

Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Tevet/Shevat 5783 - January 2023

Event Highlights for 2022-2023 Season

January 11

Cantor Azi Schwartz Concert
Sun City Palm Desert

January 16

Lion of Judah Brunch
with JBC Author Letty Cottin Pogrebin

January 27

StandWithUs / Temple Isaiah

January 29

**Holocaust Remembrance
Commemoration**
featuring "The Braid"

February 5

Cantors on Broadway
Temple Isaiah, PS

February 15

Major Gifts
featuring JBC Author Ira Rosen

March 6-7

Purim

March 21

Jewish Federation Golf Tournament
Tamarisk Country Club

March 26-29

10th Annual Jewish Film Festival

April 5

First Seder
Pesach April 5-13

April 30

**Yom Ha'atzmaut Community
Celebration**

May 9

JMOGD Golf Tournament
Eagles Falls Course, Indio

May 25-27

Shavuot
JBC = Jewish Book Council

Telling Our Story Through Our Allocations



**Alan
Potash**

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

This issue of the Jewish Community News features the Jewish Federation of the Desert's Annual Report. The pages in this paper about the Annual Report tell the story of your support and how we meet the mission of the Federation. I am frequently asked, "What does the Federation do?" The annual report is a fact sheet of our operations. It lists how much money is raised, where it comes from and where it goes. For those who are more visually centered there is a pie chart that also shows the allocations.

Our annual campaign is the main source of funds which we raise and then allocate locally and abroad. Another question we get is, "Didn't I just make a pledge to the annual campaign?" The annual campaign dollars raised are for the next fiscal year's allocations. This can be confusing when we call and ask for a pledge for the coming year, and you might not have made a payment yet on the previous year's pledge. We do our best to not make it confusing but that is the challenge of a pledged based process.

To make it as understandable as possible; we are now raising funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and we will allocate dollars based on how much we raised. The more we raise the more we allocate. The annual report in this paper

is for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. I hope this helps to understand our process.

Furthermore, I would like to encourage you to take advantage of the tax laws and make your contributions by the end of the year. If you are over 70 ½ you can make a distribution from your IRA or donate

stocks. Again, thank you for trusting us with your charitable contributions. As always feel free to call Alberto if you have questions about how to use stocks or other securities to donate to the Jewish Federation of the Desert.

Alan

SAVE THE DATE
FEB 15th 2023

Major
GIFTS
ANNUAL DINNER

AT MORNING SIDE COUNTRY CLUB

5:30 Reception, Dinner and Speaker to follow



Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT

Hosts/Co-Chairs: Barry Kaiman & Ron Langus



2022-2023 JEWISH FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chief Executive Officer

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Lion of Judah Brunch ❖ Monday, January 16, 2023
Keynote Speaker: Letty Cottin Pogrebin

SPECIAL PROGRAM:
Honoring Our Past Women's Philanthropy Chairs

Minimum Gift to Jewish Federation Annual Campaign: \$5,000
(Out-of-town Lions Minimum Gift: \$1200).

For more information contact Leslie Pepper at
leslie.pepper@jfedps.org or 760-324-4737

HONORING OUR WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY PAST CHAIRS



					
Barbara Platt 1984-1986	Peggy Greenbaum 1992-1994	Carol Fragen 1997-1999	Annette Novack 2001-2003	Fran Kaufman 2001-2003, 2021..	Roberta Nyman 2005-2007
					
Celia Norian 2007-2009	Marcia Stein 2009-2011	Lanije Weil 2012-2015	Sheri Borax 2015-2017	Carol Horwich-Luber 2017-2019	

Join Us for An Affair to Remember

POMEGRANATE EVENT
Monday, March 27, 2023 2:00-4:00 PM

"Chai" Tea
Le Vallauris Restaurant, Palm Springs

Minimum Contribution: \$1800
Couvert \$75

Co-chairs: Lynda Zions and Ana Landau

Musical Entertainment by
Violin Soloist Cindy Brogan




The busy fall season necessitated postponing Women's Philanthropy's annual CARD DAY for now, but the major project that it supports – our Jewish Federation's TZEDAKAH FUND – meets emergency needs in our community all year. Your purchase of Tributes and any direct contributions to the Tzedakah Fund makes a difference in local lives.

Antisemitism ... How Sports Can Play a Role in Combating It



Alan Potash

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

I am not sure if you watch football (not soccer), and you recently watched a game and saw a commercial drawing attention to antisemitism—hatred

against Jews. Robert Kraft, the owner of the New England Patriots and the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism, ran ads bringing awareness to antisemitism during several NFL games with the hashtag—#standuptojewishhate.

I first became interested in Robert Kraft's support for Israel when I learned that he was taking football players (mostly Hall of Famers) to Israel. He showed them Israel and gave them the opportunity to see and learn about the country.

I was in Israel several years ago,

eating at my favorite restaurant, and the owner pointed out to me that Mariano Rivera (relief pitcher for the Yankees) was sitting at the table with some folks. He told me, "Manny brings many people to Israel, and they always eat in my restaurant." He also told me that Robert Kraft also brings football players to Israel (he did not say that they eat in his restaurant). Kraft is famous in Israel for his support of the country and bringing football players. There is a documentary about his trips.

Robert Kraft's trips are called

"Touchdown in Israel."

So, it is not surprising that he would use the airtime during NFL football games to run an ad about antisemitism. As he says, "There are more people watching football games than there are Jews in the world."

I share this because over the next several months they will be doing more marketing to bring awareness to antisemitism and how to combat it.

If you like football and Israel check out "NFL Presents Touchdown in Israel."

IDF: Artificial Intelligence Has Led to an Intelligence Revolution

IDF Identifies 'As Many Targets in a Month as It Did in a Year'

By Yaakov Lappin, Jewish News Syndicate

The Israel Defense Forces' Intelligence Directorate is using artificial intelligence technology to generate the same number of targets in a month that it once took a year to produce, IDF Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi revealed on December 4.

Kochavi, speaking at a conference organized by the Military Intelligence Directorate's Gazit Institute, said that the Targets Center, established by the directorate in March 2019, has become a significant force multiplier.

"It takes all of our existing advanced sensors and sources—we almost didn't have to build new sensors—and connected these abilities to advanced artificial intelligence," said Kochavi. "The result is that the number of [potential enemy] targets we identified per year, we now produce in a month or two, depending on the arena," he stated. "The significance of this for strategy is enormous."

In Syria, for example, such intelligence has been matched with precision firepower to severely disrupt Iranian plans to build a war machine against Israel.

Instead of Syria hosting tens of thousands of Iranian-backed militias,



IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi

a "Hezbollah 2.0" in the Syrian Golan region, and a hub of surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles—three goals that were set by the late Iranian Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani—a majority of efforts to this end have been foiled, the chief of staff said.

Bottom of Form

"Eighty percent of the Iranian smuggling routes to Syria via sea, land and air have been closed," Kochavi added, referring to Israel's campaign to disrupt Iranian entrenchment.

The partnership between "great intelligence and great technology" produced such results, he added.

He described the result as "the

ability to hit a building in the heart of a crowded city to know what floor the ammunition is stored on in a seven-story building, which stays standing after it is hit and no noncombatants are hurt, and lots of the ammunition is destroyed."

Such strikes occur once every two to three weeks, and sometimes once a week, greatly shaping Israel's strategy against security threats.

Operations "Black Belt" (against Palestinian Islamic Jihad in November 2019), "Guardian of the Walls" (against Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in May 2021) and "Breaking Dawn" (against PIJ in August 2022) have produced a reality in which "Hamas is not only not responding to our attacks, it's not even thinking of responding," the general said. "This is mainly because of the activation of force."

The use of precise intelligence and firepower technology also leads to what Kochavi described as the lowest combatant-to-civilian casualty ratio in the world in recent Gaza conflicts, 1:2, which he said compared with 1:7 in other conflicts fought by Western militaries.

"Low casualties enable international

and local legitimacy and for us to align with our own values. We do not need international legitimacy or any formal institution or other organizations to remind us that we have to fight those that we need to hit, and not those that we do not," said the chief of staff.

"The key phrase we use is 'eliminating capabilities,'" said Kochavi, adding that removing enemy capabilities and targeting "centers of gravity" among the enemy at a high rate is the central pillar of the IDF's operational logic.

**everyone
counts**
can we count on you?

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**Jewish Federation
of the Desert 2023
Annual Campaign**

Israel's Rafael Teams Up with Lockheed Martin for Joint Laser Weapons Development

Jewish News Syndicate

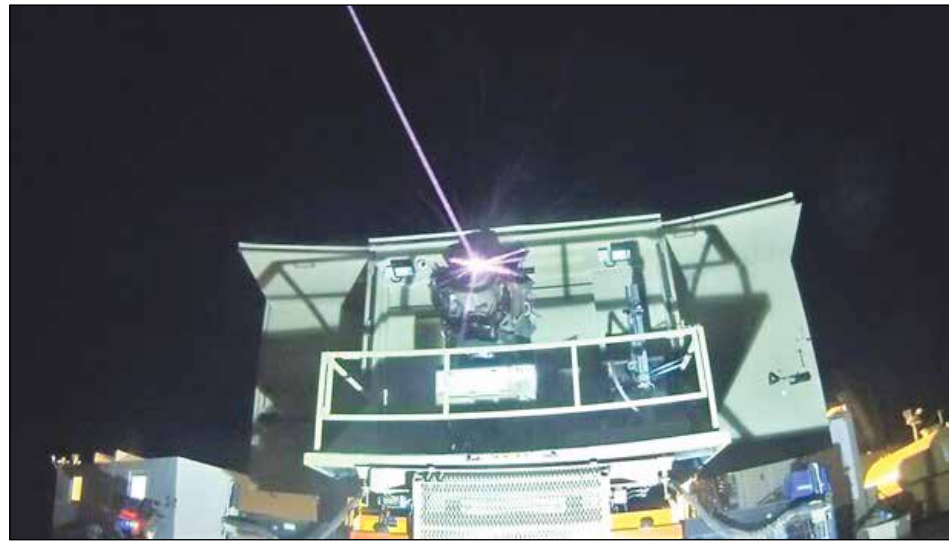
On December 5th Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and U.S. defense firm Lockheed Martin announced the signing of an agreement to jointly develop, test and manufacture laser weapon systems.

The joint development will be based on laser technology developed by Rafael and the Israeli Defense Ministry for the Iron Beam project, according to the joint statement by both companies.

"The cooperation will be geared towards developing a variant of the system for the American market as well as others," it said.

Iron Beam underwent a series of tests in the past years to prove its operational capability and is due to be deployed on Israel's borders in the coming years.

It will be the first ever ground-based laser air defense system against rockets, mortars and unmanned aerial vehicles, delivering speed-of-light engagement of threats at low cost compared to



Israel first successful trial of ground-based laser interception system

missile interceptors. It will defend critical infrastructure, strategic sites, maneuvering forces and population centers.

Rafael CEO and President Maj. Gen. (ret.) Yoav Har Even commented on the new agreement, stating, "This strategic teaming agreement serves as a force

multiplier for Rafael and the Israeli market. We are working to ensure our customers receive the most advanced, effective and best in class systems. This agreement will expand and diversify the capabilities we can offer to a variety of customers."

JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Alan Potash, CEO

Miriam H. Bent, Editor

Bailey Communications,
Layout & Design

JCN STATEMENT

The Jewish Community News seeks to provide news and feature material of special interest to its readership, and to create a heightened sense of Jewish identity through the dissemination of information about people, events and issues at home and abroad. The JCN seeks to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions in the Jewish community.

The JCN is published monthly, ten months a year by the Jewish Federation of the Desert, 69-710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270, 760-324-4737, fax 760-324-3154.

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ADVERTISING

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Strengthening our community together

Harvard University Ranks First in Antisemitism

The redefinition, suppression and denigration of Jewish identity on campus are at all-time highs.

By Melissa Langsam Braunstein, Jewish News Syndicate

Harvard prides itself on ranking first in all things. And now they do—on three measures of campus antisemitism.

The AMCHA Initiative, which tracks campus antisemitism, recently issued a report covering the 2021-2022 school year. It quantifies threats to Jewish identity, explained as the redefinition, denigration and suppression of Jewish identity. Amcha's study shows a coordinated attempt to redefine for Jews what it means to be Jewish and what acceptable Jewish expression entails.

There were 254 incidents that fit at least one category—redefinition, suppression or denigration—"at 63 (58%) of the 109 U.S. schools" most popular with Jewish students. Redefinition and denigration were most likely to take place on campuses with five or more faculty members supportive of academically boycotting Israel. Suppression, however, was most likely on campuses with "one or more anti-Zionist student groups." Harvard, with 25 incidents, topped every category.

Harvard Public Affairs & Communications and President Lawrence Bacow did not respond to requests for comment. However, it's clear the campus climate has changed. Among numerous examples, in February 2022, Hillel Executive Director Rabbi Jonah Steinberg noted "the anti-Israel stickers appearing on Sabra hummus in the dining halls, the tearing down of Harvard Hillel posters all over campus, about which the Dean of Students Office had to issue a statement just this past week, and the black-colored posters everywhere against the Harvard College Israel Trek."

This is not 1990s Harvard, when the "student body was said to be nearly a quarter Jewish" and those students were warmly welcomed. A mere 5.3% of Harvard's class of 2023 identifies as Jewish, along with 5.2% of the class of 2024 and 7.4% of the class of 2025. So, not only is the campus climate more hostile, but there are fewer Jewish students to protest it.

Bottom of Form

Harvard sophomore Alex Bernat

recalled Passover 2022, when "a swastika is found in [undergraduate dorm] Currier House, which went underreported by [student newspaper] *The Crimson*, the PSC [Harvard College Palestine Solidarity Committee] put up a wall with Holocaust imagery and antisemitic statements and the school paper endorsed BDS." Bernat reflected, "Day-to-day, I don't feel much antisemitism or anti-Zionism, but when it flares up here, it flares up quite massively."

One Jewish, Zionist Harvard graduate who works at the university,

Ira Stoll, said, "having been around the university now on and off for more than 30 years, the level of antisemitism on campus over the past year is shocking, embarrassing, disgraceful—like nothing I've seen before."

Stoll, who is the managing editor of *Education Next*, which is based at the Harvard Kennedy School, said, "All of us who care about the University really need to work urgently to improve the situation or else face a real risk of Harvard losing Jewish talent and excellence to other, less hostile institutions."

HAR-EL GALEN BOOK REVIEW Wednesday, January 4 - 3:30 PM on Zoom



Anthropologist **ROSA WEINSTEIN** will review *The Oppermanns* by Lion Feuchtwanger. This 1933 novel tells of the rise and fall of a German Jewish furniture dynasty whose affluent members are unable to fully recognize the rising threat of Naziism. This book was written as events were unfolding, yet has great relevance for our time.



Join this course that meets once each month and explores numerous subjects. This is scheduled to be a Zoom presentation. To request a link, contact harelurjpd@gmail.com.

HAR-EL
Member, Union for Reform Judaism

Israel Transfers Bulletproof Ambulance to Ukraine

By Ido Ben Porat, Arutz Sheva

On December 9th the Israel Defense Ministry Directorate of Production and Procurement (DOPP) transferred a bulletproof ambulance to Ukraine, for use by that country's first responders. This is the first of four ambulances which Israel's Defense Ministry is expected to transfer to Ukraine in the coming months. The ambulance is a Mercedes Sprinter and has been made bulletproof by the Israeli company Plasan Re'em. The armored ambulance is only the latest addition to the aid which Israel has provided to Ukraine since the start of that country's war with Russia. This aid includes, among other supplies,

thousands of helmets and bullet proof vests for Ukrainian rescue personnel and for civilian organizations in the country. Previous aid has also included protective suits for clearing mines, and equipment for filtering and cleaning biological and chemical agents.

Among other aid provided were 100 tons of humanitarian aid, including medicines and medical equipment, donated by the Israeli Ministry of Health; Israeli water purification systems and emergency water supply kits, in coordination with the Water Authority; and thousands of tents, blankets, sleeping bags, and coats.

StandWithUs

A special program exclusively at TEMPLE ISAIAH!

Shabbat Services Friday Night January 27, 2023 - 7:30 pm

**AN EVENING OF CARLY GAMMILL & GARY RATNER
IN CONVERSATION WITH RABBI STEVEN ROSENBERG**

CARLY GAMMILL is the founding Director of the StandWithUs Center for Combating Antisemitism and simultaneously serves as Counsel for Litigation Strategy in the StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department. Carly is active in fighting antisemitism, including the anti-Israel, antisemitic BDS campaign, on campuses, in local communities, in court, and at the United Nations.



GARY P. RATNER, the Senior Executive for StandWithUs, has been with the organization since 2010, involved with development, strategic planning and outreach to ethnic and religious groups. Founded in 2001, today StandWithUs has 18 offices across the United States, Canada, the U.K, Brazil, the Netherlands, Australia, South Africa and Israel. This is an exciting opportunity to hear one of our most articulate speakers on behalf of Israel and World Jewry.

**Join us for this special evening.
Mark your calendars now!**

Largest Study of Ancient DNA Shows Medieval Ashkenazi Jewry Was Surprisingly Diverse

However, BRCA 1 mutations and Tay Sachs Disease found in DNA

By Amanda Borschel-Dan, *The Times of Israel*

Circa the 14th century, Ashkenazi women in Erfurt, central Germany, carried a breast and ovarian cancer-indicative BRCA 1 mutation in their DNA. This mutation is unfortunately all too common in their modern descendants' genomes, which is just one genetic sign that not a lot has changed in the ensuing 700-plus years.

According to research being hailed as "the largest ancient Jewish DNA study so far," published November 30, 2022, in the prestigious *Cell* science magazine, by the 14th century Ashkenazi Jews had already received most of their main sources of genetic ancestry. When compared with the DNA markers of modern Ashkenazi Jews, there have been few changes to the genome in the centuries that have followed.

This is just one of the findings afforded by analysis of ancient DNA extracted from teeth taken from a Jewish cemetery that was excavated in a salvage operation conducted according to the wishes of the local Jewish community alongside rabbinic advisers. (Rabbis consulted over moral implications of testing remains; stipulated that they study only loose teeth from pre-excavated skeletons.) The skeletal remains were later reburied in a 19th-century Jewish cemetery in Erfurt.

In 2013, German archaeologists excavated a portion of the ancient Jewish graveyard of Erfurt ahead of a municipal construction project, uncovering some 47 medieval graves. It was just the kind of potential treasure trove of centuries-old DNA that co-authors Hebrew University Professor Shai Carmi and Harvard University David Reich were looking for, and they began their study of the remains five years later.

"This work provides a template for how a co-analysis of modern and ancient

DNA data can shed light on the past," said Reich in a press release. "Studies like this hold great promise not only for understanding Jewish history, but also that of any population."

Through careful analysis of DNA extracted from teeth from 38 individuals followed by a comparison of hundreds of thousands of genetic place markers in modern Ashkenazi genomes, an international team of over 30 interdisciplinary researchers found that the Jews of Erfurt "were noticeably more genetically diverse than modern Ashkenazi Jews," according to co-author Carmi.

"An even closer inspection revealed that the Erfurt population was divided into two groups: one with more European ancestry compared to modern Ashkenazi Jews, and one with more Middle Eastern ancestry," said Carmi.

Following some three years of testing and analysis, much of which was conducted in technologically advanced clean rooms at Harvard University, the results also indicated that the "founder event" or "bottleneck" that is evident in modern Ashkenazi Jewry's DNA predated the establishment of the Erfurt community, potentially by a millennium.

According to Carmi, some of the genetic diseases associated with modern Ashkenazi Jews, including BRCA 1 mutations and Tay Sachs Disease, point to an extremely small initial population; as it grew, "pathogenic variants that were carried by the founders became



Associate Professor Shai Carmi, Hebrew University School of Public Health & Faculty of Medicine



The excavation at the medieval Jewish cemetery of Erfurt.

widespread."

Among the methodologies utilized to gain information from the ancient teeth, the scientists sent 10 samples for radiocarbon dating, which found all 10 lived between about 1270 and 1400 CE. They also checked dental isotopes to see if the individuals had grown up drinking the same water and concluded that some were in fact immigrants.

The results were published in *Cell* in an article, "Genome-wide data from medieval German Jews show that the Ashkenazi founder event pre-dated the 14th century."

Rare opportunity

The opportunity to study the DNA of a medieval community such as Erfurt was just what Carmi and co-author Reich were hoping for, Carmi told *The Times of Israel*. There is some historical documentation of the migration patterns and persecution of medieval Ashkenazi populations. However, said Carmi, "Given that no DNA sequences existed for historical Ashkenazi Jewry, we sought to generate ancient DNA

data for this population. Our hope was to fill the gaps in our understanding of Ashkenazi Jewish early history."

The central German city was a thriving Jewish center in the Middle Ages and boasts one of the oldest still-standing synagogues in Europe. The Jewish community settled there in the 11th century; a massacre decimated the community in 1349 but Jews lived in the area until a final expulsion in 1454. At this time, a granary was constructed on top of the graveyard, sealing in the remains of thousands of Jews.

"Jews in Europe were a religious minority that was socially segregated, and they experienced periodic persecution," said Harvard's Reich in a press release. "Our work gives us direct insight into the structure of this community."

Among the excavated 47 graves were two small nuclear families, including children buried near their father who apparently died from a violent blow to his skull. Other more distant family members were also discovered through genetic testing. Carmi said some eight of

Continued on next page

the 33 viable individual samples were related and allowed that it is possible that the limited available sample means the results do not fully reflect the entire community of Ashkenazi Jewry.

"As with other ancient DNA studies, our historical inferences are based on a single site in time and space. This implies that our data may not be representative of the full genetic diversity of early Ashkenazi Jewry, as we have indeed inferred," write the authors in the study.

At the same time, the study indicates that "Medieval Ashkenazi Jews are best viewed not as a single homogeneous community (as it came to be at the present), but as an 'archipelago' of communities, differentially affected by founder events and mixture with local populations," according to a FAQ sheet prepared by Carmi.

A further conclusion is that late medieval Ashkenazi Jewry already carried certain disease-causing variants that became increasingly common among Jews as the years went by.

A matter of morals

Because it is against traditional Jewish religious practice to exhume remains for study, there are scant opportunities of examining the DNA of Jewish communities.

Carmi said that he and his co-authors didn't want to do anything "unethical" and felt it important and necessary to consult with the local Jewish community as well as a rabbi before commencing the study. The stipulation of the rabbinic authorities was that they only study the already excavated skeletons and only use unattached teeth versus extracting

DNA from bones.

