

FROM THE SHALIACH TO YOU

Shalom Everyone!

Dreaming of Freedom

Passover, in Hebrew, has many names. Chag Ha'Aviv, for example, means The Holiday of Spring, as during Passover nature rejuvenates and starts to blossom. Another one is Chag Ha'Matzot, referencing, of course, the Matzot that the Israelites ate when fleeing Egypt and the ones we eat during the holiday to this day. The one I'm struggling with right now is Chag Ha'Cherut, which means the Holiday of Freedom. How can we celebrate freedom when 133 hostages are still being kept in horror tunnels underneath Gaza? How can we talk about ideas of Cherut when a terror organization is continuously oppressing everyone in the region, including their own people?

My fellow Shaliach and good friend, Abraham and I went on a trip to the Midwest a few weeks ago. We debated a lot whether or not we should cancel our plans completely. The thought of going on the trip with everything that is going on in Israel was hard to balance. We came to the conclusion that we should go, as it would be a good opportunity to gain strength and think about what is to come. On our trip, we visited a lot of landmarks and, in a fitting way, a word that continued to pop up was "Freedom". Here in the US, people dreamed of freedom, and fought to achieve it. We thought a lot about the Jewish fight and struggle, and our friends in the front lines and in terror chambers, fighting for their freedom, for the freedom to be **עם חופשי בארצנו**, free people in our homeland. Abraham made Aliyah to Israel with his family when he was six because his parents dreamed of being free, of a better future to their kids. I'm thinking a lot about if this promise is fulfilled - if not for Abraham, then for the kids of Kibbutz Nir Oz or, Be'eri or K'far Aza. As we gazed at the Mount Rushmore National Monument we thought about freedom, about Passover, we stood there and stared at the four founding fathers, looking and praying for better days, of Freedom, of Cherut, for everyone. This holiday we'll pray for a better future and the end of the suffering everywhere.

**"תחזור, תחזור היום, כל כך רציתי שתגיע
הלאוי תבוא בלי להודיע עוד היום..."**

With love
and hope,
Snir




Movie
Recommendation

Israel News

What's Going On &
On The Horizon

Israeli Recipe

Ways We Can
Support Israel



Movie Recommendation

The Human Resources Manager - שליחותו של הממונה על משאבי אנוש

Movies are a great tool to take us back in time and to different places. This movie takes its source material - the novel of the same name by A. B. Yehoshua, and gives it life in a captivating film set in Israel of 2002, during the second Intifada. This movie is critically acclaimed, with a star studded cast of Gila Almagor and Gori Alfi, and winning 5 Ophir Awards (Israeli Oscars), including Best Picture, Best Screenplay and Best Director for Eran Riklis.



The movie follows begins with the tragic death of Yulia, an immigrant to Israel that worked in a bakery in Jerusalem. When a paycheck leads an investigator to the bakery, and blames them for negligent handling of her death arrangements, it's up to the Human Resources Manager to travel to Eastern Europe, and make sure Yulia will get honored in and buried in her village.

You can watch the movie for free on Tubi, (PG-13, Click the poster to watch!).

