Wednesday, December 7, 2016
Women’s Philanthropy Education Day

Sunday, December 18, 2016
Feast of Jewish Learning

Thursday, February 2, 2017
Major Gifts Dinner

Wednesday, February 15, 2017
Lion of Judah Luncheon

Thursday, March 23, 2017
Federation’s Classics to Broadway Concert

Thursday, March 30, 2017
Pearl Society Event

Contact the Jewish Federation, 760-324-4737, for questions and program details
ELI WEISEL 1928-2016

We mourn the death of a true hero, Eli Wiesel. His life work was devoted to ending religious intolerance and improving humanity. He worked tirelessly to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust and religious hatred would not be lost on future generations. He survived one of the most horrific events in human history and then went on to become a writer, activist and standard-bearer for the meaning of humanity.

There is no better way to honor Eli Wiesel’s memory than to continue his fight to ensure that everyone - regardless of race, religion, and sexual orientation - can live their life free from discrimination and hatred.

We will never forget his intellect, his passion, and his impact. May his memory be for a blessing.

THE BOYCOTT MOVEMENT AGAINST ISRAEL

- What is it?
- How does it impact college campuses, churches, unions and beyond?
- Is the Boycott movement hurting Israel?
- Why should you care?

The Jewish Federation of the Desert
in partnership with StandWithUs
invites you to a panel discussion on

BDS (BOYCOTT • DIVESTMENT • SANCTIONS)
Wednesday, September 28, 2016 - 4:00 PM
at the Jewish Federation, 69-710 Hwy. 111, Rancho Mirage

Featured speakers will include:
Roz Rothstein, CEO and co-founder of StandWithUs
Gary Ratner, Senior Executive of StandWithUs
Ron Krudo, Executive Director of the StandWithUs Campus Department
Liz Brough, Southern California High School Coordinator

Space limited. We urge you to RSVP early. Email or call Rebecca Hope at rebecca.hope@jfedps.org or 760-324-4737.
Do not miss this informative evening with the experts from StandWithUs.
Our Leadership Role in the Community

From the CEO

Terrorism rears its ugly head everywhere – Orlando, Paris, Tel Aviv….where next? I’m not sure there is any great wisdom out there on how to stop terror; Winston Churchill’s quote comes to mind: “A fanatic is one who can’t change his mind and won’t change the subject.” But there are things that can be done to endure and even thrive in the face of terror. Israel, a vibrant and democratic society – with and despite all its challenges – is one example. There are lessons there for how we in Western society can take security seriously and still be able to live a fun and festive life. That’s one reason why the Federation’s expanded efforts in security preparedness in our community are so important. Getting recognition of the need to be mindful of security at all times is unfortunately becoming a little easier with each tragic incident, but it is still an uphill struggle as folks don’t want to think of danger or the need to live their lives within constraints. We have more of a role to play in educating the broader community about why and how, using Israel as a positive example.

Our Federation has been proactive in sending out statements when a matter affects the lives of many within our community, Jewish and broader, and goes beyond what might happen in the natural course of events – such as terrorism. We know what it is like to be a victim and so we should stand with other victims, sharing our values and letting them know we care.

In the words of the sage Hillel: “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?”

May we be strong in our community, support others who are also in need, and take a stand now against hate and extremism everywhere.

All good things….. With lots more to do. Thanks for being partners with us.
Jewish Community Relations Committee Update

Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) is the public arm of the Jewish Federation of the Desert. The JCRC works as an advocate for Israel and brings speakers on Israel and issues of importance to the Jewish Community. It also participates in programs and coalitions to enhance good relations among different religious and culture groups. JCRC also provides/funds and an Annual Holocaust observance for Holocaust education to the community.

JCRC advances the general welfare of the community by:
- Providing positive relations with other cultural, religious and ethnic groups
- Participating in community coalitions
- Monitoring activities of extremist and hate groups
- Fighting all forms of prejudice and discrimination
- Creating educational programs

JCRC supports Israel by:
- Providing educational opportunities for the public through speakers, briefings and publications.
- Educating elected officials about Israel
- Combating anti-Israel propaganda in the media and in the general community.

JCRC offers outreach programs to enrich education by:
- Providing educational opportunities for school administrators and teachers to heighten sensitivity on issues of religion in the public schools.
- Assisting Jewish students at UCR (University California Riverside) through UCR-Hillel with campus issues.