Carmi also examines modern DNA for medical research in Israel, which is, he said, a "nightmare" to receive permission to conduct, with multiple committees and requirements and restrictions that make the research "almost pointless to do," he said.

"It is paradoxical or perhaps ironic that to do a study of ancient DNA, we're self-regulating. We don't need to get permission from any committee. These people are dead already," he said, adding that if he were in charge of regulation, "I would relax much more the regulations on the studies of living people but regulate much more the study of ancient DNA."

The reason behind the potential need for increased sensitivity over ancient DNA, he said is that results just

may contradict long-held traditions and communal perceptions. "People can get hurt emotionally. In that sense it's important to consult with the communities and do the study ethically," said Carmi.

"On the other hand, one can argue that the story of those deceased people belongs to the entire humanity and that no one specific community 'owns' the remains from a certain place," he said, acknowledging that work with ancient communities presents researchers with conflicting moral values.

"Moving forward, it will be interesting to see what the opinion is of the rabbis, the scholars," said Carmi. "Maybe this study will lead to more openness. But maybe it will backfire and we'll be told it is something we shouldn't do."

Sabra Hadassah Brings "Freedom Song" to Community January 15

Freedom Song is probably the only touring musical born out of a Jewish rehab. The play tackles addiction in the Jewish community. *Freedom Song* has recently returned from a tour of the East Coast, where they played to auditoriums and synagogues packed with parents, clergy, educators, and mental health professionals. Using the arts to deliver a powerful message, the musical serves as an educational tool for Jewish congregations around the country.

Freedom Song examines how, left unaddressed, addiction leads invariably to the collapse of relationships. Whether you're Jewish or not, *Freedom Song* offers hope and a safe environment to have difficult conversations about a sensitive subject matter.

By interweaving a Passover Seder with personal stories of addiction, *Freedom Song* poses one stark question: "WHAT ARE YOU A SLAVE TO?" *Freedom Song* is an examination of the impact of addiction on a Jewish family and a celebration of the strength of the family to accept challenges and overcome

shame and fear.

The cast of *Freedom Song* is not a cast of actors; they are actual addicts in recovery who have broken off the shackles of drugs, alcohol, gambling, and other destructive behaviors. Using song and dance, tears and laughter, and an intense post-show discussion with our cast, *Freedom Song* will open the audiences' eyes to the real-life struggle against the "bondage of self."

Interspersed are scenes from a 12-Step meeting, giving an inside look at the process of recovery. Following the performance, audience members are encouraged to ask questions of the cast, who courageously and honestly share their own stories of addiction.

The performance is being held in the main ballroom of Sun City Shadow Hills on Sunday, January 15 at 3:00 pm. General admission tickets are \$45. Sponsorship opportunities include being invited to a VIP reception and having the sponsors listed in the program. A \$100 sponsorship includes one preferred admission; \$180 includes two preferred admissions and \$250 includes three preferred admissions.

Checks payable to "Hadassah" should be mailed to Hadassah, 38180 Del Webb Blvd, PMB #315, Palm Desert, CA 92211 along with your name, phone and email address. Tickets can be purchased

online at <https://events.hadassah.org/freedom>. For questions or assistance to charge online call Sabra Hadassah's Finance Vice President Nancy Singer at 760-345-7647.

Sabra Hadassah invites the community to a powerful and original interactive, transformative musical production using song and dance, tears and laughter, and a post-show discussion with the cast that poses the question "What are you a slave to?"

The cast of *Freedom Song* is not a cast of actors; they are actual addicts in recovery that have broken off the shackles of drugs, alcohol, gambling, and other destructive behaviors.

**SUNDAY,
JANUARY 15, 2023
3:00 PM**

**Sun City Shadow Hills
Mountecito Clubhouse
Main Ballroom
80888 Sun City Blvd, Indio**



**General Admission: \$45 per person.
See article for special sponsorship opportunities.**

<https://events.hadassah.org/freedom>

For questions or help registering call Nancy Singer, VP of Finance -760-345-7647



In accordance with IRS tax law, only the amount of your gift that exceeds the value of goods and services received is considered as a charitable contribution for Federal Income tax purposes. The amount of the individual ticket to the event that is tax deductible is \$18.00.



Temple Isaiah presents

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Cohen



Cantorial Soloist
Jennifer Bennett



Cantor Kelley
Cooper



Cantor Daniel
Friedman



Cantor Niti
Nissim

WITH ACCOMPANIEST JOEL BAKER & THE DESERT WINDS FREEDOM BAND

Sunday, February 5th ~ 2:00 PM

Temple Isaiah, 332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA. 92262

Join Hazzan Ken Cohen and some of America's most talented up and coming cantors as they take a memorable musical tour through Broadway's most beloved songs.

TICKETS: \$35. Order online at templeisaiahps.com or call the office: 760-325-2281. RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.

Hebrew University Unveils Elie Wiesel Sculpture

Jewish News Syndicate

A new sculpture commemorating the life of writer, professor, political activist, Nobel Prize laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel was dedicated on December 8th at a moving ceremony on the Mt. Scopus Campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The extraordinary sculpture, situated in a campus garden area, was created by French artist and sculptor Denis Chetboune.

Among his numerous accomplishments, Wiesel authored 57 books, written mostly in French and English, including *Night*, a work based on his experiences as a Jewish prisoner in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps. He was a professor of the humanities at Boston University, which created the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies in his honor. He was involved with Jewish and human rights causes and helped establish the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

The guests of honor included Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, and Prof. Hanan Melcer, former Israel Supreme Court Justice. Ambassador Yossi Gal, Hebrew University Vice President for University Advancement and External Relations and Chaim Chesler, Founder of Limmud FSU, moderated the event.

"We are grateful to Yossi Gal and the Hebrew University leadership for recognizing my father's eternal connection to our ancient capital," said Wiesel's son Elisha Wiesel about the dedication. "We are also grateful to the Klarsfeld family, Aharon Frenkel, Chaim Chesler and Joel Rappel for all they have done to make this moment possible."

"My father dreamed of Jerusalem as a child," he continued. "But I don't think he ever imagined that he would walk those streets one day in a reborn State of Israel. And I don't think he ever imagined that his story would prove to be such a lasting part of our people's memory that his likeness would be become part of the city."

In Tel Aviv, UAE's Largest Free Trade Zone Moves to Attract Israeli Entrepreneurs

CEO Ahmed Bin Sulayem looking for water, IT security, crypto businesses as bilateral trade continues to grow

By Larry Berman, *The Times of Israel*

In an indication of the potential the UAE sees in its relationship with Israel, the leader of the Emirates' largest free trade zone made his pitch to hundreds of Israeli entrepreneurs in Tel Aviv, seeking to cast Dubai Multi Commodities Centre as a welcoming home for Israeli businesses.

"Israel is both a major stakeholder for DMCC and one of our key target markets," said CEO Ahmed Bin Sulayem in an address at the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

"These ties are going from strength to strength as our two countries become more intertwined through new projects and initiatives," he said.

There are currently 78 Israeli companies operating in the DMCC. The free trade zone offers a range of advantages, including no corporate tax, access to the Gulf market and Asia, minimal bureaucracy, and cheap manpower from India.

Israeli companies in the DMCC can operate as a local entity and do business with countries that do not recognize Israel, said Sanjeev Dutta, executive director of commodities and financial services at DMCC.

Dubai's free zones have separate legal systems and commercial laws from the rest of the country.

Bin Sulayem, 44, told *The Times of Israel* that he sees Israel as a strategic partner, especially in the fields of IT security and water conservation.

Bin Sulayem's ongoing encounters with Israeli companies are one of the reasons the DMCC — a massive district with over 75 office towers and 100,000 people living and working there — is opening a water center.

"It was inspired a little bit by Aqua Index and Watergen," he explained, referencing two Israeli companies.

Aqua Index seeks to turn water into a tradable commodity by creating a standard price for fresh water, while Watergen markets proprietary water-from-air technology to expand access to drinking water.



Economy Minister Orna Barbivai (r) signs the Israel-UAE free trade agreement in Jerusalem with Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade

The 20-year-old DMCC is known primarily for its commodity trade, especially diamonds, precious metals, coffee, and tea.

Israeli companies in these fields are already operating in the free trade zone. The Israel Diamond Exchange opened an office in the DMCC in February, and Bin Sulayem held meetings with Israeli supermarket mogul Rami Levy and Landver Coffee owner Ori Federman months before the Abraham Accords were signed in September 2020.

"There's a lot of opportunity there," said Dror Maoz, managing director at GoldRock International DMCC. "A lot of the diamond industry has moved there."

Maoz opened his office in the DMCC in the wake of the Abraham Accords, citing the tax exemptions and direct, three-hour flights between Israel and Dubai.

But Bin Sulayem is determined to attract Israeli companies in other fields. "We are more than diamonds," he insisted.

He said he was pleasantly surprised by the diversity of Israeli businesspeople who attended Tuesday's DMCC "Road Show."

"I didn't expect so many tech people,"

he reflected, pointing at conversations he had with crypto and renewable energy entrepreneurs in Tel Aviv.

The interest from Israeli leaders in those fields lines up with DMCC priorities. In May 2021, DMCC launched its Crypto Centre for blockchain and cryptographic businesses.

Bin Sulayem said that many of the Israelis he spoke with were coming in with very little knowledge of the UAE business climate and showed up to learn. "Today is more of an orientation," he said.

Yosef Sara, a real estate CEO operating in the US, said he came to gain an initial impression of doing business in Dubai and to build connections.

"Most people I met have the same feeling as me," he said. "They understand there's an enormous opportunity, and [Dubai] brought something big here to Israel."

Sara is intrigued by the UAE's rapid economic growth. "They have wealth, and we can dream. You see the buildings, and it's incredible to someone like me who is passionate about real estate."

According to the Economy Ministry, bilateral trade with the UAE reached close to \$900 million in 2021. This

year, through the end of October, trade topped \$2 billion, not counting software.

Free trade talks between the countries kicked off in November 2021, leading to an agreement in May this year.

Bin Sulayem expects the positive trend to continue, especially with meat being added to the bones of the Abraham Accords. "You have waves of entrepreneurs," he said. "Some want to go to a place that's not yet established, whether it's infrastructure, whether it's politics, whether it's both. And some who wait until it's more established."

He expects to see more Israeli shipping companies work with Emirati logistics giant DP World, with terminals in 40 countries on every continent except Antarctica.

Despite the positive trends, there are challenges to overcome.

For Bin Sulayem, his mission to attract Israeli companies is not an easy one. Dubai alone has over 40 free trade zones, each with its own terms. They are generally industry specific, such as Dubai Internet City for tech companies and Dubai Science Park for the health and pharma sectors. DMCC is in competition with many of the other free zones.

The Israeli side also faces hurdles. An Israeli official who asked to remain anonymous agreed that Israelis "have no idea how to do business there."

The official identified other challenges, including the lack of financial infrastructure to enable the rapid transfer of money from Israel to the UAE.

Maoz said that Israelis have the same mentality as the many Indian businessmen they deal with in Dubai. But cultural differences are apparent between Emiratis and the no-nonsense Israelis.

"There's a different way of approaching business," he said. "It's slower, it's more built on a friendship."

Geomagnetic Field Dating Confirms the Bible's Narrative

Biblical accounts of military campaigns against the kingdoms of Israel and Judah verified by geomagnetic dating.

