

FROM THE SHALIACH TO YOU

Shalom everyone!

Being Proud of Who We Are

Last month, on May 21st, I sent out my monthly newsletter. Per usual, I discussed ideas of community, family, and belonging. I had just celebrated my (second) Bar Mitzvah and was filled with a sense of pride in myself and my Jewish identity and I shared that with all of you.

My good friend Abraham and I went south on a trip to Texas (and the neighboring states), and that evening (May 21st) while enjoying country music and sipping on beer, our phones started chiming like crazy. "Are you okay?", "I heard something has happened in D.C.", "Please answer so I know you're safe". Those were some of the messages we got.

We immediately checked the news and monitored the updates in real time – a terror attack in D.C., right next to the Capital Jewish Museum. I was getting flashbacks, not the good kind. It was almost like October 7th, but the other way around. Back then, I was on the other side of the texting chain. Now it's the other way around.

My sense of pride slowly disintegrated. I was scared. For the rest of the evening, Abe and I talked English with each other, scared to use our native tongue. In the following morning, fear turned into anger. Watching the news and learning about the deaths of Yaron and Sarah, two beautiful souls, advocating for peace, unity and a better future for everyone, made me feel angry and frustrated. The terrorist aimed at the Jewish community. It's not about Israel; it's about our Jewish identity.

Suddenly, it was clear to me – that's what our enemy wants. They want us to be afraid. They want us to be ashamed of who we are; they want us to hide it. Well, I decided I'm not going to let them win that battle. As antisemitism rises, and we witness horrible acts of terror against Jews everywhere across North America and the world, it's time to remember who we are, what we stand for, and be proud of our identities.

As we're amidst Pride Month, in which we celebrate identities and this very idea of a sense of who we are, I encourage everyone to be true to themselves, to what they believe in, and to be proud.

Following the attack, my good friend Noa, a Shlichah in Florida, shared the graphic on the right with me. The graphic shows the connection we have, the US and Israel, and how events happening here affect lives in Israel, and vice versa. Together we're stronger, together we're better, together no one can defeat us.

With love,
and hope,
Snir




Israel News

Israeli Movie
Recommendation

What's Going On &
On The Horizon

Israeli Recipe

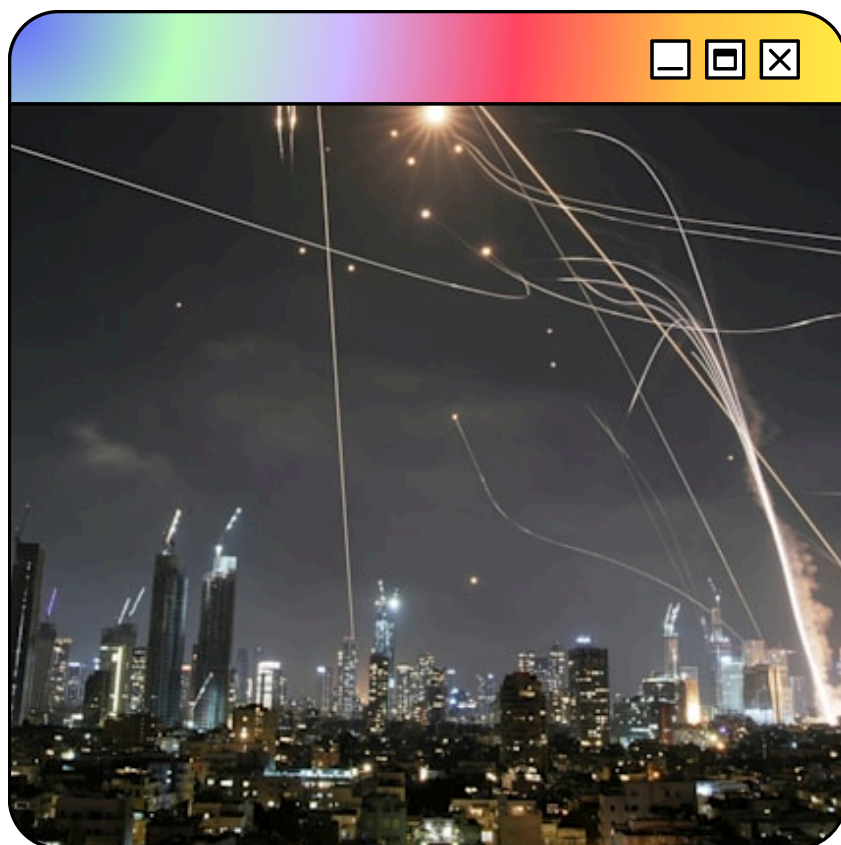
Ways We Can
Support Israel



Israel News

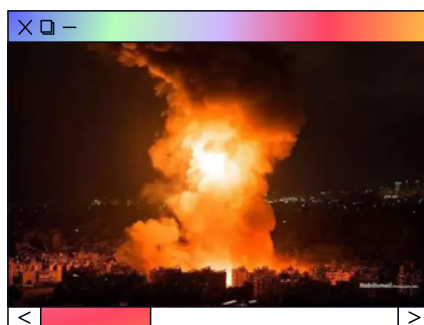
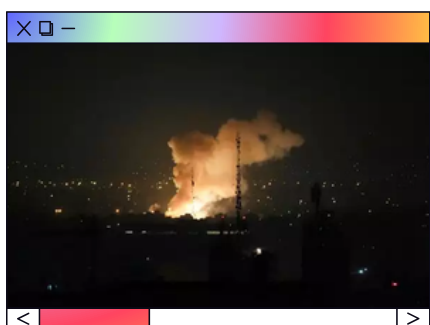
Operation Rising Lion

