

FROM THE SHALIACH TO YOU

Shalom Everyone!

Starting a New Chapter

When does one know that it's okay to be happy? I ask myself this question a lot ever since October 7th. With every step that I took, I always had this question at the back of my head. How can I live my life here while my family and friends are living under an existential threat? How can I go on with my day to day life with so many innocent hostages buried alive in tunnels in Gaza? Ever since November 24th, approx 100 hostages were released from captivity (Israelis and other nationalities), but 138 are still being held illegally in horrible conditions. Their lives are in severe danger. I'm so happy for every single one of the souls that were freed - kids reuniting with their parents, families brought back together and, sadly, some returning home to discover that their parents and family are no longer with us. But how can I be happy when 138 people are still fighting for their lives? When so many brave soldiers are losing their lives? How can I continue to live a normal life?

The short answer is that you can't. It's really hard. The long one would be that we can't - and we must do something about it. In the upcoming weeks we'll welcome the year 2024. We cannot let those innocent lives spend more time in dark tunnels. Our new year's resolution should be to **bring them all home - NOW!** I invite each and every one to support the families of the hostages in their battle to get their loved ones back home **HERE**.

The new year invites new opportunities. It's a time to rejoice and celebrate all that is to come. I hope that the ones who returned from the depths of hell will find the inner strength to celebrate. I hope that the ones that lost loved ones will find way to rebuild. I hope that the ones waiting on the doorsteps for their loved ones will get to see them as soon as possible. I hope that peace and love will be filling the air, rather than hatred and agony. I haven't lost hope.

“הפרחים ישובו לפרוח
תראה שיהיה טוב”
מחכים לכם בבית!

With love
and hope,
Snir




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Israeli Movie Recommendation

Gett: The Trail of Viviane Amsalem

גט: המשפט של ויויאן אמסלם

As part of our Fall Adult Education lineup, I taught a class revolving around the themes of love and family in Israeli literature and film. The film we discussed is the one that I am going to recommend you this month. I believe it's a must watch and, to me, is one of the most important movies made in Israel. Written, directed and led by the amazing Ronit Elkabetz, the film, set only in the hallways and discussion rooms of the Rabanut (rabbinic court), beautifully portrays the obstacles and pitfalls that women, and, in this case, Viviane, go through to achieve freedom.



This is a fascinating reflection on a subject so close and personal to so many Israelis. The movie "Gett" is the final installment in a trilogy, but can be watched on its own. "Gett" follows Viviane along her journey to receive her "Gett" - her bill of divorce from her husband. In the movie, we learn about the Feminist Mizrahi woman, the price of being one, and how can grow as an individual and start a new chapter. Through the eyes of Viviane and several other characters, we go through the struggles, pain, and loss on Viviane's journey to freedom. Will Viviane be able to achieve her goal and get a divorce?

To find out, watch the movie on the free streaming service, Tubi (Click the poster to watch!).

What's Happening in Israel?

The calendar cards include:

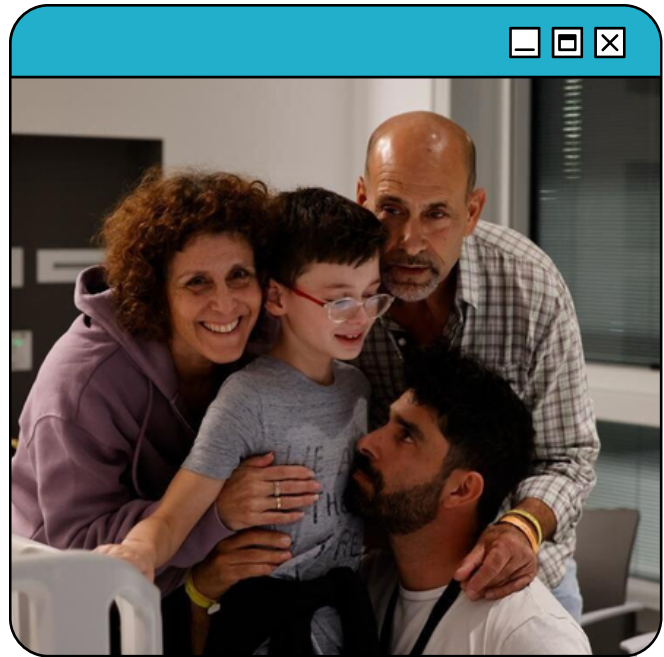
- HANUKKAH** 7-15 DEC (with a menorah icon)
- KNESSET RELOCATES TO JERUSALEM** 13/26 DEC (with a building icon)
- HEBREW LANGUAGE DAY** 2 JAN (with Hebrew letters icon)
- 70 ANNIVERSARY TO THE IDF'S INTELLIGENCE CORPS** 28 DEC (with a green star icon)
- REMEMBERING LEAH GOLDBERG** 15 JAN (with a portrait icon)