By Marion Fischel, Israel 21C

A groundbreaking interdisciplinary study by Tel Aviv University (TAU) and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HU) involving 20 international scientists and researchers has verified biblical accounts of the Egyptian, Aramean, Assyrian and Babylonian military campaigns against the kingdoms of Israel and Judah.

The study reconstructed changes in the magnetic field of the earth as recorded in 21 destruction layers in 17 archeological sites throughout Israel, constructing a variation curve of field intensity over time that can be used as a scientific dating tool.

Published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), the study is based on the doctoral thesis of Yoav Vaknin, and supervised by Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef and Prof. Oded Lipschits of TAU's Institute of Archaeology, and



Burned mud brick wall from Tel Batash (Biblical Timnah) with markings of the field orientation.

Prof. Ron Shaar of HU's Institute of Earth Sciences.

Vaknin explained that Earth's magnetic field comes from the movement of iron in its interior. When this iron moves around, it will always point north because of this field.

Archeological finds such as mud bricks and pottery vessels contain ferromagnetic minerals with tiny magnetic signals. If these artifacts are burned at high temperatures, when they cool down they record the magnetic signal that points to the magnetic north of the time.

"And we can come along thousands of years later and reconstruct the direction and the intensity of the magnetic field at the time of the fire," said Vaknin.

Over the past decade, researchers have reconstructed magnetic fields recorded by hundreds of archaeological items, said geophysicist Shaar.

Thus the researchers involved in the study were able to cross-check the magnetic field recorded by these destruction layers with the magnetic fields of archeological items that had

been dated.

"Based on the similarity or difference in intensity and direction of the magnetic field, we can either corroborate or disprove hypotheses claiming that specific sites were burned during the same military campaign," said Vaknin.

In a previous study in 2020, researchers reconstructed the magnetic field as it was on the ninth of the Hebrew month Av, 586 BCE, the date of the destruction of Jerusalem and the First Temple by Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar.

Now, using archeological findings unearthed over several decades alongside historical information from ancient inscriptions and biblical accounts, the researchers were able to reconstruct the magnetic fields recorded in destruction layers studied, and use the data to develop a reliable new scientific tool for archeological dating.

"By combining precise historical information with advanced, comprehensive archeological research,

we were able to base the magnetic method on reliably anchored chronology," said Lipschits.

End of Judean Kingdom

One of the most interesting findings revealed by the new dating method has to do with the end of the kingdom of Judah.

An archeologically supported hypothesis suggested that the Babylonians had wiped out Jerusalem and frontier cities in the Judean foothills, but left towns in the Negev and the southern Judean mountains almost untouched.

Recent geomagnetic findings confirm that the cities in the Negev were destroyed several decades later, probably by the Edomites, said Ben-Yosef.

"This betrayal and participation in the destruction of the surviving cities may explain why the Hebrew Bible expresses so much hatred for the Edomites – for example, in the prophecy of Obadiah," he said.

Additionally, the identification of full statistical synchronization between the magnetic fields recorded at the Philistine city of Gath (when King Hazael of Aram-Damascus destroyed it around 830 BCE as reported in the Hebrew Bible) and those of Tel Rehov, Tel Zayit and Horvat Tevet makes a strong case that their attacks were part of the same campaign.

A different magnetic field at Tel Beit-She'an, however, refutes a previous, non-biblical hypothesis that it was also destroyed by Hazael.

Magnetic data from Beit-She'an indicate that this city, along with two other sites in northern Israel, was probably destroyed 70 to 100 years earlier. This could correspond with the military campaign of the Egyptian Pharaoh Shoshenq, described both in the Hebrew Bible and in an inscription on a wall of the Temple of Amun in Karnak, Egypt.




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UN Committee Demands Israel Destroy its Alleged Nuclear Arsenal

It also called for a nuclear-free Middle East while ignoring the immediate threat of the Iranian nuclear weapons program.

By Batya Jerenberg, World Israel News

With an overwhelming 152-5 majority, a UN committee devoted to world security called on Israel Friday to renounce its nuclear arsenal and put all its nuclear-related sites under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC, or First Committee) resolution, submitted annually by Egypt for years, demands that Israel join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), even though Jerusalem never acknowledged possession of nuclear weapons.

It is "important" that Israel sign onto the NPT "without delay," agree "not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons," and accede to IAEA oversight in order to "realiz[e] the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East," and "as a step toward enhancing peace and security," the resolution stated.

Iran, a member of the NPT, has openly said it is enriching uranium to near-weapon's purity, and according to the IAEA, the Islamic Republic began



Israel's nuclear reactor in Dimona.

producing uranium metal last year although it has no civilian purpose. This was not mentioned in the resolution.

Arab countries at peace with Israel besides Egypt sponsored the resolution, including Jordan, Bahrain, the UAE and Morocco, as did the Palestinian ambassador, Riyad Mansour. The "State of Palestine" was granted non-member observer State status in the UN in 2012.

The five countries that voted against it were Israel, the United

States, Canada, Micronesia and Palau. There were 24 abstentions, including all member states of the European Union.

Iran was also one of 170 nations that approved a sister-resolution calling for a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

When the international body held a debate on the issue earlier in October, Israel's Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Michal Maayan, noted a built-in flaw of the

NPT – that it was only as pertinent as the level of compliance with its dictates.

The Islamic Republic would be a prime example of the problem, as she noted that "for decades now, Iran has been rapidly advancing its illicit nuclear programs and currently possesses large quantities of highly enriched nuclear material."

Jerusalem has always maintained a policy of deliberate ambiguity on the subject of its nuclear status for strategic reasons, while saying that Israel would never be the first to introduce such weapons in the region.

Foreign estimates have put Israel's stockpile between 80 and 400 nuclear warheads. It is believed that the IDF can conduct a nuclear strike via its air force, the ground-based launch of intercontinental missiles, and sea-based missile launch from its submarines.

The latter is crucial to the country's deterrence, as it theoretically gives Israel a second, or retaliatory, strike opportunity if its land mass comes under catastrophic attack.



Dear Community and Supporters of the Jewish Federation of the Desert:

I started my position here during the middle of the annual campaign. My initial work included making phone calls to introduce myself to the community. While I was getting to know the community, the war in Ukraine was becoming more and more part of the conversation. We realized we needed to combine efforts and raise additional funds on top of the annual campaign for Ukraine.

The annual campaign is the way we meet our mission of caring for the vulnerable, strengthening our community through Jewish engagement and education, with a focus on combating Antisemitism, creating a safe and inclusive community, and supporting Jews in Israel and around the world. We asked you for help and you delivered. Thank you.

Furthermore, midway through the campaign, the Jewish Federation of the Desert went through a professional leadership transition. With the support of the board and current staff I was able to keep us moving forward to meet our fundraising objectives and support the vital work for our community. As a result of your generosity, we were able to increase our allocations and support relief efforts for Ukraine.

I am honored to be a partner with and a leader for this community. I look forward to the impact we will have together for years to come.

Alan Potash, CEO

Jackie Cohen Co-Chair

Cora Ginsberg Co-Chair



Jewish Federation of the Desert - Income Statement

Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/22

Where our Dollars Come From

Regular Campaign	\$1,560,511
Tamarisk Tournaments	\$93,375
Contributions & Other	\$150
Revenue from Endowments	\$100,000
Emergency Fund & Ukraine Fund	\$291,597
Miscellaneous Income (PPP US Gov, etc)	\$84,333
Honoraria & Memorials Revenue	\$52,825
Bequest Revenue	\$169,759

Total Support & Revenues **\$2,352,550**

Where our Dollars Go

Local Allocations - Caring for the Vulnerable	\$303,894
Local Allocations - Community Inclusion & Engagement	\$212,400
Local Allocations - Jewish Education & Identity	\$187,500
Overseas Allocations - Israel & World Jewry	\$307,500
Administration Cost	\$278,975
Fundraising Cost	\$291,104
Programs Cost	\$642,856

Total Allocations & Expenses **\$2,224,229**

Total Net Increase in Funds **\$128,321**

Non-Cash Items - Non controllable:

Unrealized Investment Gain or (Loss)	(\$297,952)
Depreciation Expense	(\$46,785)
Reversal of Unused Accruals	\$250,000
Accrual for future renovations	(\$30,000)

Total Non-Cash: **(\$124,737)**

Balance Sheet

Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$379,286
Donor Advised Fund	\$133,791
Endowments	\$2,350,816
Board Designated	\$3,159,926
Other Assets	\$752,700
Federation Building & Property Net	\$1,398,287

Total Assets **\$8,174,806**

Liabilities & Net Assets

Allocations Payable	\$796,577
Current Liabilities	\$133,106
Fund Balances	\$418,297

Total Liabilities **\$1,347,980**

Undesignated	\$3,339,304
Board Designated	\$1,202,916
With Donor Restrictions	\$2,284,606

Total Net Assets **\$6,826,826**

Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$8,174,806**

JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT ALLOCATIONS

Year End 6/30/22 For Distribution 2022/2023

Angel View Jewish Resident Homes (Tamarisk)	\$25,000
Bikur Cholim - Mitzvah Mission & Programs	\$125,000
Jewish Family Service- Let's Do Lunch	\$5,000
Jewish Family Service - Mental Health Outpatient Treatment	\$35,000
Jewish Family Service - Café Europa	\$25,000
Jewish Family Service - Senior Care Management	\$35,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Special Tzdekah & Funeral Fund (Tamarisk)	\$11,894
Mizell Senior Center - Meals on Wheels	\$15,000
Temple Sinai - Mitzvah Food Delivery Project	\$10,000
The Joslyn Center - Let's Do Lunch	\$4,500
The Joslyn Center - Meals on Wheels	\$7,500
Ukraine Local Resettlement Support (Tamarisk)	\$5,000
Caring for the Vulnerable - 30%	\$303,894

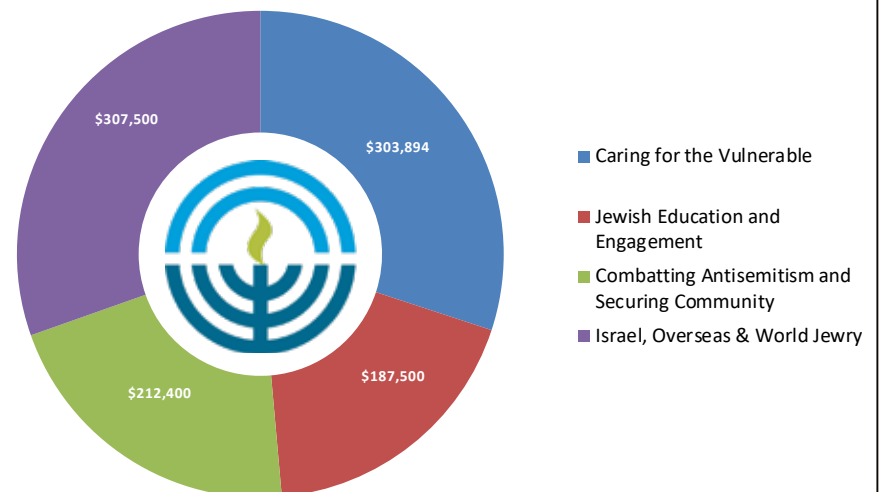
Congregation Beth Shalom - Scholar in Residence Program	\$7,500
Congregation Har-El	\$4,000
Inland and Desert Hillel - Israel & Cultural Programs	\$75,000
JFD - Jewish Community Education Series	\$23,500
JFD - Jewish Community Outreach	\$30,000
JFD - PJ Library - Books for Children & Family Programs	\$7,500
Jewish Summer Camp Scholarship (Tamarisk)	\$10,000
Temple Har Shalom - Judaism in 2023	\$1,000
Temple Har Shalom - Shabbat Study with Contemporary Jewish Books	\$1,000
Temple Isiah - Jewish Film Festival	\$15,000
Temple Isiah - Twice Blessed - LGBTQ Outreach	\$2,000
Temple Sinai - Hebrew School Scholarships	\$10,000
Temple Sinai - LGBTQ Chavurah	\$1,000
Jewish Education & Engagement - 19%	\$187,500

