to the EP, let me know what's yours! (Fun fact: Noa Kirel and Mergui used to date...)