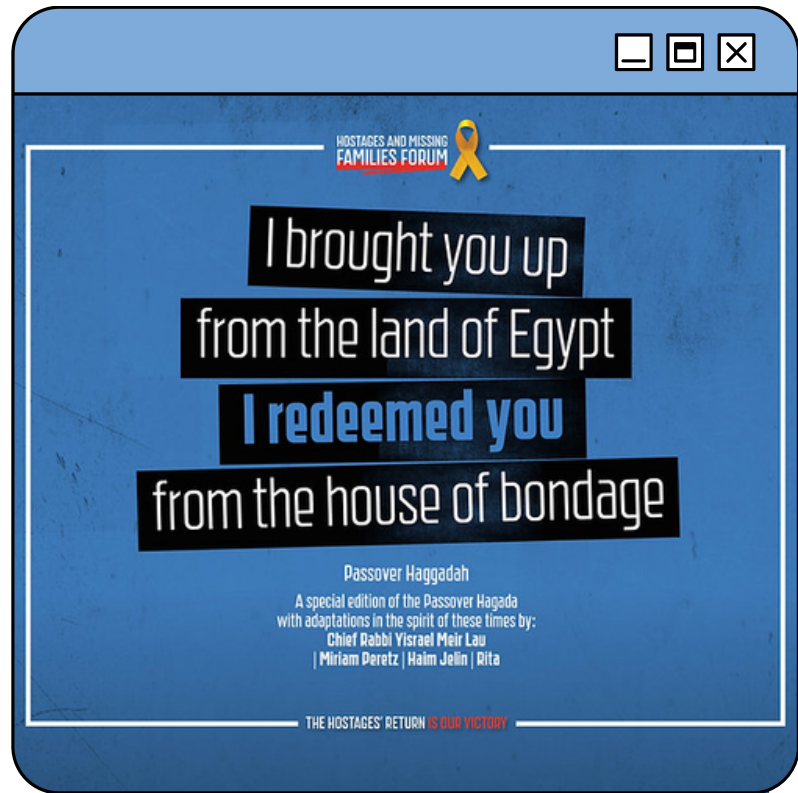
☆ What's Happening in Israel? ☆

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

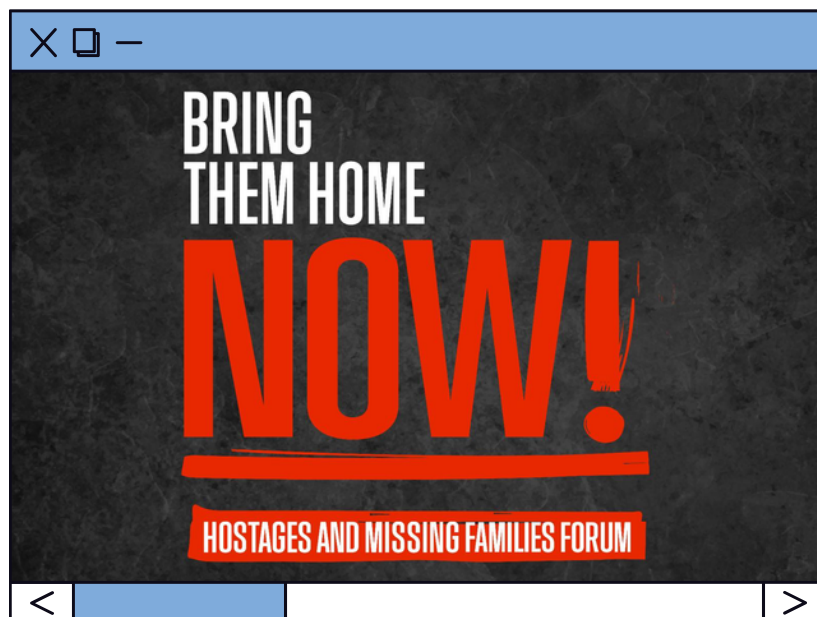
Bring Them Home Haggadah – New Initiative from the Missing and Hostages Families Forum

As I mentioned before, Passover is a holiday of Cherut, of freedom, but how can we commemorate freedom, when 133 innocent lives are being held in the depth of hell in tunnels under Gaza? the Missing and Hostages Families Forum was created after the horrible events of October 7th, and trying to raise awareness ever since to the hostage situation and to call for international attention to the problem and the immediate release of all hostages.



Cover of the Haggadah

In their latest campaign, the Missing and Hostages Families Forum came together with a special version of the traditional Haggadah we know. This Haggadah is produced by Be'eri Print in Kibbutz Be'eri. On October 7th, more than 90 of its residents were murdered and over 20 were kidnapped to Gaza. The Haggadah is also embedded with messages of hope and inspiration by Israeli spiritual and cultural leaders: Rabbi Yisrael Lau, Miriam Peretz, Chaim Yellin, and Rita. This Passover is different from all others in our lifetimes. The idea of leaving slavery for freedom takes on a new meaning and today we are full of hope that we will emerge from the journey with a strong hand and an outstretched arm ("Be'yad Hazaka U'vezroa Netuya").



What's Going on?

KESTY's Movie Night

Our teens enjoyed a screening of the hit movie "You're So Not Invited To My Bat Mitzvah" in our new and improved Youth Lounge! We equipped our set up with a projector, giant screen, new couch, bean bag and so much more! We're so excited about all the possibilities and things we can do in our new Youth Lounge!



Temple Emanuel Hosting NFTY's Spring Kallah

We were fortunate enough to collaborate with NFTY and host over 70 teens for a special weekend program here at Temple! I was also lucky enough to discuss with the teen from all across the Mid-Atlantic Region about Israel, Antisemitism and Jewish Pride. It was a meaningful conversation and I'm very proud of our teens and their way to carry a respectful conversation.



