

FROM THE SHALIACH TO YOU

Shalom Everyone!

Ripples in the Water

As I was driving home with my fellow Shlichim (Israeli Emissaries) from a Jewish Agency for Israel conference, I couldn't shake off the feeling that everything that we do affects the world in some capacity. At the conference, I reunited with over 360 Shlichim from across North America. We talked about a lot of things, such as the current situation in Israel, anti-Semitism and ways to combat all the negativity and anti-Israel content that is flooding the world right now.

One conversation in particular gave me food for thought. I attended a session with the CEO and National Director of ADL, Jonathan Greenblatt about anti-Semitism. He asked the crowd of over 360 Israeli Shlichim how October 7th affected them, and more specifically, if they know anyone that was hurt, injured or killed in the attack. Almost every single hand in the room went up. It was, and still is, in a way, insane. This attack was so brutal and so large in scale, but at the same time, so personal and still aching. We proceeded to talk about how we can help Israel in this time of need. Sometimes it seems like we're so far away and that there's nothing to do but, as Shlichim, we have the incredible ability to build metaphorical (and physical) bridges that connect communities abroad with Israel. In times that we feel so powerless, it's our obligation to rise up and act.

I watched the highway stretch ahead and the trees becoming greener as we drove from Connecticut back home to Maryland. I knew that everything that happens around me affects someone else, and I know that I am, we are, the voice of 136 people still being held in torture chambers underneath Gaza. I hope and believe our voice will make a change, and they will come back home.

”כמו קול שלא נדם,
כמו ארץ לא זרועה...
אני ממשיך לחלום,
את כל מה שהיה”

With love
and hope,
Snir




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Israeli Movie Recommendation

Asia - אסיה

In February we commemorate JDAIM, Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month. Israeli cinema is not shy about dealing with themes of inclusion, and the movie 'Asia' from 2020 is one of the most successful ones in this genre. Asia is considered a major success, and managed to sweep the Israeli Oscars (Ofir Awards) with 9 wins, including Best Picture, Best Actress in a Leading Role, and Best Actress in a Supporting Role for Shira Haas, who you may recognize from her international work (Unorthodox).



The movie follows Asia, a young mother immigrating to Israel from Russia and working as a nurse in a hospital in Jerusalem. Her Daughter, Vika, is a rebellious teenager that always gets into fights with her mother. The plot thickens as Vika gets sick and develops some sort of muscular dystrophy. The family needs to learn to overcome their difficulties and to live a new life with Vika's disability, that may cost her her life.

You can watch the movie for free on Tubi (TV-MA, 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).

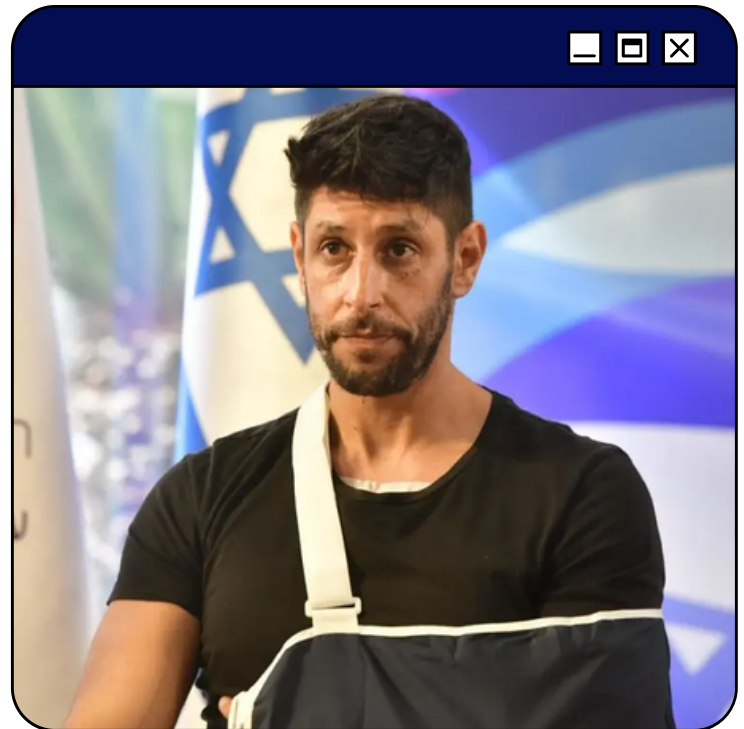
Israel News

The Amazing Story of Idan Amedi - Singer, Actor, Combat Soldier

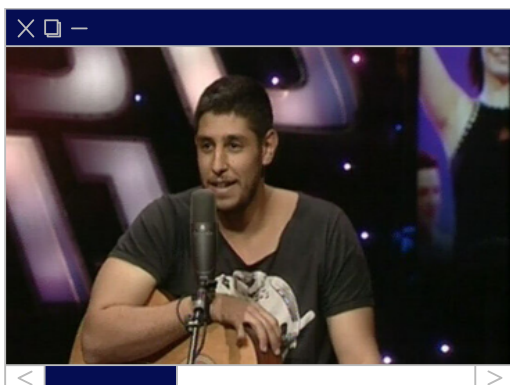
When the October 7th Massacre occurred, almost immediately hundreds of thousands of reserve soldiers were called to serve. Such things requires those soldiers to leave their workplace - but what happens when you're a famous Israeli singer and actor?

Idan Amedi grew to fame after participating in the 8th season of the Israeli hit reality tv-show, "Kochav Nolad" (כוכב נולד), which is essentially the Israeli American Idol. He gained massive recognition for his first audition, in which he performed his own original song, "Ke'ev Shel Lochamin," "The Pain of a Combat Soldier," that tells his story as a combat soldier and commander in the Combat Engineering Corps.