Over the past week, Israel launched Operation Rising Lion, a strategic military response targeting Iranian nuclear and terror infrastructure. The operation was initiated after mounting evidence that Iran was rapidly advancing its nuclear capabilities and continuing to fund and arm terror groups across the region. Israel's strikes were precise and focused exclusively on military and nuclear sites – a clear attempt to prevent a genocidal regime from obtaining weapons of mass destruction, and using them against Israel and the West, as they clearly stated before.



The Iron Dome Vs. The Iranian Attack in the TLV Skyline

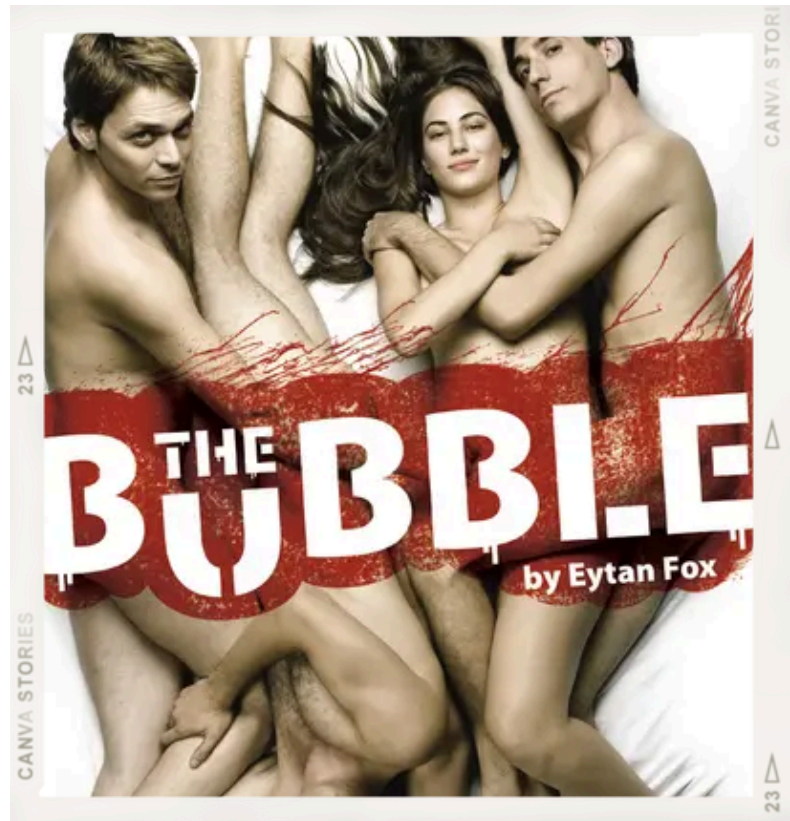
With precision airstrikes on Natanz, Isfahan, Tehran's Defense Ministry, and missile bases – coordinated in part with covert drone support inside Iran – Israel delivered a powerful blow aimed squarely at preventing a nuclear-armed terror attack. In retaliation, Iran's response could not have been more stark: a barrage of over 150 ballistic missiles and 100+ drones fired at Israeli cities, including Tel Aviv, Bat Yam, Rishon LeZion, Ramat Gan Haifa, Jerusalem and much more – specifically aiming deep into civilian areas. The attack killed innocent people, including children and elderly, and injured many more. This latest escalation highlights a critical truth: Israel is doing what much of the world cannot or will not – standing up to a regime that thrives on terror and fear. In defending its people, Israel is also defending the values of life, democracy, and freedom in a region where those ideals are constantly under threat. As we monitor the situation closely, we pray for the operation to end swiftly, the end of this horrible war, and most importantly, the return of the remaining 53 hostages back home to their families and loved ones.



Israeli Movie Recommendation

The Bubble - הבועה

As we celebrate Pride Month, I want to recommend a powerful film that holds a special place in queer Israeli cinema: *The Bubble*, directed by Eytan Fox. This movie is a courageous look at identity, politics, and the yearning for connection in a complicated world. It's a film that doesn't offer easy answers, but instead gives us something much more important – empathy, beauty, and a window into a part of the Israeli queer experience. Eytan Fox is an Israeli queer cinema veteran, being the mind behind revolutionary films like *Yossi & Jagger* and more.



