

FROM THE SHALIACH TO YOU

Shalom everyone!

Mishpacha Means Family

I've been finding myself thinking a lot about the meaning of community, belonging and family in the past weeks. As I'm gearing up towards the next chapter of my life (that will come in a couple of months – this is not my swan song yet – we have a few more newsletters coming up!), I am reflecting on my time here, and my journey into this community.

This comes, of course, in perfect timing with my Bar Mitzvah, an event that in essence, is personal, and is about becoming an adult (or in my case, becoming an adult, again). But when you really think about it, it's also about walking into this sacred convent with the rest of the Jewish community (I know that there's a Bris, but when you're 13 or 26, you can actually talk and understand what you're walking into...).

My (second) Bar-Mitzvah was nothing short of perfect. It was a magical gathering of people, celebrating not just me, but also the relationships and memories we have made together.

When I first moved here, I was really scared I wouldn't be able to find my place in the community. Maybe because of the way I talk (I think my Israeli accent is really close to fading away), the way I look, or the way I dress. I was so terribly wrong. Instead, I found a community of people that we're excited about welcoming me in, walk this journey with me, and learn together from each other.

This community, the Temple Emanuel Community, became more than just "community." We've been together through hard times and joyous times. We have witness each other grow and change. We laughed and we cried. In my book, this is what you would call a ***Mishpacha*, a family.**

This May, the live-action Lilo and Stitch movie will be released in theaters. It got me thinking about two things: my amazing trip to Hawaii (!) and the unforgettable quote: **"Ohana means family. Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten."** In my case, I would change Ohana to *Mishpacha*, as all of you here became my family, and I can guarantee I will never forget you.

This is not my farewell piece, but the timing, with the Bar Mitzvah and the release of the movie, couldn't be more perfect to discuss this quote. As I reflect on my journey here, I am also looking at the future, and all of the experiences I shared with you will be treasured in my heart forever.

As I said before, we're a family. The thing with family, no matter how much you'd like, you can never get rid of them...