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

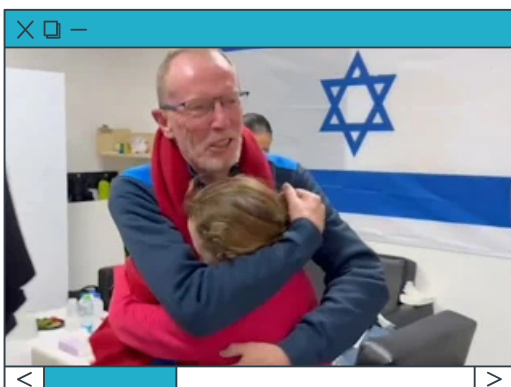
Kids and Teens Return Home After Spending Over 50 Days in Captivity.

We were all watching our screens when the news broke about a possible deal to bring the Israeli hostages back to their homes and loved ones. Day after day, groups of innocent civilians were freed and got to return to Israel. As a part of the deal, many kids and teens under the age of 18 were safely returned to their homes.



Ohad (9) Reunites with his Family

Some got to reunite with their families, some are still waiting for parents or other loved ones to be released from captivity, and some realized they lost their loved ones during the brutal terror attack. We were all saddened and in distress when Ohad Munder celebrated his 9th birthday in captivity, and here at Temple Emanuel even wrote him birthday cards, hoping that the Red Cross would be able to give them to him (which they didn't, as Hamas prevents them from visiting and checking on the hostages). We were relieved when he and his mother and grandmother were released in the first wave of the deal. Another happy/sad story is of 4-year-old Abigail, who was released and returned to her siblings, grandparents and extended family. Tragically, both of her parents were violently murdered, and she will never see them again. Emily, who was presumed dead, was released and reunited with her family, it was incredibly emotional. Incredibly, some of the released teens turned to social media to say thank you to the people that supported their release and campaign, and some even became TikTok stars, looking at the situation from a happier angle. As happy as we are to see them smiling and with their loved ones, those kids and teens have a long way to go. Only time will reveal the full trauma they experienced. I hope they will continue to laugh and smile and that they will enjoy their new life outside of the depths of hell. We also pray for the safe release of every single one of our hostages.



Emily (9), Who Was Presumed Dead, Reunites with her Father

HOSTAGES AND MISSING FAMILIES FORUM



Abigail (4) Reunites with her Extended Family

What's Going on?

KESTY Hanukkah Lock In

Our Annual KESTY Hanukkah Lock In was the best Hanukkah gift we could have asked for! We had so much fun together cooking latkes, making recycled art inspired by Israeli Artist Hanoch Piven, learned about the holiday and so much more! We also picked our Purim Carnival theme - OUTER SPACE! See you at the next Lock In!

Religious School Hanukkah Celebration

Our Religious School students had the best time as we welcomed UMD's Israeli Dance Troupe - Avirah (featuring our very own 1st grade teacher Lila Wohl)! We learned to dance to Israeli tunes while celebrating the miracle of Hanukkah!

"Young" KESTY LEGO Explosion

Our LEGO Explosion was, well, a blast! We got to build so many beautiful LEGO creations and spark our creativity and also to win some paper plate awards! We also got to build a giant 12-foot Menorah! How amazing and right in time for Hanukkah! It was so fun to hang out with our friends and to get creative together! Can't wait to see everyone at the next one!



On The Horizon

Israel Engagement Brunch - 1/7

The Israel Engagement Committee will be hosting a Sunday morning breakfast program on "The Current State of the State Of Israel". On January 7th at 9:30AM, Dr. Ned Lazarus, Associate Professor of International Affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs of George Washington University, will be addressing current aspects of the Israeli Hamas conflict and other issues. He recently published an article on the current conflict in The Atlantic magazine entitled. "I Don't See a Better Way Out". Please mark your calendars and plan to attend! There is no admission fee, but a \$10 contribution to the Israel Engagement committee is suggested. A light breakfast will be served.

RSVP HERE.

More On The Horizon

Love, Family and Everything In-Between

As part of our Learn Over Lunch lineup I started my Adult Ed class, revolving around Hebrew (and Israeli) literature and film! Join me for the last session on 1/4, to learn more about Israeli themes of Love and Family. In this class we'll explore how the Israeli culture is reflected in art to create a meaningful and impactful look on society and life. We will discuss the novel "The Book of Intimate Grammar" by David Grossman. (Class is hybrid - both in person and on Zoom).