Anti Defamation League (ADL)	\$15,000
Anti Defamation League (ADL) - Echoes and Reflection Training for Area Middle School and High School Teachers (Tamarisk)	\$15,000
Boys & Girls Club of Palm Springs	\$4,000
Jewish Federations of North America National Dues	\$70,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Jewish Community Newspaper (JCN)	\$56,400

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) - Youth Futures, Eilat	\$25,000
Inland and Desert Hillel Council - Antisemitism, Antizionism, Interfaith	\$2,000
Inland and Desert Hillel Council - Trainings, Programs & Speakers to Address Antisemitism & Israel Advocacy on Campus (Tamarisk)	\$15,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Holocaust Memorial	\$5,000
Or Hamidbar - From Holiness to Hatred and Back	\$5,000
Community Inclusion, Security & Addressing Antisemitism - 21%	\$212,400

Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind - Guide Dog Training	\$2,000
The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) - Former Soviet Union (FSU) Camps	\$12,500
The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) - Nativ	\$10,000
The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) - Ofek Mechinot	\$15,000
The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) - Reuniting Ethiopian Families	\$8,000
Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) -	\$150,000
Ramat HaNegev - Pitchat Nitzana - Children & Youth Programs	\$20,000
Ramat HaNegev - Center for Children with Special Needs (CCSN)	\$80,000
Ramat HaNegev - Teen Workshop	\$10,000
Israel, Overseas & World Jewry - 30%	\$307,500

Total Allocations \$1,011,294



Invisible 'Air Screen': Israeli Researchers Find Trailblazing Alternative to Face Masks

By World Israel News Staff

Researchers at Haifa's Technion – Israel Institute of Technology have developed a revolutionary invisible facemask to protect wearers against the transmission of COVID, MERS, influenza, and other respiratory viruses, the university announced November 27,

Although conventional facemasks help protect against disease transmission, recent scientific literature shows that they also present adverse psychological and physiological effects. They reduce facial identification and emotion recognition, adversely affect

oral communication, and can cause headaches and skin problems.

Wearing masks throughout the workday also results in a lack of focus, as well as reduced attention and patience in a wide range of professions.

As a result of these difficulties, many people wear masks incorrectly – on or below their mouths – which greatly reduces protection. Even in Japan, where facemasks are common, a large study found that just 20% of people wear masks correctly.

Conventional facemasks have also led to a dramatic rise in plastic waste,

exacerbated by governmental mask-wearing mandates, producing millions of tons annual.

Now, a Technion team led by Professors Moshe Shoham and David Greenblatt has come up with a radically new solution to the conventional mask dilemma by creating an invisible "air-screen" in front of the wearer's face. The air-screen originates from within a lightweight filter-covered unit mounted on the visor of a cap.

Several major advantages became clear: the air-screen protects the eyes, nose, and mouth without negative effects on facial identity, emotion recognition, or oral communication. It is also reusable, so it does not pollute the environment.

Recently published research, based on experiments conducted in Prof. Greenblatt's laboratory, demonstrated the air-screen's efficacy by effectively

blocking aerosols produced during oral communication, as well as large droplets produced by coughing and sneezing. It also removes quiescent aerosol-laden air from in front of the face by a process known as "entrainment."

This joint effect of blocking and entrainment occurs where laser illumination is used to render the airflow visible, as seen in this video:

Several one-on-one interviews and pilot studies with more than 50 subjects from various sectors clearly showed the advantage of the invisible air screen over the commonly used face masks, according to the Technion. These groups represent potential early adopters, who will benefit most from this new technology in Israel and globally.

The Technion recently licensed the technology to Israeli startup Wisdome Wearables Ltd.

IDF's 6,900 Lone Soldiers Come From 73 Different Countries

By Algemeiner Staff

The Israel Defense Forces currently include some 6,900 lone soldiers, nearly half of whom immigrated from 73 different countries.

The lone soldier label applies to recruits who serve with no parental support in Israel. This includes Israeli natives who are orphans or have no ties to their parents, constituting some 48 percent of all lone soldiers. The rest include recruits who made *aliyah* while their parents live abroad.

A breakdown of countries published by the military in late November showed some contributed hundreds of lone soldiers to the IDF, with 610 lone soldiers coming from the United States, as well as 488 from Russia, 332 from Ukraine, and 264 from France.

Multiple countries contributed dozens of recruits, with 98 soldiers immigrating from

Argentina, while 80 soldiers came from each Britain and South Africa. Brazil contributed 63 recruits, ahead of countries including Canada (51), Kazakhstan (38), Colombia (23), Ethiopia (19), and India (13).

Some other countries, in the meantime, could claim less than 10 recruits. For instance, seven recruits came from Switzerland, five from Japan, and one each from Serbia, Slovakia, and Botswana. This year saw the enlistment of 87 new lone soldiers, the military said.



Ladies, Does this graphic look familiar? It was always part of the invitation of our community's annual Tri-Sisterhood luncheons hosted in turn by the Sisterhoods of Temples Isaiah, Sinai and Beth Shalom. In the spirit of bringing the ladies of our community together again after many years' hiatus, the Women of Sinai invite you to a wonderful Fashion Show and Luncheon on Friday, January 27th.



THE WOMEN OF SINAI INVITE THE WOMEN OF OUR COMMUNITY TO A

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Receive another raffle ticket for
each additional person you bring!



To RSVP call the temple office: 760-568-9699
or contact Toni Robinson at trobenson@templesinaipd.org.



Shabbat Schedule - January 2023

While more congregations are opening to in-person services if participants are fully vaccinated, it is wise to check with your chosen facility on Thursday or Friday to make sure there are no changes regarding attendance. Most continue to offer online services as well.

BETH SHALOM, Palm Desert

(Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)

Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader

NOTE NEW LOCATION: 42600 Cook Street, Second Floor, Palm Desert, CA 92211, 760-200-3636.

IN-PERSON Shabbat Morning Services: 9:45 am, followed by light Kiddush lunch. Visitors welcome with proof of vaccination. For information, email info@congregationbethshalom.net or call 760-200-3636. Website: www.CongregationBethShalom.net
Friday, January 27: Shabbat Eve Service, 7:45 pm, followed by Oneg Shabbat Dessert Reception. Guest speaker: Sheri Bogh, Program Director, Childhelp Merv Griffin Village.

CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim & Rabbi Arik Denebeim

250 East Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264 www.chabadpalmsprings.com 760-325-0774. Check website or call to confirm times Shabbat services are held.

CHABAD OF PALM DESERT

Rabbi Mendy Friedman

Call for information: 760-651-2424. www.chabadpd.com 760-969-2153 / 760-969-2158

CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE

Rabbi Shimon Posner; Rabbi Benny Lew. 72295 Via Marta, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. www.chabadrm.com 760-770-7785

Friday night services: Check website for times. Shabbat morning services begin at 10 am, followed by a sit-down Kiddush lunch. Children's program/service. Daily Minyan: Shacharit (morning) Services 7:00 am, Sundays 8:00 am. Check web for updated times for Mincha & Maariv.

CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.

Plans underway to resume regular

services and programs in Sun City Palm Desert. Monthly dinners and some classes offered now. Contact Rebbetzin Sussie Denebeim to receive weekly "Chabad in Sun City Newsletter" with listing of all services and activities: sussiedenebeim@gmail.com.

CHABAD OF LA QUINTA

Rabbi Moshe Katz

50620 Eisenhower Drive, Ste. G103, La Quinta, CA 92253. 760-709-2431.

Email: chabadlaquinta@gmail.com.

Chabad LQ offers weekly Torah studies, home visitations, Kosher meals, Shabbat Services, Women's Circle, Youth activities, Holiday programs and more.

CONGREGATION HAR-EL

(Member, Union for Reform Judaism) Rabbi

Richard Zions, Ph.D.; Cantor Joseph

Gole, D.Mus. harelurjpd@gmail.com 760-779-1691.

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Weekly online Shabbat services with

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DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE, Rancho Mirage

Rabbi Dr. Jules King; Rabbi Rachel Axelrad, Rabbi Andrew Bentley, Cantor

Lori Reisman Patterson. 760-449-

0111. Mailing address: P.O. Box 982,

Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. Shabbat

services held on the second Fridays at

Unitarian Universalist Church of the

Desert, 72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage.

On second Saturdays: 10:30-11:30

am Torah study on Zoom with Rabbi

Axelrad. Beit Sefer Religious School

Saturday mornings (from 9:45 AM to

noon. B'nei Mitzvah classes for Children

with Arava Talve. "Talkin' Torah": See

listing on Community Calendar .

Check website for most current

information: www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com.

OR HAMIDBAR

Rabbi David Lazar rabbidavid@orhamidbar.org.

Virtual Kabbalat Services first, second and fourth Fridays of the month, at 6:30 pm and Shabbat morning services at 10:30 am.

Join Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86202660636>. For more information email info@orhamidbar.org.

SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES, Palm Desert

Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert, Cantorial

Soloist Alan Scott and Accompanist

Brent Reynolds. In person services

in Speaker's Hall in the Sunset View

Clubhouse (second clubhouse) in

Sun City Palm Desert the first and

third Fridays at 7:15 pm. To attend

participants must be fully vaccinated.

Please bring your card. Information:

Nadine Brinhendler, 707- 332-3947.

TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild

(951) 468-0004.

www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org

Email: templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com.

Erev Shabbat Services the 4th Friday

of each month with Rabbi Ilana

Grinblat at 6:00 pm with dinner to

follow. Shabbat teaching with Rabbi

Ilana the next morning at 9:30 am

with bagels and coffee. On all other

Fridays of the month Shabbat Candle

Lighting at 6:00 pm on Zoom. 1st

Friday with Rabbi Malka Drucker; 2nd

Friday with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat; 3rd

Friday with Board host.. Check website

templeharshalomofidyllwild.org for

Zoom address.

TEMPLE ISAIAH, Palm Springs

Rabbi Steven Rosenberg. (rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com).

Cantor Ken Cohen or Soloist Dr. Sarah

Sela join Rabbi on the bima most

weekends.

332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs,

CA 92262, 760-325-2281. Email:

temple@templeisaiahps.com; www.templeisaiahps.com;

templeisaiahps.com.

Weekly in-person Shabbat services Friday evenings at 7:30 pm, preceded by Wine and Cheese 'Happy Hour' from 7:00-7:30 pm. Saturday morning begins with "Nosh and Drash" at 10:30 am, followed by Shabbat morning services. To attend in person services requires being fully vaccinated. Masks not required at this time, subject to change if mandated/ by city of Palm Springs or State of California directive. All services also streamed online. To access any activity, go to Temple Isaiah's website and click on link to desired service or program. "Jewish University" Saturdays from 1:30-3 PM on Zoom. No charge. RSVP requested. Friday, January 27: Guest speakers Carly Gammill and Gary P. Ratner from **StandWithUs** 'In conversation' with Rabbi Rosenberg. Community extended special invitation to attend and hear their important message re: antisemitism. See ad page 5.