Program/Event Initiatives
- Schedule several briefings with relevant speakers
- Convene panels, educational opportunities, and discussions on issues of relevance to Israel or the Jewish community.
- Expand relationship with ancillary Jewish organizations’ regional offices (ADL, StandWithUs) in order to develop community wide programs.
- Through Federation partnerships, bring films of interest to the community.
- Coordinate annual Yom Hashoah observance held at Annenberg auditorium on Eisenhower campus.
- Participate in programs to enhance good relations among different religious and cultural groups.

Pacific Premier Bank presents Jewish Federation a $2500 check for the 2016 Annual Campaign.

Pictured (left to right): Jim Trew, Jewish Federation Chief Financial Officer; Eileen Eske, Premier Bank First Vice President and Senior Business Banking Officer; Bruce Landgarten, Jewish Federation Chief Executive Officer; Kathi Hallock, Pacific Premier Vice President and Palm Desert Branch Manager; and Brian Johnston, Pacific Premier Senior Vice President and Director of Commercial Banking
UK's New PM, Theresa May, Firm Supporter of Israel

By Times of Israel Staff

Britain's new prime minister, like her trailblazing female predecessor Margaret Thatcher, is a firm supporter of Israel, and of Britain's Jewish community.

May visited Israel for the first time in June 2014 — three months after Cameron had delivered an exceptionally supportive speech in the Knesset. Hers was a relatively low-profile trip, focused on her areas of responsibility as home secretary — policing, human trafficking, cybersecurity — although she also visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and placed a wreath in memory of those killed in “the most terrible crime of history.” She later said of the visit that she was “delighted to see first-hand the flourishing partnership between the UK and Israel.” She also later lamented the murder of three Israeli teenagers at the time of her visit, and hailed the brave Israeli soldiers who have paid “the ultimate price” to defend Israel in wartime and against terrorism.

In the aftermath of last year’s Paris Hyper Cacher and Charlie Hebdo terrorist attacks, May was photographed holding a “Je Suis Juif” placard, and she has spoken since of the importance of Anglo Jewry to Britain. Addressing the Bnei Akiva youth movement’s Israel Independence Day event this year, for instance, May bewailed the “tragic fact of history that the Jewish people have had to protect themselves against repeated attempts to obliterate them.” She said she was “appalled” by the reported rise of anti-Semitism in Europe, including in the UK — “no one should live in fear because of their beliefs,” she said. She acknowledged that “many Jewish people in this country are feeling vulnerable and fearful... I never thought I would see the day when members of the Jewish community in the United Kingdom would say that they were fearful of remaining here in our country,” she said. “We cherish the enormous contribution you make... Without its Jews, Britain would not be Britain.”
Jewish Federation Selected NPD 2016 Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation

The Jewish Federation of the Desert has been selected the 2016 Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, California Desert Communities Chapter, and will be recognized at the 10th annual National Philanthropy Day in the Desert Awards Luncheon on November 9 at the Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa in Rancho Mirage.

Harold Matzner, Honorary Chair of National Philanthropy Day in the Desert, announced the selection of the Jewish Federation, along with the honorees in five additional categories: Sarah G. Clapp, Outstanding Fundraising Professional; Sandra Cooper Woodson, Outstanding Fundraising Volunteer; Christy Porter of Hidden Harvest, Outstanding Nonprofit Founder; Harry S. and Diane Rinker, Outstanding Philanthropists; and Bighorn Golf Club Charities, Outstanding Philanthropic Corporation.

The luncheon is $75 per person. Early registration is suggested, as it has sold out in past years. Call AFP at 760-449-1971 to register.

Jihadis Call on ‘Lone Wolf’ Terrorists to Attack Israeli Athletes at Rio Olympics

Brazil arrests group plotting ‘acts of terrorism’ before Olympics

The Jerusalem Post

Al-Qaida-influenced terrorists have issued directives to “lone wolf” attackers to carry out attacks against the Israeli Olympic delegation at the upcoming Rio Olympics. The jihadis reportedly published a list of athletes to be targeted on social media, including the US, French and British delegations in addition to the Israelis.

“One small knife attack against Americans/Israelis in these places will have bigger media effect than any other attacks anywhere else in sha Allah,” the social media call read. “Your chance to take part in the global Jihad is here! Your chance to be a martyr is here!” the jihadis said, citing the easy process of obtaining visas for travel to Brazil as well as the wide availability of guns in “crime-ridden slums.”

