

# FROM THE SHALIACH TO YOU



## Shalom Everyone! All the Reasons to Celebrate

Summer is almost here and we have all the reasons to celebrate! In the Jewish calendar, we think of the beginning of the year as the busiest, but this time of the year is also pretty full! We just celebrated Israel's independence and we're moving on to Lag B'Omer, Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) and, of course, Shavuot! In my house, this time of year also marks the beginning of birthday season, as (almost) all of my family members were born in early summer.

Weeks before Lag B'Omer my classmates and I would roam the streets, looking for old planks of wood to make a huge fire. We would gather around the bonfire, wrap potatoes in foil and throw them into the fire to cook. I remember looking at the flames and being very excited about all of things that were about to happen. Then my parents' birthdays would arrive and our family celebrated together. Because we were all born close to Shavuot, our birthday cakes were always cheesecakes! I'm not complaining, but by the fourth cheesecake, it's getting repetitive...!

Why am I telling you all of this? Because for years I've done the same thing, celebrating the same traditions with the same people. This year I'm not in Israel and my routine has changed. I will still be celebrating the people I love, but I'm also excited to celebrate with our Temple community. I'm grateful for where I am and the friends I've made. I'm really excited to make new traditions (and eat cheesecake!) with all of you.

On Shavout we say "הזורעים בדמעה ברינה יקצורו", which means those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy. It's not that I cried at all, but moving to a new place is hard, and I'm so glad that I'm a part of such an amazing and welcoming community. I feel like after all of the past year's work, I can reap with all of you in joy!

**חג שבועות שמח!**

With love,  
Snir

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## Israeli Movie Recommendation

### The Women's Balcony

(Yismach Hatani) - ישמח חתני

A huge box office hit in Israel and the most-watched Israeli movie of 2016, this film was written by Shlomit Nehama and directed by Emil Ben-Shimon. "The Women's Balcony" is an eccentric portrait of a devout community suddenly under pressure from a super Orthodox rabbi to observe their faith in a more rigid way. Nehama's script is filled with humorous one-liners, a compelling story and an important message. This film is a hit in Israel - you definitely don't want to miss this one!



The movie tells the fictional story of a Jewish community in Jerusalem. When the women's balcony in an Orthodox synagogue collapses, leaving the rabbi's wife in a coma and the rabbi in shock, the congregation falls into crisis. Charismatic young Rabbi David appears to be a savior after the accident, but slowly starts pushing his fundamentalist ways and tries to take control. This tests the women's friendships and creates a rift between the community's women and men. Following the movie's success, a follow-up TV series was released in 2021 with the same name and the original actors reprising their roles.

\*This movie is available to watch for free on Vudu and Tubi. 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).