After winning second place on the show, his career took off and he became a massive household name in Israel, also developing an acting career and participating in the show 'Fauda.' When the war started, Amedi was very vocal and open about his service, the importance of it and his desire to bring the hostages back. Unfortunately, on January 8th an explosion took the lives of six brave IDF soldiers, and injured many more, with Amedi amongst them. Amedi was transported to a hospital, under anesthesia and ventilated, and after two long weeks of uncertainty he was ready to go back home for rehabilitation. He gave a brave statement to the press. "I was burned to the point that no one recognized me. Shrapnel pierced my neck and spine, and I am lucky that none of it hit any main blood vessels. I also have broken bones, including fingers, but I know I will get back to playing guitar and hopefully, I will be able to be in 'Fauda' season five, I look forward to being able to pick my kids up again," he said.



Idan Amedi at the Press Conference, After his release Home



What's Going on?

KESTY's Sip and Paint Lounge Night

Our KESTY teens had a fun and relaxing evening of creativity! We started making some soda concoctions and moved to co-creating beautiful paintings that will be up in our new and improved youth lounge! We had a blast sharing our creativity and imagination!

KESTY's Mystery Night

Our amazing teens gathered up for a night of crime solving and riddle deciphering! Our astonishingly creative KESTY teens came up with a story of a crime that needs to be solve and constructed a fun and engaging evening in which try are the detectives trying to solve the crime! You think they solved it?

KESTY Katan's Plant-fest

Our youngest KESTYites decorated flower pots and planted some cool plants in them in this fun and engaging event right in time for Tu BiShvat! The creations were pretty amazing and it was so fun to hang out with friends!

KESTY 345 & J's 'The Lorax' Watch Party

Tu BiShvat is all about Teva (nature) and keeping it clean and safe! Our KESTY 345 kids got to sit back, relax and enjoy a special screening of the movie "The Lorax," which talks about those important values of environmental awareness! They also got to indulge on some gourmet popcorn, so much fun!

Camp Shabbat

We celebrated Simchat Shabbat with our 4th graders and also got to celebrate Camp! We hosted camp representatives from over 10 different camps from the area, had a special S'mores Oneg and so much more! Camp Summer is the best summer!

Religious School Camp Day

Our Religious School students participated in a program led by the URJ specialty camps, 6 Points Sports Academy, 6 Points Creative Arts and 6 Points Sci-Tech! They got to go through special stations with different activities in order to get to know the camps! It was such a great time!



On The Horizon



KESTY-led Erev Shabbat Service

Join us on 2/23 at 7:30PM for special Erev Shabbat Service, led, run and composed by our amazing KESTY Board and teens! The teens worked really hard on putting this service together and would appreciate a big a big crowd!



KESTY's Purim Prep Lounge Night

Join us on 3/5 at 7:30PM for a lounge night filled with competitive art making, as preparation for our Annual Purim Carnival! Also, one lucky participant will get to go home with a special prize!



KESTY's Annual Purim Lock In

It's time for a Temple makeover! Join us on 3/16 at 7PM for a night of fun with friends, fun programs and mostly giving the Temple a complete makeover for our Out of This World Purim Carnival! You can [RSVP HERE](#).



Out of This World Purim Carnival

It's that time of the year - Hamantaschen, Groggers, Costumes and our Temple's Annual Purim Carnival! We're going big this year and going to space! We'll have:

- Moonbounces (for all ages)
- Purim Shpiel
- Costume Parade
- Carnival Games (with prizes)
- Arts and Crafts
- Face Painting
- All the Carnival Foods You Can Think Of (Cotton Candy, Popcorn, etc...)
- And so much more!

Grab your All-Included tickets [HERE](#)!



Israeli Recipe - Special Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce

In hard times, I find myself leaning on foods that provide comfort and that warm feeling in your body. I also find that a lot of those foods that I associate with these feelings are my grandmother's dishes. This is one of those simple, comforting - Spaghetti with tomato sauce. Sounds too simple? Well, it really is. But something about that sauce that almost sticks to the noodles, is really special and I feel like a lot of Israelis will prefer this dish over any pasta with marinara sauce... Growing up this was my favourite lunch, especially paired with Schnitzel (recipe that I shared with you last month), and just thinking about it immediately reminds me of home.

Ingredients

- 1 Onion, diced
- 8 Oz of Tomato Paste
- 2-3 Tablespoons of Vegetable Oil
- 1 Teaspoon of Paprika
- Salt and Pepper to taste
- 2 Cups of hot water
- Salt and Pepper, to taste
- Cooked Spaghetti (Al Dente)

Directions

- Paying attention to the directions is key to make the sauce 'sticky' and signature, rather than a regular marinara sauce, so read carefully.
- In a pan, fry the diced onion with the oil until the onion starts to become translucent. Add the spices and fry with the onion for a minute to release the flavors.
- Add the tomato paste and fry for a few moments being careful not to burn the mixture.
- Add the hot water and let the sauce cook while stirring occasionally for about 20 minutes on low heat (without covering it)! This step is crucial for this signature "stickiness".
- Add the pasta and cook for another 10 minutes. Make sure to drain all the pasta water (a big Italian mistake, but this is an Israeli recipe!).
- It's better to wait for 10-15 minutes before serving (with no heat) so the sauce will "stick" to the pasta.
- Enjoy! בתיאבון, if you make it, make sure to send me a pic!





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, FIDE, the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, the Missing and Hostages Families Forum 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.



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!
 During the month of February, we commemorate Yom HaMishpacha (Family Day) in Israel. This Family Day, we hold on to our family and love them with all of our heart, but also make room inside for all the broken families that lost so much since 10/7, and for the families that are not losing hope and wait to see their loved ones again.




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