With love,
and hope,

Snir



Israel News

Israeli Movie
Recommendation

What's Going On &
On The Horizon

A (Digital) Cookbook
from the Israeli *Shlichim*

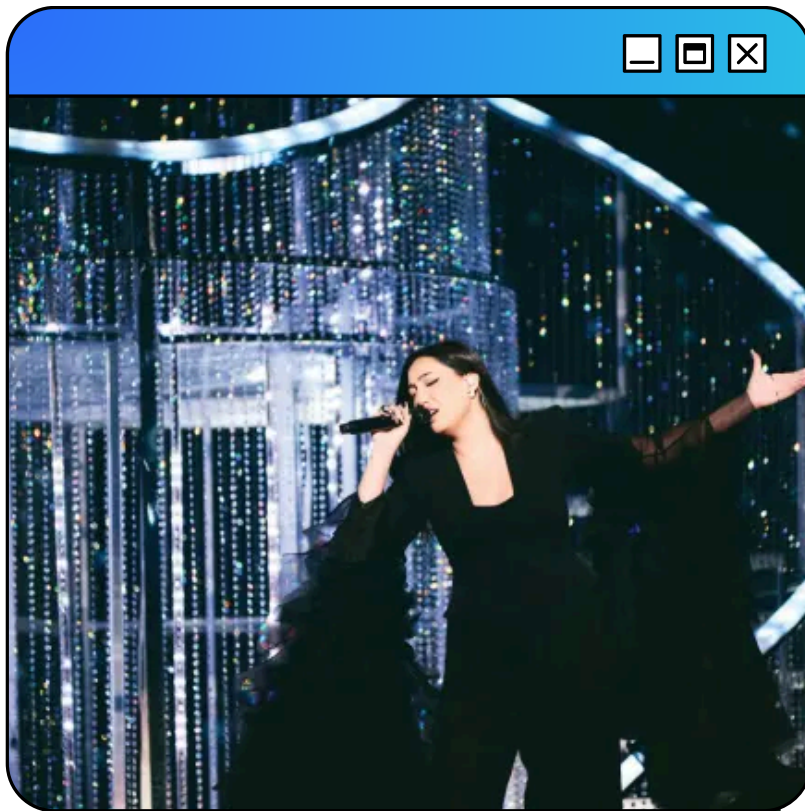
Ways We Can
Support Israel



Israel News

Yuval Raphael Represents Israel in the 2025 Eurovision

Yuval Raphael, a 24-year-old singer from Ra'anana, Israel, captivated audiences worldwide with her poignant ballad "New Day Will Rise" at the Eurovision Song Contest 2025. A survivor of the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack at the Nova music festival, Raphael endured eight harrowing hours hiding under bodies in a bomb shelter, sustaining shrapnel injuries. Her resilience and passion for music propelled her to victory in Israel's "HaKokhav HaBa" (Israeli American Idol) competition, earning her the opportunity to perform on the biggest international stage.



Raphael Performs at the 2025 Eurovision

In Basel, Switzerland, Raphael delivered a stirring performance of "New Day Will Rise," a song that resonated deeply with audiences across Europe. The ballad, written by Keren Peles and produced by Tomer Biran, features lyrics in English, French, and Hebrew, symbolizing unity and hope amidst adversity. Her emotive delivery and the song's powerful message earned her 357 points, getting her to the incredible **second place** in the competition.

Raphael's journey from tragedy to the Eurovision stage has garnered widespread support, with many viewing her as a symbol of perseverance and the healing power of music. Despite facing protests and political tensions surrounding Israel's participation in the contest, she remained focused on delivering a performance that transcended politics, emphasizing love and hope. Israel also received the highest number of audience votes at this year's Eurovision, reflecting a powerful wave of public support for the young nation during a particularly challenging time on the global stage.

Her success at Eurovision 2025 not only highlights her personal triumph but also serves as a testament to the unifying power of music during challenging times. As Yuval concluded her performance in the Eurovision finale: **"Thank you Europe! Am Yisrael Chai!"**



**Watch Yuval's
Performance Here!**



Israeli Movie Recommendation

The Goal - חלוצ מרכזי - שושנה

Way before Wonder Woman, Snow White or Red Note, our Israeli superstar was making her first steps in the Israeli film industry. In 2014, Gadot scored her first role in an Israeli feature length film, Shay Kanot's *The Goal* (also known as *Kicking Out Shoshana*), an Israeli sports comedy that managed to surprise me. The film tells the story of a talented footballer who is forced to lie about his sexuality after getting into trouble with mobsters. It features an ensemble cast with some of Israel's biggest comedians, including Eli Finish and Mariano Edelman.



Click the Poster to Watch

The film was a box office success and sold about 62,000 tickets within ten days of its release - which is a lot for Israel! Many critics praised the performance of the main actors, and of the once-newcomer actress, Gal Gadot, but criticized the way the film presents characters from the LGBTQ+ community, even though the filmmakers claim that the film was written to "embrace" the community. I recommend you watch and judge for yourself! You can watch it on Tubi for free (Rated 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).

What's Going On

Last Young KESTY Events of the Year

It was an incredible year of Young KESTY programs here at Temple Emanuel, and to finish things off our young students got to participate in three different events: Sun-catchers making, Matzo-house building contest and color wars! It was so much fun and we can't wait for next year! A giant thank you to our amazing advisors: Marissa, Kat and Miriam!

Temple Emanuel at the JxJ Festival

We're very lucky to live in an area where Jewish culture and art is being celebrated. This year, we took two group to the JxJ, DC's Jewish Film Festival. We watched together the hilarious comedy, 'Bad Shabbos', and with our teens and their families we watched the fascinating documentary 'Sapir', about Israel's first transgender soccer referee, and also got to talk with the director afterwards. It was great coming together and experiencing Jewish Film as a community! Thank you to the Brotherhood for helping sponsoring our teen trip to the Festival!