The post specifically mentioned the Israelis: “From amongst the worst enemies, the most famous enemies for general Muslims is to attack Israelis. As general Muslims all agree to it and it causes more popularity for the Mujahideen amongst the Muslims.”

The post also called to kidnap Israelis to serve as bargaining chips to free Muslim prisoners.

Meanwhile, Brazil’s federal police arrested 10 people on Thursday on suspicion of belonging to a group backing ISIS and preparing acts of terrorism during next month’s Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Justice Minister Alexandre Moraes said. It was unclear where the operation was taking place or what the specifics of the operation were. Moraes was due to hold a news conference on the operation.

The presidency said that interim President Michel Temer had called an emergency cabinet meeting. The justice ministry said in a statement that the operation spanned nine states in Brazil.

A court in the southern state of Parana said there were indications that the group was planning to use weapons and guerrilla tactics to achieve its aim.

Brazil’s intelligence agency said on Tuesday it was investigating all threats to the Rio Olympics, which start on Aug. 5, after a presumed Brazilian Islamist group pledged allegiance to ISIS. The SITE Intelligence Group that monitors the internet reported the previously unknown group calling itself “Ansar al-Khilafah Brazil” said on the Telegram messaging app on Sunday that it followed ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and had promoted ISIS propaganda in Arabic, English and Portuguese.

Brazilian authorities stepped up security measures following the truck massacre in Nice, France last week, planning security cordons, additional roadblocks and the frisking of visitors in Rio de Janeiro for the Olympics.
Illnesses often affect more than just the body. But unlike physical symptoms, emotional and psychological trauma resulting from chronic illnesses often go undiagnosed. Organizations like Israeli nonprofit Haverut (meaning friendship in Hebrew) are stepping up to bring much-needed emotional and spiritual relief to people who are hospitalized for long periods of time.

Rachel Ettun launched Haverut in memory of her daughter Ruth, who passed away from Cystic Fibrosis at the age of 11. Rachel, a family therapist who specializes in work with families coping with chronic illness, loss and bereavement, developed Haverut’s approach of using art and music to help patients. “We want to use the power of music and art as a bridge to cope with crises in life. Our vision is about connection between the spirit and medicine.”

One of the first steps the organization has taken to achieve its goal is introducing healing through music. Guitarist Navot Ben Barak and flutist Avshalom Eshel have been performing twice a week in three different departments of the Hadassah Medical Center in Israel.

“When you come to the same place again and again, you get to meet the long-term patients and this can amount to something very rich,” says Ben Barak. “We were looking for a deep connection with the patients, not just saying hello and singing a song.”

Far from standard procedure, the musicians try to adjust themselves to the needs of each patient. “The musicians pick their songs through the concept of attunement,” Ettun says. “We work through a sensitive art of feeling what’s happening with each patient. It’s more like musical chaplaincy, meeting the patient and his spiritual needs and through that, communicating through music,” explains Ben Barak.

Unlike many similar initiatives, Haverut works not only with the patient, but also with the patient’s environment. The musicians take extra care to involve the staff as much as the patients, preparing them for their visit and making sure they know it is done sensitively. “One of our goals is for every medical center to have a community around it volunteering and approaching it in different ways. We would like to create a system where arts, music and spiritual care are an important part of it,” says Ettun.

“I would like to turn what we do into a profession,” says Ben Barak. “Perhaps open a program for this position so that, like medical clowns (a popular medical program for hospital clowns in Israel), this could emerge from something very small into an activity you can find in almost every hospital in the Western world, because it is a necessity.”

Although the task requires extreme sensitivity, the musicians do not have any formal training in musical therapy. While Navot Ben Barak is entirely self-taught, Avshalom Eshel received his training in animation at the Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem and is also involved in puppetry. Both Ben Barak and Eshel are part of the artistic Ein Karem community near Jerusalem, whose other members are also now starting to volunteer at the Hadassah Medical Center with Haverut.
Mixed Blessings

The increase in marriages between Ashkenazi Jews and Mizrahi Jews in Israel has an upside and a downside.

Yes, it’s a sign that after 68 years of independence, the cultural melting pot is working. However, as Israeli Jews homogenize, ‘interethnic marriage’ is not only creating more mocha-tinted children who are less susceptible to skin cancer than children of purely Ashkenazi stock, today’s mixed gene pools are creating a growing problem for people with leukemia, lymphoma and so forth, is getting harder and harder as gene pools get mixed up.

