

FROM THE SHALIACH TO YOU

Shalom Everyone!

Of Light and Darkness

I can't stop thinking about the darkness that is lurking in Israel, in the land that I call home. Ever since October 7th, the deadliest terror attack that Hamas has ever launched on Israel, it feels like there's no room for light. During the horrible attack 240 innocent civilians were taken hostage by the evil Hamas terrorists. Children, elderly people, babies, Holocaust survivors, women, men, all of them got dragged into tunnels, hidden beneath Gaza. Light most definitely is not getting in there. A 10-month-old baby, Kfir Bibas, is in there, are the terrorists giving him formula? Who puts him to sleep? A pregnant woman got kidnapped, on 11/14, she gave birth. Who was there to hold her hand? Did someone gave her pain medicine? Is the baby okay? No one knows. Hanukkah is right around the corner. There's a traditional children song that opens up with the words:

Though the night is cold and dark.

In our soul, there lies a spark.

Each of us, is one small light.

All together, we shine bright.

As we embark on the month of Kislev, we have to remind ourselves, even the smallest of lights can light up the most pitch-black of nights. We must raise our voices, we must be a strong Jewish community, we must spread love, we must not lose hope, but most importantly and urgently - **we must bring them home, now!**

In the Tanach, the word **אהבה** which means love appears 40 times, and the root **ב.א.ה** appears 208 times. Hatred, **שנאה**, appears only 17 times. This is how we're different from our enemies. Our love is stronger than any hate.

I quoted this children's song in last year's Hanukkah issue, but now, now it's a whole different story...

"כל אחד הוא אור קטן וכולנו אור איתן"

עוד לא אבדה תקוותנו!

With love
and hope,
Snir




Israeli Movie
Recommendation

Israel News

What's Going On &
On The Horizon

Recipe with a
Memory

Ways We Can
Support Israel



Israeli Movie Recommendation

Scaffolding

(Pigumim) - פיגומים

Film is a great medium to practice escapism and get some relief from things that are happening in the real world. Also, film is an amazing tool to convey emotions and share a message about our society and events unfolding in the world. In times like these, all of us want to escape into a different realm, even for a short period of time, to take the pain away. I invite you to do so, while keeping in mind the people that got hurt the most during Hamas' brutal attack on Israel - the people of the Gaza envelope. Kibbutzim like Nahal Oz or Be'eri, inflicted damage and destruction like never before, and left with scars that will take long time to heal.



The movie "Scaffolding" has nothing to do with the war. The movie does not reveal its exact location, but we know that it takes place in the southern Israel, in less developed areas that we refer to as the Periphery. For many years these areas have suffered from fewer resources and this movie is critical of that. The film tells the story of Usher, a teenager torn between two role models - his Hebrew literature teacher and his father - who both see a different future for him. Will Usher will be able to fulfill his dreams or will he stay a part of his father's construction business? To find out, watch the movie on the free streaming service, Tubi (Click the poster to watch!).

What's Happening in Israel?



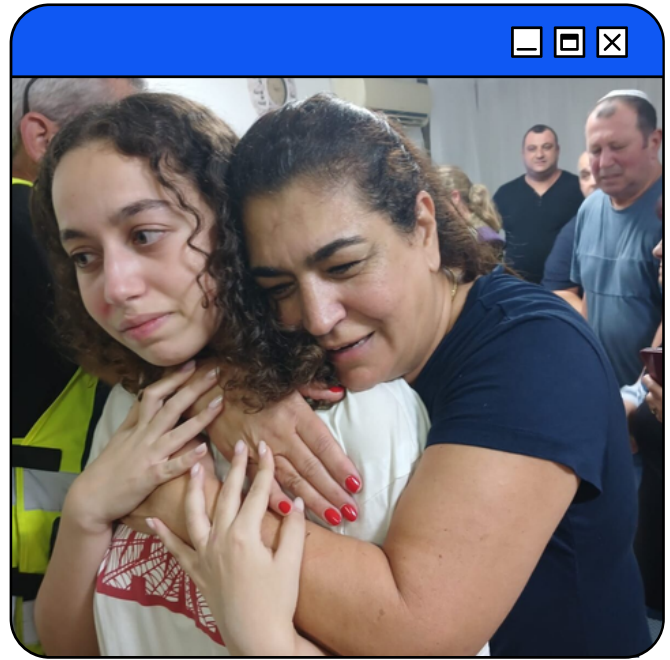
The calendar images are clickable and have more details! Also, for more information about those special days, please don't hesitate to reach out! (Contacts on the last page).