KESTY Slime Night and Elections

Our KESTY teens finished off the year strong with two great events: Slime and Ice Cream Night, in which, as you can tell by the title, our teens got their DIY gloves on and made slime while munching on ice cream! The second event was our Annual KESTY Elections. This year, we went to Dave and Busters to have some video game fun (and win some prizes) before we elected our new board. We made history as we've elected the biggest board ever, with 8 teens serving in different positions on the board. Mazal Tov to all of our elected teens and best of luck to our graduating seniors, you will be missed!



Welcome to the

KESTY BOARD 2025-2026

 <p>Jonah Lerner President</p>	 <p>Gabby Ross Communications VP</p>	 <p>Veronica Zhurkin Programming VP</p>
 <p>Eva Szechenyi Religious & Cultural VP</p>	 <p>Josie Karesh Social Action VP</p>	 <p>Vera Samuels Membership VP</p>
 <p>Lucas White Environmental VP</p>	 <p>Rivka Snyder Secretary</p>	

On The Horizon

High School Graduation Shabbat - 5/23

Join us in celebrating our Graduating High School Seniors and sending them off on their new path! This beautiful service will take place on Friday, May 23rd at 7:30pm, and we all hope to see you there!

Shavuot and Confirmation -6/1

I'm very excited to invite you to our 2025 Confirmation Service! Join us as our confirmands lead us in prayer, share reflections on their Jewish journey, and reaffirm their connection to the Jewish people, tradition, and community. All are welcome to attend this special service as we honor their commitment and growth. I had the privilege of working with this class of students from the moment I started working here at Temple Emanuel and I'm really proud and happy to watch their grow. Please join us on June 1st at 8pm.

Kimberly Akimbo at The National Theater - 5/29

With the great help of the WRJ, we also are able to offer our teens (of all age! And their families!) tickets to see the hit musical Kimberly Akimbo on 5/29 at 7:30pm. Right before summer vacation starts, we would like to bring our teens together for a magical Broadway night! **Tickets are only \$18, so make sure to get them fast HERE!**





CALLING ALL TEENS AND THEIR FAMILIES!

JOIN US FOR...

LIMITED
NUMBER OF
TICKETS! ACT
FAST!







29 MAY
AT 7:30PM

NATIONAL THEATER
WASHINGTON, D.C.