In 1957-1961 only 14 percent of the couples were a marriage of mixed Ashkenazi and Sephardi ethnicity, today’s registry includes not more than 28 percent. The number of patients who cannot find an exact bone marrow match has risen to 28 percent. Among older Israelis, doctors are able to find an exact bone marrow match in 85 percent of the cases (found among historically insular Jewish ethnic groupings) while among Israeli children an exact match is found only in 65 percent of the cases… and dropping.

Unlike virtually all other countries in the world, Israel has a significant bone marrow donor registry. Currently, Israel’s Jewish Bone Marrow Donor Registry has 796,420 samples, of which 371,142 of the potential donors are IDF recruits who routinely volunteer to register in the course of their induction process. Interestingly, Israel – where only 1.2 million of the 400 million Arabs in the world reside – houses the only Arab Bone Marrow Donor Registry in the world. (Israel HaYom).

In Face of Water Crisis, Indian Minister Praises Israeli Technologies: “Israel Is My Guru”

By Einat Paz-Frankel, NoCamels

In recent years, Israel has established itself as a powerhouse in the fields of water desalination and purification, as well as drip irrigation for agriculture. Several cutting-edge Israeli technologies were presented at ‘India Water Week’ in New Delhi, which was inaugurated by Israel’s minister of agriculture Uri Ariel.

During the event, India’s water, agriculture and finance ministers expressed their interest in tightening the relations between the two nations. “India’s water issues need our urgent attention, and Israel has a proven track record in agriculture and water technologies. Israel is definitely my guru,” India’s water minister Uma Bharti said at the inauguration event.

Arun Jaitley, India’s finance minister said that India is facing major challenges in the field of water supply, and that’s why “we are strengthening our cooperation with Israel, our role model.”

According to Uri Ariel, “water is essential to humankind, and it’s urgent that we conserve our limited water resources and efficiently use them. Thanks to the challenges our small country is facing, and our spirit of innovation, we are able to excel in technologies such as water purification and preservation, drip irrigation, and water recycling. Our collaboration with India is important for both nations.”

One-fifth of the world’s population lives in areas where water is scarce.

Water shortage is a pressing issue worldwide: According to the UN, 1.2 billion people (almost one-fifth of the world’s population) live in areas where water is scarce, and another 500 million people are nearing this situation. The World Bank estimates that 21 percent of infectious diseases in India are related to unsafe water. In India, diarrhea alone causes 1,600 deaths daily — equivalent to eight jumbo jets crashing each day.

This year’s India Water Week was held in collaboration with the Israeli government, including the country’s agriculture, foreign and economy ministries. During the week, Israeli companies in the fields of water supply and agricultural irrigation showcased 20 different technologies at the Israeli pavilion. The delegation also included Israeli drip irrigation giant Netafim, and Israeli desalination leader IDE Technologies.

This was the fourth year India hosted India Water Week, but this is the first year that Israel was its partner. Israeli ambassador to India Daniel Carmon praised the partnership: “Israel is a development laboratory and we’ll make every effort to justify the trust that the Indian government and people have entrusted upon Israel, its capabilities and experience.”
Jews Arrested in Yemen Released from Custody
By Ari Soffer, Arutz Sheva

Members of the Jewish community of Yemen who were arrested earlier this year over the spiriting of a Torah scroll to Israel along with the recent aliya of Yemenite Jews have all been released from custody.

The news was reported to Deputy Minister for Regional Cooperation Ayoub Kara (Likud) by Yemenite olim who were part of what was billed as the "final" wave of aliyah from the impoverished, war-torn Middle Eastern state last March.

A tiny handful of Jews - numbering around 50 - opted to remain in Yemen for a variety of personal and commercial reasons, but a number of them, along with several Arabs suspected of helping smuggle the Torah scroll out of the country, were arrested in the weeks that followed. The Yemenite government has claimed that the scroll is part of Yemen's heritage, as opposed to belonging to the Jewish community, and accused them of stealing it.

All those arrested have now been released, Kara said. During his address, Kara - a Druze Arab who maintains extensive links to Arab communities outside of Israel - also confirmed that a Jewish Israeli citizen is currently being held prisoner in the Yemenite city of Amran. He said Israel is making every effort to secure his release. It is not clear whether that prisoner is the 64-year-old Ashkelon resident who disappeared during a trip to Yemen last year.