LOVE, FAMILY, AND EVERYTHING IN-BETWEEN
 WITH OUR SHALIACH SNIR HOLTZMAN
October 12 & 26, December 7, January 4



Explore universal themes of love and family through an Israeli lens with our shaliach, Snir. In this class we'll explore how the Israeli culture intertwines in art to create a meaningful and impactful look on society and life. We'll explore a lot of literary media - from poetry and music to short stories, novels and film.





KESTY's Sip and Paint Lounge Night!

Join us on 1/9 at 7:30PM for a relaxed night of painting while sipping on a delicious variety of drinks and hot beverages! We will have a chill night with relaxing music and you'll get to take home your beautiful art creation!



KESTY Katan, 345 and J - Tu B'Shvat Events!

it's the trees' birthday! Join us for some fun with friends, celebrating nature and mother earth! More info coming soon so make sure to **save the date and check your email!** (Note that kids must be enrolled in KESTY and RSVP is required for the events).

RSVP HERE.



Recipe with a Memory - Yael's Maple Cake

Food is not just about nutrition or surviving. Food is culture, joy, memories. Sergeant Yael Leibushor was killed while protecting the State of Israel. Yael was an observer in the Nahal Oz base and was brutally massacred, along with 20 observers, when terrorists infiltrated the base on the morning of October 7th. I didn't know Yael personally, but two of my closest friends in Israel, Ofek and Natalie, were observers and still on reserves, so in a way, it feels personal. Yael was very social and enjoyed making things for her friends, food, desserts and even embroidery. In the last Shabbat she spent on base before the massacre, she brought over this cake, that she loved so much. Yael's family was kind enough to share the recipe with us. May Yael's memory be a blessing.

Ingredients

- 1 cup of Sour Cream or Yogurt
- 3 Eggs
- 1 ¼ cups of Self Raising Flour
- 1 ¼ cups of Sugar
- ¾ cup of Vegetable Oil
- 1 teaspoon Vanilla Extract
- Maple Syrup
- Cinnamon, brown sugar and nuts like pecans or walnuts to put on top of the cake.



Directions

- Preheat your oven to 350°F.
- In a bowl, mix everything together, combine wet and then dry ingredients.
- Grease two loaf pans and divide the batter equally between the two pans.
- Mix the nuts with a bit of cinnamon and brown sugar, the brown sugar is supposed to be sticky enough to help everything bind together but, if not, you can add a small amount of butter.
- Sprinkle that mixture on top of the cakes and bake for 35 minutes, when a fork comes out clean.
- While still hot, poke some holes in the cake (using a chopstick or a fork) and drizzle maple syrup on the cake.
- Let it cool for a little while before serving.





Ways We Can Support Israel

Israel is going through one of the biggest challenges it has ever faced. There's so much that we can do to support Israel from across the sea. The first thing that we can do, is to **REPORT** and make sure that social media posts that spread lies, fake news and false information are taken down. This is a battlefield that Israel keeps on losing, as anti-Semites use lies like "liberation" or "resistance" or even claim that the events of 10/7 never occurred and that it's Israeli propaganda to justify the attack - this is wrong and disrespectful, as this was an organized terror attack on innocent civilians.

The second thing that we can do is to donate to organizations that are helping Israel and our soldiers. Organizations like The Jewish Agency (that Gal Gadot shared in her social media pages), FIDE, the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and more. This way we can guarantee that the soldiers that risk their lives for us will be equipped, will have food and supplies, and that broken families will get support and any helpline they need. I'm glad to inform you that our Temple donated approx. \$9,000 to various organizations that support Israel and its people during this difficult time, and I'm forever grateful for that, as those donations really change lives.

עַם הַנִּצְחָה לֹא מִפְחָד מִדֶּרֶךְ אֶרְכָּה!

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!

This time of hope reminds us of our resilience. May the light of Hanukkah and the new year bring lots tranquility and good news to us all, and fill our houses with joy and happiness.

רק אהבה תנצח!

La'Shalom,
 Snir

Prayers for Israel

If you're interested in adding the Prayer for the Welfare of the State of Israel and Mi SheBerakh for the Welfare of Israel Defense Forces Soldiers to your prayer cycle, you can find them [HERE](#).

Make Sure to Follow Us on Instagram to Get All the Latest Updates!

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 @kestymd