TEMPLE SINAI, Palm Desert

(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)

Rabbi David Novak

73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert,

CA 92260. www.templeisinaipd.org

760-568-9699.

Go to templeisinaipd.org for access

information. Shabbat services are

in-person and online on Livestream at

www.templeisinaipd.org. Friday evening

services 5:30 pm, preceded by pre-

service Oneg at 5:00 pm. Saturday

morning Torah study 8:45 am; Shabbat

morning services 10 am. Proof of

vaccination or negative covid test within

72 hours required.

BIKUR CHOLIM

A project of Chabad of Palm Springs

& Desert Communities (Community

Outreach) www.BikurCholimPS.com

Rabbi Yankel Kreiman - 760-325-8076,

and Rabbi Mendy Kreiman -

760-567-6726.



Community Calendar of Programs - January 2023

Mondays:

Har-El offers three classes with Rabbi Zions on Zoom on Mondays for residents and non-residents: 10:30 AM—Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class; 1:00 PM—Conversion to Judaism; 4:00 PM—Youth Bar/Bat Mitzvah Preparation. Individual Zoom Sessions will be offered for beginning students who require extra preparation for group study. For registration and additional information, email: harelurjpd@gmail.com or call Rabbi Zions at (760) 668-9943.

2:00 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual class: The Prayerbook, with **Sussie Denebeim**

7:30 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual class: "The Prophets: Stories that shaped our history" with **Rabbi Baruch (Boz) Werdiger**.

7:30-8:30 pm – "2B A Jew" – Or Hamidbar's introduction to Judaism. **Rabbi David Lazar** teaches about the holidays as they come up in the yearly calendar alongside foundations of Jewish practice and culture. Email info@orhamidbar.org for more information.

Tuesdays:

4:00 pm Temple Sinai begins weekly class on ZOOM, "Torah in Translation" where participants join Rabbi David Novak in reading the Torah in various English translations. Contact rabbi for ZOOM information.

5:00-6:45 pm Chabad Rancho Mirage's popular and weekly **BBQ**. Reservations not required but helpful. Call 760-770-7785. Choose your own menu from steak to hot dogs to salmon, veggie burgers and salads. Orders can be placed online in advance.

7:00 pm – Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual class: "Insights for Daily Living, from the Torah" with **Sussie Denebeim**.

Wednesdays:

1:30 pm Temple Isaiah Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class with **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg**. Interested in joining? Contact Rabbi at rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com.

7:00 pm – Temple Isaiah "Reintroduction to Judaism" with **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg**. Online course on ZOOM. For those who want to learn more about their Jewish heritage or want to learn about Judaism for the first time. Email Rabbi at rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com.

7:00 pm Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: 'Ask the Rabbi': A Weekly Open Q & A with **Rabbi Yonason Denebeim**.

7:00 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage Tanya Class led by **Rabbi Shimon Posner**. For men and women. Hosted each week in Rancho Mirage and also available on Zoom.

Thursdays:

10:00 am – noon: Or Hamidbar online course "Interfaith Study of the Acts of the Apostles" with **Rev. Dr. Stephen Kinney** and **Rabbi David Lazar**. For more information email info@orhamidbar.org.

11:45 am **Rabbi David Novak** of Temple Sinai hosts a weekly "Lunch 'n' Learn" in Temple Sinai's Goodman Chapel.

8:00 pm – Chabad of Palm Springs - Virtual class: "JLI Torah Studies Course" led by **Rabbi Baruch (Boz) Werdiger**. RSVP to Boz Werdiger, boz@chabadps.com, or 760-550-5793.

Saturdays: *Talkin' Torah* with **Rabbi Andrew Bentley**. Hybrid class meeting both in person and during Shabbat school, with locations to be announced shortly, as well as online. Email Rabbi Andrew at rabbibentley@gmail.com for more information.

Youth and Teens:

Chabad of Rancho Mirage offers programs for children 3 through High School. **Ckids Club** for children 3-13 offers monthly programs. **CTeen** is for teens in high school who meet weekly for events, discussion and participation in humanitarian projects. Contact Chaya at 760-272-1923 for more information.

Wednesday, January 4

3:30 pm Har-El Galen Book Course – ZOOM presentation. **Rosa Weinstein** reviews *The Oppermanns* by Lion Feuchtwanger. Contact harelurjpd@gmail.com to request link. See ad page 5.

Thursday, January 5

4:15 pm Beth Shalom Book Club. Book: "The **Yiddish Policemen's Union: A Novel**" by Michael Chabon. Discussion led by Gwen Schall. Visitors welcome with proof of vaccination. Information: (760) 200-3636

Thursday, January 5

6:30 pm Sabra Hadassah of the Desert: Doors open for coffee and dessert. **7:00 pm** Program: **Phyllis Greenbach**, author of the national best seller, "**The Blessing and the Curse: An Adoption Story**" as well as her latest book "**And Justice for All: A Compelling Immigrant Saga**." Members \$20; non-members \$25. Contact Vivian Posen to RSVP 818-687-9446.

Sunday, January 8

1:00 pm Beth Shalom **BBQ & Movie** "An American Pickle" starring Seth Rogen. Members: \$22 / Non-Members: \$27. Vegetarian options available. Movie only at 2:00 pm; \$10 donation. Paid reservations **REQUIRED** by Tuesday, January 3. Information: (760) 200-3636.

Wednesday, January 11

3:30 pm. Har-El Galen Movie Course: "Har-El Goes to the Movies." View the documentary film '**THE AUTOMAT**' narrated by Mel Brooks. Also appearing is the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg and other well-known personalities. Join in discussion following. Held at the Federation Jewish Community Room. No fee. Reservations required. A confirmation will be sent to you after you register. Contact harelurjpd@gmail.com.

Wednesday, January 11

7:00 pm Sun City Jewish Services presents **An Evening with Azi Schwartz** at Sun City Palm Desert – Mountain View Clubhouse Sierra Ballroom. **PROGRAM SOLD OUT!**

Sunday, January 15

3:00 pm Sabra Hadassah of the Desert brings **Freedom Song** – an original interactive, transformative musical production and post-show discussion with the cast. See ad and article on page 7.

Sunday, January 22

All day Chabad of Rancho Mirage Second Annual **Golf Classic** at the Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort and Spa. Registration and breakfast at 9:00 am. Shotgun Start, Team Scramble, Contests, Prizes, Raffles, Lunch, Game followed by cocktails, fine scotch and cigars, sushi, appetizers and music.



Community Calendar of Programs Continued - January 2023

Award Ceremony & Sumptuous Dinner preceded by a Helicopter Ball Drop - Buy a Ball, Split the Pot. To register call 323-770-8999 or www.chabadgolfclass.com. See ad page 11.

Monday, January 23

7:00 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage. Women's **Rosh Chodesh Society** course "To Believe or Not to Believe in Yourself." Monthly program. January's program: "Worst Case Scenario? Best Case Scenario? Learning How to Negate the Negativity Bias." Contact Chaya Posner for questions and to RSVP: Chaya@chabadm.com. 760-770-7785.

Tuesday, January 24

7:00-8:30 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage. **"Book Smart"** – a new 6-week course given by **Rabbi Benny Lew** for men and women. A course through Judaism's most important titles and the authors who inscribed them; a panoramic overview of 3000 years of Jewish learning. Information and to RSVP: 760-770-7785.

Friday, January 27

Noon Women of Sinai **Fashion Show and Luncheon**, featuring the fashions from Shirley's Boutique Fashions. \$35 includes lunch and 5 raffle tickets. Pre-show shopping at 11:00 am. RSVP by calling Temple Sinai: 760-568-9699. See ad page 14.

Sunday, January 29

11:00 am Beth Shalom: Complimentary Brunch featuring **Rabbi J.B. Sacks** in connection with Community Outreach Project for Childhelp Merv Griffin Village. Donations of requested toward purchase of scrapbooking materials. Visitors welcome with proof of vaccination. Advanced reservations **REQUIRED** by Monday, January 23. Reservations and information: (760) 200-3636.

Sunday, January 29

3:00-5:00 pm Jewish Federation of the Desert **COMMUNITY HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION DAY** held at the UC Riverside Palm Desert

Campus, 75080 Frank Sinatra Drive, Palm Desert. Special program: Presentation by The Braid "Stories from the Violins of Hope." No charge. See ad on back page.

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Tribute Card Donations

Sending tributes and memorials is a meaningful way to honor loved ones.

All contributions received by the Jewish Federation for Tribute Cards are placed in our special Tzedakah Fund, which provides direct monetary intervention for needy Jews living in the Coachella Valley. Call 760-324-4737.

Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Ben Eisler**, Many more in good health, from Ann Fishman.
- **Jerry Meister**, In honor of your 90th birthday, from Margot and Jerry Halperin.
- **Jerry and Gail Merksamer**, Thank you from Gloria Snyder.
- **Cydney Osterman and Ken Schoenfeld**, Thank you from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Larry Rabineau**, Happy birthday wishes from Barbara Federman and Jim Levitas.
- **Rella and Monty Rifkin**, Happy Anniversary from Cora Ginsberg, Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Marlyn Weiner**, With best wishes from Robert and Maxine Greenstein.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Jerry Meister**, Wishing a complete and speedy recovery, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Merle Arenson and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband Arthur, from Nancy and Dennis Ditlove, Judy and Jack Feinberg, Margot and Jerry Halperin, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Gail and Bob Scadron, Sherry and Howard Schor, Barry and Leslie Usow.
- **Gail Baron and Family**, In memory of your beloved son-in-law David, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Miles Berger**, In loving memory of Sally Berger, from Gail Siegel.
- **Irwin Flangel**, in memory of your brother Joe, from Gail and Bob Scadron.

- **Joyce Freund and Family**, In memory of Henry Freund, from Susie and Bobby Diamond.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Stan Greene**, in memory of your beloved sister, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Joni Grossman**, In memory of Stephen, from Arnie and Sue Gilman.
- **Vicki Horwich and Family**, in memory of your beloved husband Tom, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Jeanne Levitt**, In memory of your son Jay, from Barbara Schroyer.
- **Gerald Peskin**, in memory of your beloved wife Sheila, from Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- **Fred Widran and Family**, In memory of Ellen Widran, beloved wife, mother and grandmother, from Lita Widran.
- **Mrs. Leonard Worth**, In memory of Leonard, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

Israel and Jordan Agree to Clean Polluted Jordan River Together

By Sharon Wrobel *The Algemeiner*

On November 17, Israel and Jordan signed a declaration of intent to jointly work on the ecological rehabilitation and sustainable development of the polluted Jordan River.

"The signing of this joint declaration is an expression of the close relationship between man and nature," stated Israel's Environmental Protection Minister Tamar Zandberg. "It is also an expression of the connection between Israel and Jordan, neighboring countries with a river flowing between them, and is of great importance for our shared future in the region, especially in an era of global and regional changes that endanger us all."

The advancement of the rehabilitation of the Jordan River, which runs from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea, the natural boundary separating Israel and Jordan is of interest to both countries due to its



The Jordan River

rich historical heritage, diverse biological ecosystem and as a tourist attraction, Israel's Environmental Protection said in a statement.