Israel Group: Families Sue Facebook Over Palestinian Attacks
By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israeli and American families of victims of Palestinian attacks filed a $1 billion lawsuit against Facebook, claiming the social network is providing a platform for militants to spread incitement and violence, their lawyers said Monday.

Shurat Hadin, an Israeli legal advocacy group, filed the suit on behalf of the five families in New York federal court late Sunday, alleging that Facebook is violating U.S. anti-terrorism laws by providing a service to militant groups that assists them in "recruiting, radicalizing, and instructing terrorists, raising funds, creating fear and carrying out attacks."

The lawsuits focus on the Islamic militant group Hamas, which runs the Gaza Strip and which has fought three wars against Israel since the Palestinian group overran the coastal territory in 2007. Hamas, an armed group sworn to Israel's destruction, has been designated a terrorist organization by the United States.

The five families in the lawsuit lost relatives in attacks over the last two years. Four were dual Israeli-American citizens while one victim was an American tourist.

"Facebook can't sit in its stone tower in Palo Alto while blood is being spilled here on the streets of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. It has a social responsibility. It can't serve as a social network for Hamas," said Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, the Israeli lawyer who is representing the families.

The suit comes amid a 10-month outburst of Israeli-Palestinian violence that has seen scores of Palestinian attacks targeting Israeli civilians and troops.

Facebook had no immediate comment on the lawsuit, saying it had not yet received a copy. But in a statement, it said people need to "feel safe" when using Facebook.

“There is no place for content encouraging violence, direct threats, terrorism or hate speech on Facebook,” it said.
The Jewish Federation of the Desert, in partnership with StandWithUs, brought Hussein Aboubakr Mansour to our community on June 6, where he addressed a crowd of over 200 at the UC Riverside-Palm Desert campus auditorium.

Hussein was born in 1989 to an Arab Muslim family in Cairo, Egypt. As a youth he was intrigued by Jewish history and the State of Israel, so chose to study Jewish and Middle Eastern history and Hebrew literature at the Faculty of Arts and Oriental Studies Department at Cairo University. Wanting more answers, he also conducted research at the Israeli Academic Center in Cairo, which brought him to the attention of Egyptian authorities.

His studies and his advocacy for tolerance and peace and countering anti-Semitism resulted in persecution, arrests and imprisonment by the Egyptian state police. When he had an opportunity to leave Egypt, albeit on the pretext of going on a holiday to Las Vegas, he fled and sought political asylum in the United States.

He currently serves as an assistant professor of Hebrew Language at the Military Academy in Monterey, California and, through StandWithUs, speaks to Jewish communities and on college campuses throughout the United States.

Over 200 Attend Hussein Aboubakr Mansour Lecture

Israeli’s Prostate Cancer Test Reduces Need for Biopsies

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in American men after skin cancer, with almost 190,000 new cases in the US expected for 2016 and about 26,000 deaths, according to the American Cancer Society. It is also the second leading cause of cancer death in American men, behind only lung cancer.

Prostate cancer can often be detected before symptoms arise by testing the amount of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) — a substance made by cells in the prostate gland — in the blood. A high level of PSA could be indicative of cancer and if a blood test finds this, the patient will most often be sent for a biopsy.

But here lies the problem. Because PSA is secreted both by normal cells and cancer cells, its levels could be high for other reasons and not necessarily cancer: age, an inflammation of the prostate gland, or even a bicycle ride. But most often when doctors receive a high reading, they send their patients to do a biopsy, just to be on the safe side.

“There are roughly 1.5 million primary biopsies done in the US a year,” says Israel-born Arnon Chait, the CEO of Cleveland Diagnostics, based in Cleveland, Ohio. “On average 70 percent come back negative.” That is good news for the patient, but at a cost of about $4,000 per biopsy, health providers save billions of dollars and patients won’t have to undergo unnecessary procedures.”

Potentially, said Chait, the new IsoPSA test, expected to enter the market in the last quarter of the year, could replace the current PSA test in the screening process in health centers. This same technology could also be used in other applications, to detect breast cancer and ovarian cancer, Chait said, as well as for early diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease.
August Shabbat Information

Check the websites or call the synagogues for the full schedule of their services.

BETH SHALOM (Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)
Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader
79-733 Country Club Drive, Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203
congregationbethshalom.net
760-200-3636
8 pm Friday/9:30 am Saturday Shabbat Services. Sit down Kiddush after Shabbat morning services.
Weekday minyan on hiatus for the summer months.