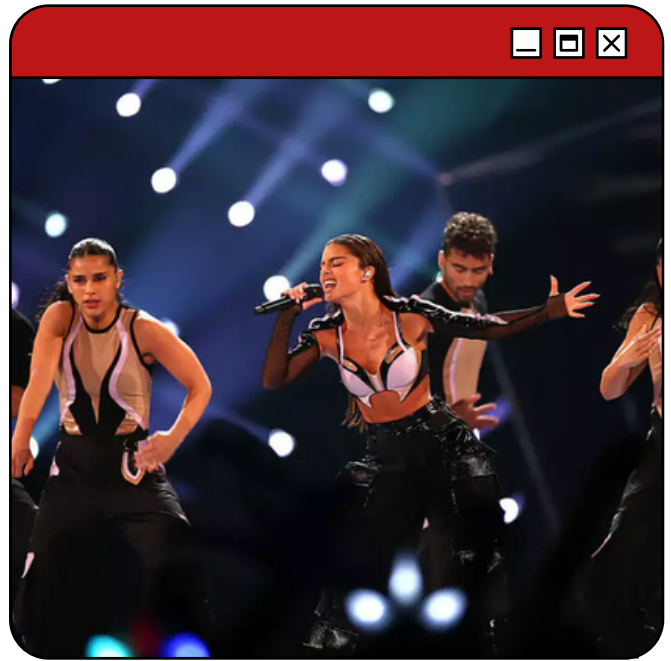
# Israel News

## Noa Kirel Represents Israel in Eurovision 2023!

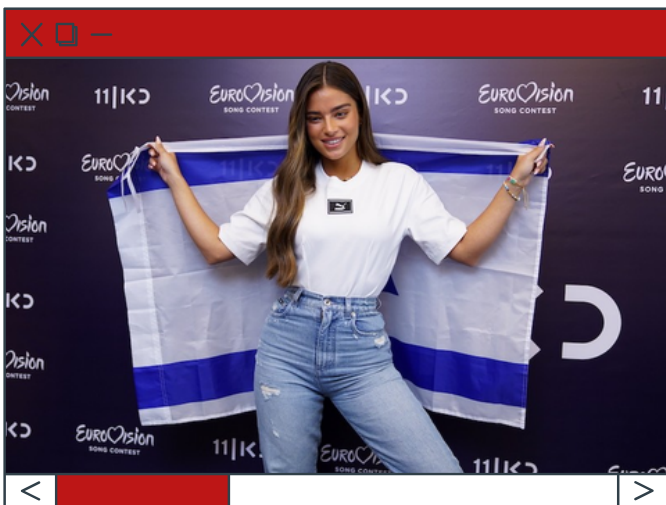
In Israel, unless you're living under a rock, there's no way you don't know what Eurovision is, and there's no way you don't know who Noa Kirel is. Because we're not living in Israel, allow me to explain. The Eurovision Song Contest, also known as "Eurovision" is an international song competition organised annually by the European Broadcasting Union, featuring entries from primarily European countries. Though associated with Europe, the contest also features non-European countries such as Australia and Israel. Israel has participated in the Eurovision Song Contest 45 times.

Noa Kirel is an Israeli singer-songwriter, actress, dancer, and television host. She came to fame at age 14 on an Israeli reality show and took Israel by storm. Growing up in Israel, Noa served in the IDF, is a Zionist, and supports Israel abroad. She made a statement by arriving at the 2022 MTV European Music Awards with an outfits decorated with Kanye West's face and Judaic jewelry, as a protest against Kanye's anti-Semite remarks. Currently, she's one of the biggest artist and performers in Israel.

Noa was chosen to represent Israel in the 2023 Eurovision with the song "Unicorn," which she wrote with Doron Madali. Madalie also wrote the song "Toy", which won the 2018 Eurovision (performed by Netta). On May 9th, Noa performed in the Eurovision Semi-Finals, turned heads and blew people's mind off. She got a lot of points and qualified for the Finals! The competition is hard, but some people believe she may bring back the victory to Israel! Tune in on Saturday and see Noa perform once again - and maybe even win the Eurovision, bringing a lot of respect to Israel! Either way - she's our winner! Yasher Koach, Noa!



Noa Kirel Performs with the Song "Unicorn" during the 2023 Eurovision Semi-Final



Kirel with the Israel Flag During the Announcement of her Representation in the Contest



Kirel at the 2022 EMA's with the Famous "Kanye" Inspired Look

# What's Going on?



## Israel at 75 Celebrations!

Israel turned 75 and we celebrated the Jewish homeland together! We had an incredible weekend full of activities and festivities!

We started the weekend with an Israeli dinner and a panel discussing Israel and our hope for the country's future. We celebrated Israel during our Shabbat service by asking and answering the question "What Does Israel Mean to You?" We also had an amazing Simchat Shabbat service for the whole family celebrating Israel's Birthday, and had an Israeli Brunch with homemade shakshuka!

We closed the weekend with an Israel fair with our Religious School, taking a "field trip" through Israel, learning about the different areas and cities of the country and also had over UMD's Israel dance troupe to perform and teach us some fun Israeli dances!

It was such a blast and I can't wait to celebrate Israel's 76 with all of you!



## Yom HaShoah Service

On 4/17, we had a very meaningful service commemorating Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Our amazing 7th graders, led by their incredible teacher Kenny Karbeling helped plan and run the service. We also partnered with the Israeli organization "Shem VeNer" (Name and a Candle), and distributed special candles labeled with names of Holocaust victims. Every candle had a QR code to scan and learn about then individual named on the candle. In lighting the candles, we remember their lives and legacys.





## More of What's Going on?



### KESTY Lounge Night on 5/2

We had our Pre-Elections Lounge Night on May 2. (It was the last KESTY event at Temple of the year... super sad!) We talked about how to run for the Board and what positions are available while having fun with friends over a bonfire ("medurah") with hot cocoa and smores! Why bonfire? Because of Lag B'Omer, of course! Can't wait to see everyone at our Elections on 5/13!