In the declaration signed at the UN climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt between representatives of the two respective governments, it was

acknowledged that saving the Jordan River, which due to effects of climate change suffers from a decline in water levels and scarce natural water resources, requires "transboundary action."

"A river free from hazards, clean and healthy, will provide health and prosperity for all the populations surrounding it and

for all those who visit it," said Zandberg. "Cleaning up the pollutants and hazards, restoring water flow and strengthening the natural ecosystems will help us prepare and adapt to the climate crisis."

According to the declaration, Israel and Jordan both commit to set up wastewater and sewage facilities to treat and remove sources of pollution on both sides of their river territories. Both countries also pledged to take steps to improve the quality of freshwater flows in the river.

"The two countries will also aspire to promote regional tourism with the view of generating additional employment opportunities in the region, and to promote sustainable agriculture, including the control of agricultural drainage and reduction the use of chemical pesticides," Israel's Environmental Ministry stated.

Hereditary Cancers Aren't Just a Women's Problem. Jewish Men Need to Take Precautions Too

By Larry Luxner, Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Bill Harris, a veteran Los Angeles photojournalist, didn't think much of it when one morning in 2012 he woke up and found a tiny blood spot on the T-shirt he'd slept in. The next morning, he found blood in the same place on his chest — and went straight to his computer.

"Online, I could find only three things that would cause a man's nipple to discharge blood: being an avid runner, which I wasn't; having a subtropical fungus, which I didn't; and breast cancer," he said. "That was a pretty big shock."

Harris, then just a few weeks shy of his 61st birthday, immediately called his doctor, who ordered a mammogram and ultrasound. They confirmed a cancerous growth in his right breast. Ten days later, a biopsy came back positive. The next month Harris got a right mastectomy, followed by the removal of his left breast half a year later.

"I walked into a woman's imaging center and had to get into a pink paper robe," he recalled. "All the women in the waiting room were staring at me."

Like many other Ashkenazi men, Harris never had considered that he might have been born with a harmful mutation of the BRCA gene, which elevates the risk not only of breast cancer, but also of melanoma and prostate, ovarian and pancreatic cancer.

"Hundreds of other mutations in the BRCA gene are just as dangerous, but they're not specific to Ashkenazim," said Dr. Robert Sidlow, director of the Male BRCA Genetic Risk Program at New York's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. About 1 in 40 Ashkenazi Jews (those of Eastern European descent) carries the harmful mutation, compared to about 1 in 400 in the general population.

"The vast majority of patients I see are relatives of women who have

breast or ovarian cancer and then get tested," he said. Of BRCA mutation carriers, Sidlow added, "Most men are pretty happy to enroll in some kind of surveillance program once they get over the initial shock."

Sidlow is on the Men's Leadership Council at [Sharsheret](#), the national Jewish nonprofit organization that educates the community about cancer risks and supports those with breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

Elana Silber, CEO of Sharsheret (Hebrew for "chain"), says it's crucial that men with a family history of cancer undergo genetic counseling screening for BRCA and other hereditary cancer mutations.

Genetic testing is possible via a standard blood or saliva sample.

While Sharsheret is primarily considered a women's organization, it has been using November — nicknamed Movember for its focus on men's health — for an awareness campaign focused on Jewish men's cancer risks.

"This is not only a women's issue," Silber said. "Family history is so important. When a man shares his family history with his doctor, he may not realize that he should mention that his mother had breast cancer or that his sister had ovarian cancer, as these are not generally 'men's diseases.' They are not aware that these cancers could mean that they themselves are at increased risk for cancer and that they can pass on these mutations to the next generation — their daughters and their sons."

If someone discovers he (or she) is a carrier of one of the genetic mutations with elevated cancer risks — not just BRCA but also such mutations as ATM, TP53, CHEK2, and PALB2 — there are various precautions they can take for themselves and their children. They can monitor their own health more closely, they can get encourage their children

to test to see if they are carriers and, for any future children, take steps to prevent the mutated genes from being passed down.

For example, couples can conceive via in vitro fertilization, or IVF, and then test the embryos before implantation to ensure that only those unaffected by the genetic mutation are implanted.

While most women are aware of the risks of breast cancer, men generally are not — even though the disease strikes 2,500 men in the U.S. every year and kills about 500 of them, according to Sidlow. About 1-2% of men with the BRCA1 mutation and 6-7% of men with the BRCA2 mutation will develop cancer by age 80.

"This is why we recommend periodic mammograms starting at about age 50 for men who carry a BRCA2 mutation," Sidlow said. "We like to educate these men on how to check their chests once a month and have a clinician do a breast checkup on them once a year."

Since the BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations also make prostate cancer more likely, men with either mutation should get PSA (prostate-specific antigen) levels in their blood tested annually beginning at age 40, rather than 50, the age at which screening generally begins, Sidlow said.

Sharsheret has been promoting the importance of learning one's family history, genetic counseling and screening among both men and women. The 20-year-old organization also runs various peer support networks, offers financial assistance to cancer patients, provides mental health counseling and guidance to patients, caregivers, and their friends, and seeks to educate the broader Jewish community about cancer risks and support.

Peggy Cottrell, a certified genetic counselor at Sharsheret, said men in general are more reluctant to get regular checkups than women.

Ashkenazi Jewish men are at elevated risk not just of breast and prostate cancer but also of pancreatic cancer. Pancreatic cancer is particularly difficult because it's tough to detect early enough and hard to treat. The five-year survival rate is only 11%. About 2% of BRCA1 carriers and 4% of BRCA2 carriers will develop pancreatic cancer, Sidlow estimated.

"Usually by the time pancreas cancer is clinically detected it has already spread microscopically to the liver," Sidlow said. "But pancreas cancer is potentially curable if caught when the tumor is extremely small."


Even among those with elevated risks, certain behaviors can improve one's odds, such as avoiding obesity, smoking and excessive alcohol consumption.

Harris, the California photojournalist, is still fighting at age 71. While he overcame breast cancer 10 years ago, last year he was diagnosed with ampullary cancer, a rare disease related to his BRCA2 status that was discovered thanks to his participation in a UCLA study. Surgeons have removed his gall bladder, half his pancreas and part of his small intestine, and he has had to endure eight rounds of chemotherapy.

"I'm still working through the aftereffects of the chemo. I have to eat smaller quantities than before and take enzymes to supplement my digestive processes," Harris said.



Meanwhile, his 37-year-old son discovered that he, too, carries the BRCA2 mutation, and he had a double prophylactic mastectomy and reconstruction at age 30 — just to be on the safe side.

"If there's any history of breast, ovarian or prostate cancer in your family, get tested genetically so that you're informed," Harris advised. "Diagnoses happen way too late for men, and the danger is too big."



CALLING ALL SINGERS

Calling all singers... we are putting together a community choir under the leadership of Cantorial soloist and musician extraordinaire Alan Scott, to perform Israeli music at our **Community Israel 75 Celebration** on April 30, 2023. This will involve several rehearsals, (times to be set later) and a lot of RUACH (enthusiasm) for Israel's big birthday party! If you are interested, please contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or at leslie.pepper@jfedps.org. Young and old, we want to raise your voices in a musical salute to Israel.


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Phone App Successfully Predicts Heart Failure Through Speech

From a person's voice, HearO app can detect fluid accumulation in the lungs that that could lead to heart failure.

By Naama Barak, Israel 21c



Speech-processing startup Cordio Medical announced that its HearO app successfully predicted 82 percent of first congestive heart failure cases in patients that took part in a study, on average 18 days before the incident occurred.

The study collected 460,000 voice samples from 180 patients across 10 medical centers in Israel. The participants used the HearO app at home and sent a voice sample once a day in Hebrew, Arabic or Russian.

The company reported an 82% success rate, noting that a third of the 18% misdiagnosis rate was related to sounds from other respiratory diseases.

Congestive heart failure takes place when the heart doesn't properly pump blood, which in turn can lead to fluid accumulation in the lungs. The HearO system detects that buildup in a person's speech, alerting of future heart failure.

"The results of the study indicate our potential to become a standard in the field of early detection of heart failure," says Dr. Ronit Haviv, Cordio Medical's

senior vice president of clinical, QA, and regulation.

"The solution is easy and convenient to use by any patient, even the oldest, and its level of accuracy has been proven as the same as a medical-grade solution."

Cordio's HearO system is expected to significantly help both heart failure patients and the health providers who manage their treatments, said Dr. Tuvia Ben Gal, director of the Heart Failure Unit in the cardiology department at Rabin Medical Center in Petah Tikva.

"The deployment of the system will help reduce the significant workloads in clinics and allow doctors to focus on those patients who need treatment," he added.

The company recently completed an \$18 million fundraising round and has received approval from Israel's Health Ministry and CE approval from the European Union. It expects to receive FDA approval at the end of 2023 and plans to enter the United States market in 2024.

In World First, Israeli Lab Derives Male and Female Stem Cells from Same Person

Using cells identical in genetic composition, but not in gender, scientists hope to be better able to understand how drugs affect men and women differently

By Nathan Jeffay, *The Times of Israel*

In a world first, Israeli scientists have derived male and female stem cells from the same person.

The researchers say they've successfully grown nervous system cells from the stem cells, with genetically identical male and female versions.

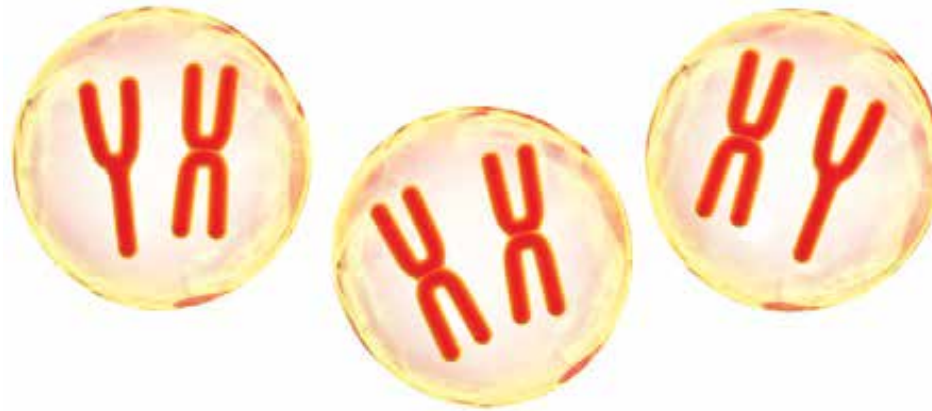
They note that the nervous system cells are a proof of concept, saying they are confident that any human cells can be obtained from the stem cells. The breakthrough was outlined in a peer-reviewed study, in which researchers around the world were offered the stem cells to explore their possibilities.

The Israeli scientists, from Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, started with cells donated by a man who has both male and female cells due to a genetic syndrome.

The cells were in an international cell bank, and the technology to derive the stem cells isn't new, but until now nobody took the initiative. "I really don't know why it wasn't done yet, because the benefits for medical science are very significant," Prof. Benjamin Reubinoff told *The Times of Israel*.

Reubinoff, who led the research together with Dr. Ithai Waldhorn, said that the stem cells he derived could open up a new approach to investigating illnesses and medical treatments.

It's known that men and women are often affected differently by medical



conditions and by treatments. But when researchers try to document the differences in order to advance science, they often get stuck.