CENTRO CULTURAL HEBREO DE MEXICALI (Conservative)
Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico
Contact: Ron Cohen
www.judiosdemexicali.com
760-960-3392 US
(686) 216-7152 Mexico

CHABAD OF PALM DESERT
A project of Chabad of Palm Springs & Desert Communities
Rabbi Mendy Friedman
www.chabadpd.com 760-969-2153 / 760-969-2158

CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE
A project of Chabad of Palm Springs & Desert Communities
Rabbi Shimon Posner
72295 Via Marta, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
www.chabadm.com
760-770-7785
Shabbat services Friday: check website for service times. Saturday 10 am; children’s program/service 11:15 am. Daily morning and evening minyan. M-F 7:00 am; Sundays 8:00 am/check website for mincha/maariv times.

CONGREGATION HAR-EL
(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)
Rabbi Richard Zionts
harelurj@aolgmail.com
760-779-1691
For information contact Har-El by email or phone.

CONGREGATION SHALOM BAYIT (Reform)
Rabbi Kenneth Milhander
1320 W. Williams Ave., Banning, CA 92220.
Contact 951-769-3678/769-7514
Shabbat Service 3rd Friday/Havdallah 1st Saturday evening.

DESSERT HOT SPRINGS
Monthly services on hiatus until High Holidays.
Call Jewish Federation, 760-324-4737 for schedule.

TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild
Friday, August 12 & September 9 – 6 pm Friday night services followed by potluck dinner. Saturday, August 13 and September 10 – 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Study with bagels and coffee. At St. Hugh Church, 25525 Tahquitz, Idyllwild.

TEMPLE ISAIAH
Rabbi David J. Lazar.
Shabbat evening: First Friday 6:30 pm; rest of month 7:30 pm. Shabbat morning services 10:00 am.

TEMPLE SINAI (Reform)
Rabbi Andrew Bentley
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260.
www.templesinaipd.org
760-568-9699.
Friday evening services held at 5:30 pm in August. 7:30 pm services resume September 2nd/Saturdays: 8:45 am Torah study; 10 am Shabbat services.

BIKUR CHOLIM
A project of Chabad of Palm Springs & Desert Communities
(Community Outreach)
Rabbi Yankel Kreiman
www.BikurCholimPS.com
760-325-8076

The Jewish Federation of the Desert is now a registered nonprofit with Amazon Smile!

It couldn’t be easier to register:
1. Go to smile.amazon.com
2. Register Jewish Federation of the Desert as your favorite charity
3. Shop!
4. Bookmark the smile.amazon.com page and don’t forget to only shop through this link! We earn .5% of each purchase.
Purchases made through regular amazon.com will NOT lead to charitable contributions.
Just when you thought you could finally get your head around the complex relationship between religion and state in Israel, here’s another anomaly: A bill introduced in the Knesset will finally allow secular Jews to refuse to work on the Sabbath – not just religious Jews.

Fifty-six members of Knesset – religious and secular, Left and Right - voted in favor of the bill with only two against. As the bill’s sponsor MK Aliza Lavi (Lapid - Yesh Atid) declared: “The place of the Shabbat in Israeli perceptions is broader than religion.” In fact, even arch-secularists don’t want to give up the special ambiance of Friday afternoon and Saturday mornings in Israel – even in Tel Aviv, as shops close, most cafes empty out and traffic thins.

Until now, only religiously-observant Jews had protection under the Work and Rest Hours Law (1951). It only recognized “religious reasons” as grounds for refusing to work on the Sabbath – not just religious Jews.

Employers had the right to demand Jewish employees sign a declaration that they kept kosher and didn’t ride on the Sabbath to be exempted, forcing non-observant Jewish sales clerks either to lie through their teeth or to grit their teeth and work on the Sabbath against their will… albeit, at a minimum of time-and-a-half on Saturday, which is also mandated under Israeli law.