Israel News

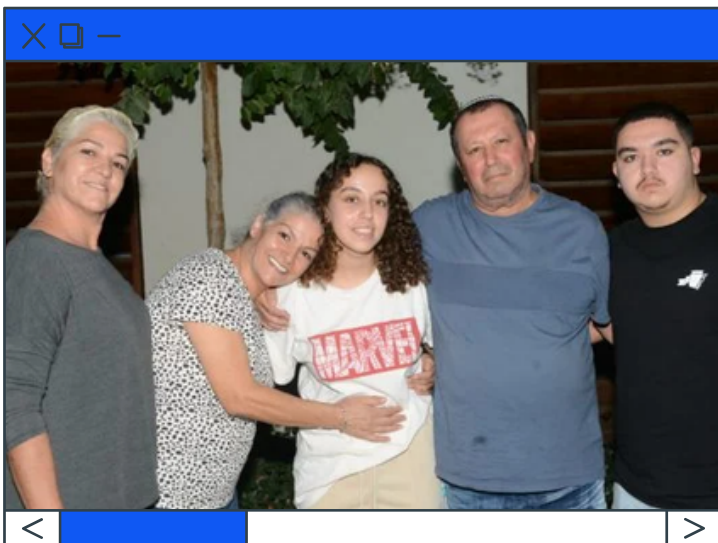
Israeli Female Soldier Returns Home from Hamas' Captivity

As I mentioned before, during the attack on October 7th, 240 Israelis were kidnapped and taken into Gaza by Hamas terrorists. Israeli intelligence and forces are still trying to gather information about their wellbeing and location, as Hamas won't let anyone to visit or check on them, including the Red Cross. As days goes by, their health and safety is affected and cases of execution are being revealed.

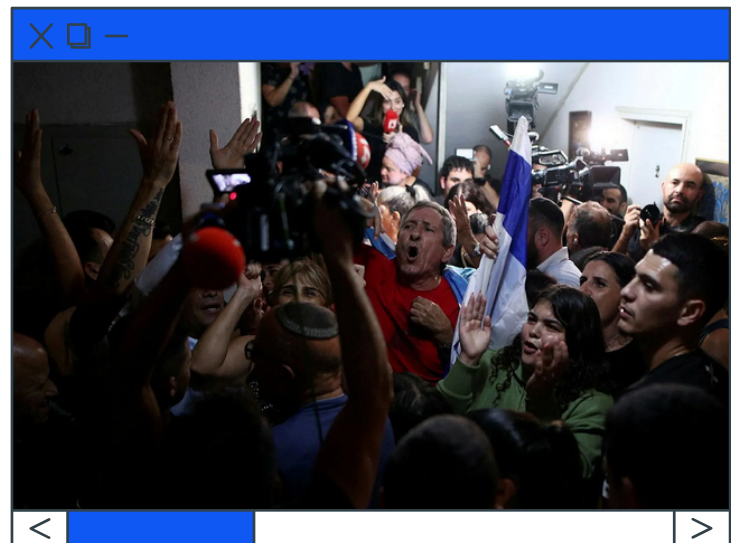
One positive story is of Private Ori Magidish. During October 7th, Nahal Oz base, which is home to lots of IDF soldiers, was brutally attacked. 65 brave soldiers were murdered, and 7 observers were kidnapped. On the night of October 30th, Israeli forces managed to retrieve Ori in a special ground operation and bring her back home. The IDF's Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Hartzvi Halevi spoke with the press and said: "We had a dramatic night in this rescue operation. With complex decisions, with risks and with a happy ending. Ori is of course a whole world, but we know that it is a drop in the sea. We have a deep commitment to do everything to return all the hostages". We are waiting for every single one of them, bring them back home - now!



Private Ori Magidish Reunites with Her Family



Ori with her Family after Being Rescued



People Rejoicing Outside of the Magidish Residence

What's Going on?

KESTY Glow-in-the-Dark Lounge Night

Our KESTY Teens gathered for a lounge night filled with games, fun activities and glowsticks! We played capture the flag, hide and seek and also learned about Judaism together! It's so rewarding to see our incredible teens putting together and running events for our teen community!



"Young" KESTY's First Event of the Year

Our younger folks (KESTY Katan and KESTY345) and future KESTYites had a blast at our first event of the year! We had a fabulous day of tie dye and challah baking. We dyed some pillowcases use as Challah covers and cover the delicious Challah we made! We also got to play games and hang out with friends and our amazing advisors and teen Madrichol staff!



DiploAct Presentation

We had the privilege of welcoming Shay Rubinstein, an Israeli that works with DiploAct, an Israeli NGO that empowers students and adults to be proactive advocates for Israel. His talk was great and we learned a lot about ways we can combat antisemitism and support Israel.



Americans March for Israel

On November 14th, we joined approx. 290,000 Americans in the biggest Jewish/Israeli Rally in history. People came from all across the United States (and the world!) to stand in solidarity with Israel, against antisemitism and to call for the immediate release of the hostages. This was a beautiful display of peaceful demonstration, of unity and of Jewish strength. I feel so lucky to be a part of such initiative, and also really proud of our Temple and congregants that showed up in support, Am Yisrael Chai!



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 12/7 and 1/4, to learn more about Israeli themes of Love and Family. In this class we'll explore how the Israeli culture intertwines in art to create a meaningful and impactful look on society and life. You don't have to commit to all classes - come whenever is comfortable for you! (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 Hanukkah Lock-In!