This is because, when people are recruited for studies, gender is only one factor that defines them. It's often unclear whether people respond differently to an illness or treatment because of their gender, their genes, their health background, or a range of other factors.

"For the first time, we now have cells that are absolutely identical genetically, but in both male and female versions," said Reubinoff. "This means that we can compare and contrast how they respond to the medication, or use them to model illness, without any of the 'noise' we're used to.

"In other words, we'll know in what ways, exactly, the cells act differently in male and female forms, instead of trying to derive this information from large studies. In studies, results might

be due to gender, but equally might be due to genetic differences between participants."

Reubinoff said that a potentially infinite supply of stem cells can be grown from those in his lab, and these could be used for huge numbers of experiments, in universities, hospitals and drug companies.

The research started when Waldhorn located rare cells from a man with Klinefelter syndrome. Normally, females have two X chromosomes, while males have one X and one Y chromosome. Klinefelter syndrome causes men to have two X chromosomes and one Y chromosome.

The man who donated the cells used by Reubinoff and Waldhorn is unusual among Klinefelter patients, in that his blood doesn't only have the XXY cells that characterize the syndrome, but also small subpopulations of normal male (XY) and female (XX) cells. This is what enabled Reubinoff and Waldhorn

to derive genetically identical stem cells in both male and female form.

Reubinoff hopes that other researchers will replicate their method with cells from some of the other few Klinefelter patients who have XX and XY cells.

He said that exploring the difference in how men and women respond to illnesses and drugs is essential. Women have a higher risk of developing, for example, autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis, while men are more likely to have more significant morbidity when infected with COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

There are also differences in cardiac morbidity and various psychiatric disorders. In addition, there are differences between the sexes in the effectiveness and side effects of drugs.

"This is a breakthrough in the field of gender medicine," said Reubinoff. "The world of medical science today recognizes the great importance of the differences between women and men.

"The National Institutes of Health in the US has changed its policy in recent years, now requiring that all medical research that it funds be conducted on both sexes equally. The unique stem cell system we have developed will lead to new discoveries about gender differences and can help compare the efficacy and toxicity of drugs."

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Slivovitz, a Spirit with a Cherished Jewish History, Gets UNESCO World Heritage Protection

By David Klein, JTA



L'chaim! L'chaim! Živjeli!

Slivovitz, a plum brandy traditionally associated with Passover by many Ashkenazi Jews, has been added to the United Nations' list of items with "intangible cultural heritage." The decision was made at UNESCO's conference in Morocco in late November where France successfully campaigned for the inclusion of the baguette on the list, a complement to the regular tally of physical sites that the agency seeks to preserve.

It wasn't Jews leading the charge for the hard-burning brandy, but rather Serbia, where the spirit is a mainstay, as it is across much of the Balkans, Eastern and Central Europe. That's where Jews first got turned onto the drink, acquiring it as part of the culture."

The spirit became particularly associated with Polish Jewry in the 19th century, as Jews became prominent in the field of alcohol production and the running of inns and taverns. They found special utility in slivovitz when it came to maintaining the Jewish laws around keeping kosher.

Unlike wine, traditional brandy and some types of vodka, being made from plums (the root "sliva" means plum in several Slavic languages) meant that slivovitz was not subject to the same stringent rules that apply to grape-based alcoholic beverages. And unlike beer, whiskey and other types of vodka, it had no wheat or other grains, so it was acceptable for consumption on Passover. It was also relatively inexpensive. As a result, Polish Orthodox Jews adopted the plum brandy as [their] festive spirit," which in some cases became known in Polish as Śliwowica Paschalna or literally Passover slivovitz.

When masses of Polish Jews arrived in America, they brought slivovitz with them, and it quickly became associated with the Jewish community. Today, much of the slivovitz sold in the United States is marketed to Jewish consumers, typically around Passover each spring. Though its popularity has waned, it can still be found on some synagogue kiddush tables and remains in the cultural memory of American Jewry.

Have A Nosh



With no holidays in January for which to provide recipes, I decided to give you a couple fun choices to serve for when you have company (Near Year's Eve celebration?). The salami recipe is, of course, fleishig and the really neat avocado egg rolls are parve. And, for a quick snack to prepare that does require you to buy an assortment of



olives ahead of time to be able to make it, but then takes only a couple minutes to prepare, try this easy roasted olive recipe. Hope you enjoy them as much as I do! B'tai avon! MHB

Drunken Hasselback Salami

16 oz. salami	3 tbsp brandy or bourbon
½ cup apricot jam	2 tbsp ketchup
¼ cup spicy brown mustard	1 tbsp brown sugar

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Add all ingredients, other than the salami, to a pot and whisk over medium heat until jam is melted and mixture begins to boil and thicken. Remove the wrapper from the salami and place on a cutting board with chopsticks on either side. Holding the salami down with one hand, slice into thin, even slices (don't worry, the chopsticks will ensure that you don't slice all the way through).

Generously brush the salami with the sauce, making sure to get in between all the slices. Bake for approximately 45 minutes, basting every 10-15 minutes, until the salami is browned and crispy around the edges. Serve warm with leftover sauce for dipping.

NOTE: You will notice that the salami will begin to turn and split open in a certain spot. When basting, split the salami open in different areas so it can brown evenly all over instead of just one spot.

Avocado Egg Rolls with Spicy Dipping Sauce

½ cup fresh cilantro or 1 teaspoon dried coriander	6 egg roll wrappers
2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar	1 large egg, lightly beaten with 1 teaspoon water
1 tablespoon honey	Vegetable oil for frying
2 cloves garlic, chopped	
1 teaspoon ground cumin	
¼ cup finely sliced red onion	
1 tablespoon finely chopped sun dried tomatoes, drained from oil	
2 ripe avocados, pitted, peeled and diced	
¼ teaspoon salt	

DIPPING SAUCE:

2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 teaspoon rice wine vinegar
½ teaspoon hoisin
¼ teaspoon chilli garlic sauce

In a small food processor, combine cilantro, rice wine vinegar, honey, garlic and cumin. Pulse to finely chop and combine. In a small bowl, combine cilantro mixture with onions, tomatoes, avocado and salt. Mix until just combined.

Lay one egg roll wrap in front of you with a tip pointing down. Spoon about 2 tablespoons avocado filling into the middle of the wrap. Lightly brush each corner with egg wash. Fold bottom corner up and over the filling, tuck each side in and continue to roll up, sealing tightly. Place on a baking dish, seam side down.

Fill a large skillet with ¼ inch of oil and heat over medium to medium low heat. Fry egg rolls a total of about 5 minutes, until crispy and golden brown on all sides, using tongs to turn them so they brown evenly.

In a small bowl combine the dipping sauce ingredients. Serve with egg rolls.

Roasted Olives

1½ lbs. of olives, buying a variety of four different types	1 tsp hot pepper flakes
½ lemon, unpeeled and diced small	1 tsp dry thyme
1 ½ tsp dry oregano	½ tsp black pepper

Preheat the oven to 400F. Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl and toss well. Transfer to a large baking dish and roast for 20 minutes.



Simchas

Congratulations to **Fran Kaufman** on being selected our community's **Wilson-Kipnis Friedlander** honoree for 2021-2022. This prestigious award recognizes extraordinary women who have set a high standard of philanthropy and volunteerism. As we



Fran Kaufman

go to press she is being recognized at the International Lion of Judah Conference in Phoenix, Arizona ... Mazel tov mazel tov to **Rabbi Yonason** and **Sussie Denebeim** on the marriage of their son **Beshe** to **Mariasha Dean** on November 28th, in New York ... We were delighted to learn of the recent marriage of **Talya Horowitz** (who grew up here in the Desert), daughter of **Tamara Kerner Miller** and **Mickey Horowitz**, to **Loren Weinberg** in Las Vegas. ... Share your simchas with us. Email Miriam Bent at mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call 760-323-0255.



Classifieds

DC FLORAL DESIGN. I am Dina, a Florist Designer. Whether you are planning a formal wedding, Bar or Bat Mitzvah or any other occasion, I am here for you. I specialize in creating wedding arches or any centerpiece for any occasion. Contact me to see how we can achieve memories of a lifetime for your special day! 760-898-5460; Dinacohen415@gmail.com.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE SUPPORTERS welcomed. JFS has rewarding **volunteer opportunities** in its community programs and is now accepting applications for several positions. **Tribute cards** provide a unique way to celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one, all while supporting JFS programs. If you're interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities or supporting JFS through the purchase of tribute cards, please contact 760-325-4088 ext. 101.

DESERT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL



The Desert Holocaust Memorial is located in the Palm Desert Civic Center Park at San Pablo Avenue & Fred Waring Drive. Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit this moving memorial, a place of remembrance and monument of hope.

Community Schools

Aleph Schoolhouse

Director: Dina Pinson
73-550 Santa Rosa Way,
Palm Desert
Children 18 months through
Elementary School
Alephschoolhouse.org
347-721-8782

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

Swedish, deep tissue and foot reflexology modalities. Treat yourself or someone you love to a wonderful therapeutic massage. Jewish Massage Therapist with over 35 years experience, fourteen in the desert. Will come to your home or at my location. Call Leora at 760-778-0068.

20% DISCOUNT on Chanukah items at Temple Isaiah's Gift Shop. Unique, beautiful and fun-for-kids items from Israel, US, and European sources. Gift shop open Tuesdays and Thursdays

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Call 323-0255

from 2-4 PM or by appointment by calling 760-325-2281.

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Candle Lighting Times

Friday, January 6	Shabbat Vayechi	4:09 pm
Friday, January 13	Shabbat Shemot	4:15 pm
Friday, January 20	Shabbat Vayeira	4:22 pm
Friday, January 27	Shabbat Bo	4:29 pm



We Mourn the Passing of...

Brooks Arthur, Dr. Stuart Barton, Robert DeKlade, Melvin Eirew, Jerold Feldstein, Alyce Goldstein, Ilse Jamin, Estelle Katz, Seymour Kreshek, Dr. Ed Kroll, Leah Olin, Jerry Stone, Denise Turner and Philip Turner. Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.



Have memories of the history of our Jewish community to share?

Who knows the history of the Jewish community of the Palm Springs and the Desert? In order to plan for the future needs of the Jewish community I am interested in learning more about the History of the Jewish community. Let me know if you have memories or stories about the early days of the Jewish community, the synagogues, the Federation, and other Jewish organizations.

Alan Potash, CEO

alan.potash@jfedps.org - 760-324-4737)

JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT
69-710 Highway 111
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
(760) 324-4737

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COMMUNITY HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION DAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023
3:00 - 5:00 PM

UC Riverside Palm Desert Auditorium
75080 Frank Sinatra Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92211

*"The Holocaust is very much alive.
The wounds are still there.
The scars are still there.
The influence is still there."
Avner Shalev*

STORIES FROM THE VIOLINS OF HOPE

The Holocaust had silenced them... until an extraordinary violin-maker brought their voices back to life – and to the world.

The stringed survivors were brought back to life – and to the world – by a

family of violin restorers spanning three generations. This is the true story of luthier Amnon Weinstein who took what might have become an exhibit of ruined instruments, restored them, and put them into the hands of musicians all over the world so that a new generation can hear them. The survivors of the Holocaust will not be here forever, but these violins will continue to tell their stories for generations to come. Produced by The Braid in their signature style of Salon Theatre and performed by seven professional actors, with live music from the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony.