TICKETS FOR
JUST \$18

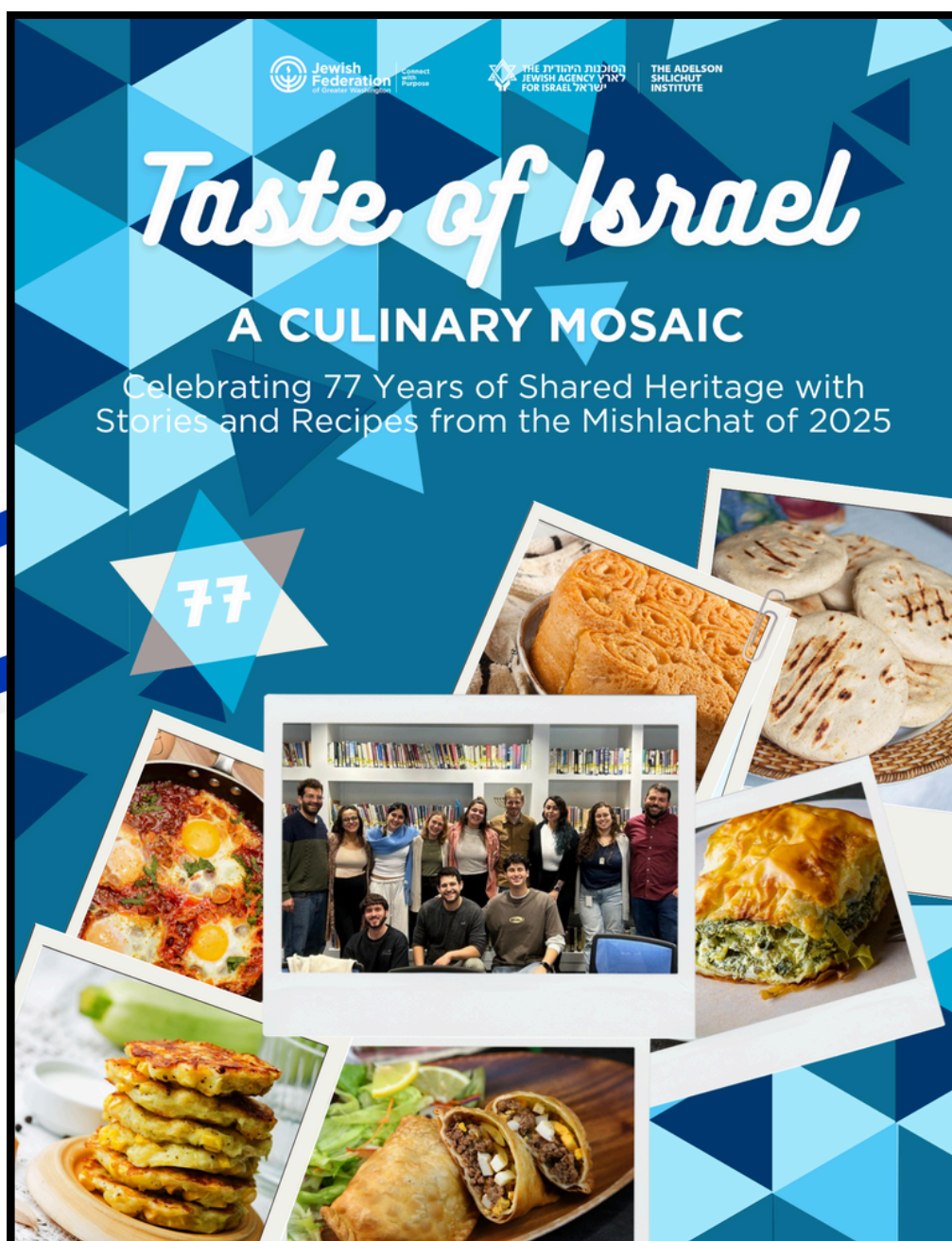
QUESTIONS? CONTACT SNIR AT
YOUTH@TEMPLEEMANUELMD.ORG

Another big thank you to all of the organizers! You really knocked it out of the park! My legs are still hurting from dancing and my belly still full from bagels! What a joy!



Israeli Recipe(s) - A Celebration of Israeli Culture and Cuisine Brought to You by the 2024-2025 *Mishlachat*

As we celebrate Israel's 77th Independence Day, The *Mishlachat* (delegation of Israeli emissaries) and I are delighted to present "Taste of Israel," a special collection of recipes from the Federation's *Mishlachat*. Each recipe comes from a *Shaliach* or *Shlichat* who offers not just flavors, but a piece of their personal journey and story. This cookbook is more than just a compilation of dishes—it's a mosaic of personal stories, cultural heritage, and the diverse tapestry that has shaped Israel throughout its 77 years of statehood. I invite you to take a look, make one (or more!) of these recipes, and create memories and new chapters in your own stories using tastes and scents from ours. Am Yisrael Chai!



**CLICK THE IMAGE TO CHECK OUT
THE FULL COOKBOOK!**



Ways We Can Support Israel

It's been over a year since the worst day that the State of Israel ever knew. **October 7th, 2023**, changed the lives of Israelis and the lives of Jewish people across the world. We're still living through this change. Israel still needs our help - and there are many ways to do so. As I always mention - the easiest way is to **REPORT** any lies and antisemitic and anti-Israel propaganda online. Those lies lead to many cases of antisemitic violence, harassment, and more.

The second thing that we can do is to donate to organizations that are helping Israel. Organizations like The Jewish Agency, FIDE, the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, the Missing and Hostages Families Forum and more. Our most important mission is to get every single one of the Hostages will be back home - the living to rehabilitation and the dead to burial - **NOW**.

In times like this, we show the world that the Jewish people, Am Yisrael, are stronger together, and that our love will rebuild.

מחזירים אותם הביתה - עכשיו!

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 we move forward from the Yoms, we carry hope with us. We build, we dream, and we hold tight to the belief that light always follows darkness.



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