It's time for our annual Hanukkah Lock In! Join us on 12/9 as we welcome the holiday spirit with a letkah cook-off, art project, Havdalah, games, and total fun with friends! Please [RSVP Here](#) and see you there!

KESTY HANUKKAH LOCK-IN

JOIN US DECEMBER 9TH TO 10TH FROM 7 PM TO 8 AM
 Come for a competitive and fun night of games, crafts, food, and more.
 All 8-12 graders welcome, we hope to see you there!!!!
 Sign up now at:
tinyurl.com/kestylockin23
 or at the link in our bio

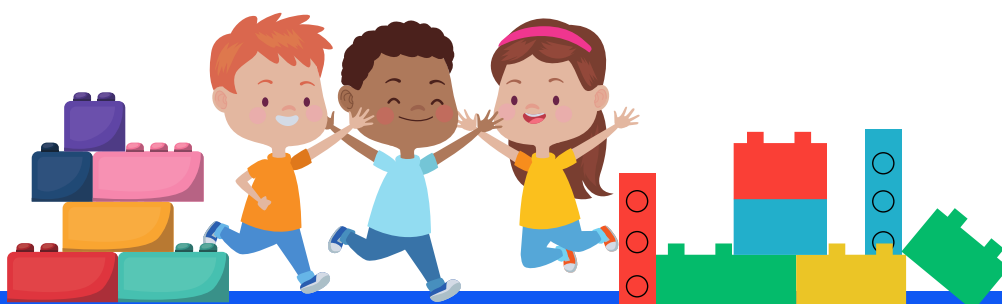


KESTY Katan, 345 and J - LEGO Explosion!

Who doesn't love Lego?! Mark your calendars for our Hanukkah Event for KESTY Katan (K-2), KESTY 345, and KESTYJ (6 & 7) on December 17th, right after school (there's no Hebrew class that day). We are bringing in bins full of legos and students will build lego dreidels and a 12-foot-tall Lego menorah! This is what we call a VERY HAPPY HANUKKAH! We also provide pizza lunch - yum! (RSVP is required, Click the poster to RSVP!)

LEGOTIME!
 THE BEST HANUKKAH PRESENT!
12/17
11:30AM - 1:00PM

We are bringing in bins full of legos and students will build lego dreidels and a 12-foot-tall Lego menorah! This is what we call a VERY HAPPY HANUKKAH!
 MORE INFO AT YOUTH@TEMPLEMANUELMD.ORG CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!
 WE PROVIDE LUNCH!
RSVP REQUIRED!



Recipe with a Memory - Adi's Chocolate Cake

Food is not just about nutrition or surviving. Food is culture, joy, memories. Staff-Sergeant Adi Leon was killed while protecting the State of Israel. My friend, Ma'ayan, who is also the Israeli *Shlich*a in Memphis, Tennessee, knew him. She was kind enough to make this graphic and share this recipe with me, of Adi's favorite chocolate cake. If you decide to make this recipe, think about Adi, about his sacrifice, and about the life he gave all of us, while giving up his own. May Adi's memory be a blessing.

Adi's Chocolate Cake

By Mirit Leon- Adi's aunt

There is one cake I have made for years, since our beloved Adi was born. Nurit (Adi's mom) always said that Adi doesn't like cakes, but this one he loved. Since the beginning of the war, I told Nurit that she should let me know before they go to visit Adi, so I can give her his favorite cake, but each time they visited him it was on last minute notice, and I wasn't prepared. So from now on, this cake is "Adi's cake", and here is the recipe:

The cake:

1 1/2 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
3/4 cup sugar
1 cup hot chocolate mix
4 eggs
1 cup heavy whipping cream
1 cup vegetable oil

The chocolate ganache:

3 1/2 oz. dark chocolate
1/2 cup heavy whipping cream

Instructions:

Combine all the cake ingredients and whisk until you have a smooth batter. Grease a baking pan with oil and pour the cake batter into it. Bake at 320°F for 50 minutes.

For the ganache, take a small bowl, add dark chocolate and heavy whipping cream. Microwave for a minute or until the chocolate is fully melted.

Stir the melted chocolate and cream mixture until it's combined well, and then pour it over the cooled cake.

So simple, yet so good ♥

Staff-Sgt. Adi Leon ז"ל, 20, fell in the line of duty as a hero, on 10/31/2023 during the Iron Swords War





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.

עִם יִשְׂרָאֵל חַיִּים!

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!

As the story unfolds, it's hard to be filled with sadness and despair - but I am here for you, please don't hesitate to reach out ANY TIME. We are in this together, and we will get through it together.

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!

 @templeemanuelmd

 @kestymd

THANKSGIVING
**SEATS
OF HOPE**

SAVE A SEAT AND "HOST" A HOSTAGE
AT YOUR THANKSGIVING TABLE

HOSTAGES AND MISSING
FAMILIES FORUM



Convey the message to the world: Our holiday tables are not complete until all the hostages return home.

Let's paint the US map with red dots – each representing a family reserving a spot for the hostages in their hearts and at their tables.

www.SeatsofHope.net

BRING
THEM HOME
NOW

#BringThemHomeNow