## On The Horizon

### KESTY Elections - 5/13

On May 13th we're going to elect our 2023-2024 Board of our incredible KESTY Youth Group! Join us for a fun afternoon with friends at Dave and Buster's! If you need a ride, complete this form: [tinyurl.com/ElectionsRide](https://tinyurl.com/ElectionsRide)



### Last Day of Religious School Celebrations - 5/21

On May 21st we'll have our last day of Religious School - but we're going to leave with a bang! We are planning Maccabiah Games, our beloved tradition, and a lot of other surprises! Please join us as we celebrate our amazing Religious School, and also Kathy Magenheim, who is retiring after 13 years as Temple Emanuel's School Administrator!



### Teacher Appreciation and High School Graduations Friday Services - 5/19 and 6/2

Join us as we celebrate the work of our astonishing Religious School and ECC teachers on 5/19 and the exciting milestone of our High School Graduates on 6/2! We'll have a festive service dedicated to them and festive dinners (RSVP required for dinner, please check "Stay Connected" for more details).

## Time for Food! Shavuot Dessert - Decadent Malabi Recipe!

I cannot stress how much I love this dessert. Malabi is a creamy, milk-based pudding perfumed with rose water. It is one of the most popular desserts across the Middle East and especially Israel. In the Jaffa port, which is 10 minutes from where I used to live in Israel, there's a tiny magical place that serves malabi. I used to go with friends all the time, and play backgammon or Shesh-Besh in Hebrew.

This dessert is addictive and I have many good memories linked to it. It's also traditional to serve and eat dairy products during Shavuot so this dessert is a perfect fit. My grandmother has a crazy good recipe for Malabi, which I'm really excited to share with you all, hoping you can create some amazing memories over eating Malabi too!

### Directions

#### Making the Custard:

- Mix one cup of cold milk with the cornstarch and rose water until the cornstarch is completely dissolved.
- In a saucepan over low heat, mix the rest of the milk, heavy cream and sugar and bring to a simmer.
- Add the cornstarch mixture and stir constantly for a minute, up until the mixture thickens.
- Pour mixture into individual serving dishes, cover with plastic wrap and let the mixture come to room temperature before transferring to the fridge for at least 4 hours.

#### While Cooling, Make the Syrup:

- In a saucepan mix water and sugar until the sugar dissolves.
- Cook on low heat until a syrup consistency is achieved.
- Add the raspberry syrup and rose water and cook for an additional few minutes.
- Set aside and let the syrup cool.

#### Assembling and Serving:

- Take the cooled Malabi and pour a few tablespoons of syrup on top.
- Add toppings! It's traditionally served with coconut shavings, peanuts or pistachios.
- Serve and enjoy! If you make it, send me a pic ! **בתיאבון**



### Ingredients

#### For the Custard:

- 4 cups of milk
- 1 cup of heavy cream
- 8 tablespoons of cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons of rose water
- ½ cup of sugar

#### For the Syrup:

- 2 cups of sugar
- 2½ cups of water
- 2 tablespoons of raspberry syrup
- 1 teaspoon of rose water





## Happy Birthday to my Parents!

On 5/15 my Mom - Naomi - will turn 54 and on 5/31 my Dad - Nitzan - will turn 57! I celebrated with them from afar while serving in the IDF, but now, thousands of miles apart, it feels different. Without bragging, they became parents when they had me, and it's one of the things I most proud of. I was a really bad kid sometimes, but they never gave up on me and took care of me the best way possible. My grandmother always says (and rightly so), that me and my brothers have such good parents "that everything you dream about at night, you wake up to in the morning" and I couldn't agree more!

When I left Israel my family got my a Hamsa to hang up in my apartment with the engraving "אין מקום ש'הוא רחוק מידי", which means that there's no place that is too far, and here I am celebrating with them miles apart, so until we reunite in August - Happy Birthday Mom and Dad! Love you a lot!



Left: my parents, brothers and I at my Brother's Bar-Mitzvah in 2020



Right: IDF colleagues and I with signs celebrating my mom's birthday in 2020

## 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 issue!

I want to wish you all a very joyful and fun summer vacation and a very Happy Shavuot!

La'Shalom,  
 Snir

## Temple Emanuel "Israel's 75th" Mosaic



This month we celebrated Israel at 75, and we got to collect pictures from congregants sharing their experiences from the Jewish homeland!

Thanks to you we were able to create this amazing mosaic, showing our love of Israel!  
 Thank you to everyone who took part in this!