Click the Poster to Watch

Set in Tel Aviv – often seen as a haven for LGBTQ+ life in the Middle East – *The Bubble* follows the love story between Noam, an Israeli, and Ashraf, a Palestinian, as they try to navigate a relationship across borders, both literal and emotional. The film captures the spirit of Tel Aviv: youthful, vibrant, idealistic – a place where people try to live freely and fully, even as conflict and reality press in from all sides. You can watch it on Tubi for free (This movie is Rated R – 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

Yom HaAtzmaut Shabbat

It was so special that I accidentally forgot to share pictures with you in my last newsletter! It was great coming together to celebrate the miracle of the Jewish state. Though it's a tough time for Israel and the Jewish people, our pride and determination helped us navigate the obstacles of our lives past October 7th. During this magical evening we heard from a special speaker from the Israeli Embassy, enjoyed delicious Israeli food, and celebrated Israel in a beautiful service. A huge thank you to the Israel Engagement Committee for helping with this amazing event. Am Yisrael Chai!

Kimberly Akimbo at The National Theatre

A group from Temple Emanuel got together to watch the Tony-Award winning musical "Kimberly Akimbo" at the National Theatre, it was such a treat! Some of us even got their playbill signed by the entire cast! It's always fun to enjoy these special opportunities with the community.

Shavuot and Confirmation

As we celebrated the holiday of Shavuot, we also celebrated our incredible Confirmation class as they reached the finish line of their confirmation journey. It was incredibly moving to hear their remarks and see the progress they made through this journey. It was even more special for me, as I have been teaching this cohort ever since I started at Temple Emanuel. Watching them grow (also physically - they're so tall now!) and become the smart, sophisticated, charming adults they are today is a great gift. I'm so proud of them and wish them good luck in their future endeavors!

On The Horizon

The Nova Exhibition in D.C. Through 7/6

Rabbi Adam, Laura, several congregants and myself got to visit the Nova Exhibition. This exhibit showcases the timeline of the Nova Music Festival on October 7th, telling the story of the events on that dreadful day. This large-scale installation is currently touring the US with the objective to create a powerful, educational, and emotional exhibit to bear witness to the horrors of what occurred on that day at the Nova Music Festival. It is our responsibility to bear witness and hear those stories. More information and ticket purchase [HERE](#).



OCT 7
06:29 am | THE MOMENT
MUSIC STOOD STILL
THE NOVA MUSIC FESTIVAL EXHIBITION



Israeli Recipe - Omer Neutra's Peanut Butter Cookies

As we marked the holiday of Shavuot, we also marked the end of the Omer, the period of time between Passover and Shavuot. I couldn't help but thinking about Omer Neutra. For the longest time his family didn't know anything about his condition following the events of October 7th. After 422, they received the information that he was killed on that horrible day and his body is being held by the Hamas terrorists. Omer was a ray of sunshine, an Israeli-American that made Aliyah from New Jersey to serve in the IDF. This recipe of simple PB cookies radiates what Omer was - a simple man. As we count the days of the Omer, his family counts the days until they can bury him respectfully. Our count is over, but theirs is not. I pray for the return of all 53 remaining hostages quickly - the living to rehabilitation and the dead to burial.



**PEANUT BUTTER
COOKIES BY OMER
NAUTRA**

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 CUP PEANUT BUTTER
- 1 CUP DARK BROWN SUGAR
- 1 EGG (M SIZE)
- 1 TEASPOON BAKING SODA
- 100G CHOCOLATE CHIPS OR CHOPPED CHOCOLATE

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. MIX ALL THE INGREDIENTS IN A BOWL UNTIL WELL COMBINED.
2. SCOOP THE DOUGH INTO BALLS USING AN ICE CREAM SCOOP.
3. PLACE THE COOKIE BALLS ON A BAKING SHEET AND BAKE FOR 8-10 MINUTES AT 180°C (350°F), OR UNTIL THEY'RE GOLDEN BROWN.

FOR A PASSOVER-FRIENDLY VERSION:

- REPLACE THE INGREDIENTS WITH PASSOVER-CERTIFIED VERSIONS (THIS RECIPE DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY FLOUR).

ENJOY YOUR DELICIOUS PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES!

**BRING
THEM
HOME
NOW!**



- [Click here to go to a website where you can convert the measurements!](#)



Ways We Can Support Israel

October 7th, 2023, changed the lives of Israelis and 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 to help is to **REPORT** any lies and anti-Semitic and anti-Israel propaganda online. Those lies lead to many cases of anti-Semitic violence and terror as we've witnessed here in D.C., in Boulder, CO, and unfortunately, all across Israel, the US and across the world.

The second thing that we can do is to donate to organizations that are helping Israel and strengthening the Jewish community all across the globe. Organizations like The Jewish Agency, FIDF, 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@templemanuelmd.org

That's it for this time!

As Israel embarks on an operation to fight global terror, I hope for a swift one that will bring an end to this awful situation. Mostly, I pray for peace, the return of the hostages and a better future for all.

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!

 @templemanuelmd

 @kestymd