Young KESTY's Big Birthday Party

Ending the year with a bang! Our young KESTYies got to end their year of programming with a big birthday bash for KESTY's 70th and Israel 76th birthdays! We have games, treats, prizes and most importantly - a Pinata! It was a great year of programming and we can't wait for next year. Please take [THIS SURVEY](#) to help us improve for next year.



On The Horizon

Teen Takeover Day

During the year our teens have gone through a lot of leadership, lesson planning and classroom management training and all of it led to this day! They will write a lesson plan that they will teach our Religious School students on 4/28! It's a great way to see how much our teens grow and learn through the year and I'm very excited to see what they come up with.



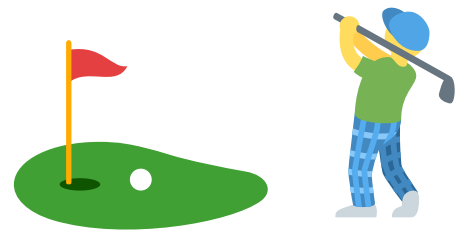
KESTY's Last Event of the Year - 70th Anniversary Banquet

In our last event of the year, we will celebrate KESTY's 70 Anniversary like just the KESTY teens know... We will have a special banquet and program - but you don't expect me to give it all away, right?... Join us on 4/30 at 7:30pm to find out!



KESTY Elections at the Monster Mini-Golf

We're electing a new KESTY Board for next year! On 5/11 we will meet up at Temple and will drive up to the Monster Mini-Golf in Gaithersburg where we will have fun and also elect our new Board! **RSVP HERE!** (Teens don't have to run for the board to come and have fun at the Mini-Golf, and every vote counts!)



Yom Ha'Atzmaut Dinner, Program and Service

It has been a tough, complicated year in Israel. It is still important to celebrate the Jewish State 76th birthday, especially during those hard time. This year on 5/17, we will have a special Israeli dinner at 5:30, featuring a program from Ido Na'aman, the Shaliach at Congregation B'nai Tzedek, who was deployed to Israel and was in Gaza in light of the events of 10/7. He will share his incredible story and recollections with us. Please **RSVP HERE** for dinner. At 6:30pm we will transition to a special Erev Shabbat service, celebrating Israel, Israeli hope, resilience and Ruach.



Olympic Maccabiah Games

On 5/19 with our Religious School students, we will celebrate Israel through the Olympic Games! This year the Olympic games will take place in Paris and an Israeli delegation will go and represent Israel with honor, especially after this hard year. With our students we will go on a journey learning about different sports that Israel won medals for, they will participate in hands on activities and much more! They will also be able to take pictures with replicas of real Olympic Medals (and take one home!).



Israeli Recipe - Matzo Cake

Don't knock it till you try it! During Passover, you have to be creative. A lot of people are afraid of using the Matzot for baking, and I thought like this too until my friend told me to taste this cake. I never thought something this good (and simple!) would come out of matzot - but I was wrong! This great, chocolaty cake is a great dessert option, and you may even want to start eat it even when it's not Passover...

Ingredients

For Chocolate Layer:

- 8 oz (2 bars) Dark Chocolate
- ½ Cup of Milk
- ½ Cup of Sugar
- 2 Tablespoons Cocoa Powder
- 1 Stick of Butter
- 2 Tablespoons Nutella (or any other Chocolate spread)

For Matvo Layer:

- 1 Cup of Water
- 1 Teaspoon Instant Coffee
- 1 Pack of Matzot
- Shredded Coconut, for decoration

Directions

- Start with making the Chocolate Layer: Put dark chocolate, milk, sugar and cocoa in a small pot.
- Heat up on low heat until everything is melted and combined.
- Take off the heat and add the butter and chocolate spread and mix until melted. Set aside to cool.
- Mix the instant coffee with water and dip the Matzo for 30 seconds on each side.
- Put a wet matzo on the bottom of your pan and layer with chocolate cream. repeat about 5 times (or until your pan is full)
- Decorate with coconut if desired.
- Chill in the fridge for at least 4 hours (preferably overnight)
- 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.

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.



נִזְכָּר וְלֹא נִשְׁכַּח



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 Ruach of Passover fills the air, I hope and pray that those who are seeking true freedom will find it soon, that our loved ones can have Seder in their houses, back home, with their families.

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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