The Law seeks to deal with certain shopping complexes in industrial areas and on the outskirts of the cities that open on Saturdays – such as the 200 store Bilu complex outside Rechovot, where municipalities turn a blind eye and stores shrug-off minor fines for engaging in ‘illegal commerce’ on the Sabbath as part of their operating costs.
**Tribute Card Donations**

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

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**Honorarium Tributes - In Appreciation For:**

- **Mr. and Mrs. Miles Berger**, Thank you from Nancy and Dennis Ditlove.
- **Jim and Sheri Borax**, Wishing you joy in your new home, from Marty and Judy Cohn, Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Robert Borns**, Thank you from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis, Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Tom Davidson**, In honor of your special birthday, from Cora and Ted Ginsberg, and Loreen Jacobson.
- **Jane Effress and Harvey Lambert**, Thank you from Sanford and Rosemary Hertz.
- **Henry Freund**, Happy birthday from Cora and Ted Ginsberg, Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.
- **Jeannette and Ray Galante**, In honor of your 60th wedding anniversary, from Susie and Bob Diamond.
- **Bobby Garmisa**, Happy birthday from Cora and Ted Ginsberg.
- **Morris Glesby**, Happy 95th birthday, from Cora and Ted Ginsberg, Cass and Adrian Graff-Radford, Linda Rauch Susman, Bebe and Guy Rosen.
- **Alan Goldstein and Mary Levine**, Mazel tov for Ben Goldstein and Rosie Vayner receiving their MBAs, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Margot and Jerry Halperin**, Thank you from Sanford and Rosemary Hertz.
- **Libby Hoffman**, In honor of Mother’s Day from Ann Hoffman and Brian Heltsley.
- **Bobbi Holland**, Happy birthday from Barbara Platt.
- **Bob Holleb**, Happy 90th birthday from Arlene and Irwin Volk.
- **Ernest Karman**, Happy 90th birthday, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- **Carol Katzman**, Thank you from Sanford and Rosemary Hertz.
- **Sally Kirshner**, Thank you from Sanford and Rosemary Hertz.
- **Donation from Elaine Kravitz** with thanks to all her friends.
- **Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman**, Mazel tov on your family wedding, from Barbara Platt.
- **Dr. James and Ellen Labes**, Congratulations on your 60th anniversary, from Barbara and Bernie Fromm (Fromm Fund).
- **Arlene Lazar**, In honor of your special birthday, from Nancy and Dennis Ditlove.
- **Joni Maltzman**, In your honor, from Phyllis and Marvin Eisenberg.
- **Dr. and Mrs. Eli Meltzer**, Congratulations on your 40th anniversary, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- **Marnie Miller and Joe Noren**, Thank you and happy birthday Joe, from Susanne and Jeff Feder.
- **Joe Noren**, Happy 85th birthday from Herbert and Bobbi Borovsky, Harold and Mimi Paley, Chickie and Claude Steinberger.
- **Mrs. Pat Rand**, Happy 80th birthday, from Myra and Hilly Spira.
- **Peter Samuels**, In honor of your special birthday, from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Sandy Schwartz and Ben Rinkey**, Thank you from Sanford and Rosemary Hertz.
- **Trudy and Eddie Schwartz**, Thank you from Sanford and Rosemary Hertz.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Shepard**, Thank you from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.

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**Memoriam Tributes - Condolences Sent To:**

- **Mrs. Morris Beschloss**, In memory of your beloved sister Ilene, from Marnie Miller.
- **Gloria Chodak**, In memory of your beloved husband Max, from Herbert and Bobbi Borovsky, Barbara Fuller, Sondi and Bruce Green, Vern Koizlen, and Barbara Platt.
- **Judith and Elliott Cohen**, In memory of your beloved great-granddaughter Ember, from Audrey and Joe Bernstein, Sheri and Jim Borax, Susie and Joel Cohen, Nancy and Dennis Ditlove, Phil and Ellen Glass, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Frances Horwich, Carol Luber, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Mimi and Harold Paley, Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis, Iris and Jerry Pollan, Paul and Stephanie Ross, Gail and Bob Scadron, Phyllis and Gary Schahet, Debra and Mickey Star.

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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.
A dramatic increase in anti-Semitic incidents was reported by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in its Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents for 2015. The ADL Audit, released on July 1, 2016, documented a significant rise in anti-Semitic incidents, doubling from the 2014 report. The increase came in various forms, including harassment, vandalism, and assault, with a particular focus on college campuses.

According to the ADL Audit, there were 1,846 anti-Semitic incidents reported in 2015, a 101 percent increase from 912 incidents in 2014. The Audit identified college campuses as a focal point for this increase, with nearly double the number of incidents reported in 2015 compared to 2014.

In California, the second highest state in terms of incidents, 363 anti-Semitic incidents were reported in 2015, down from 513 in 2014. The ADL Audit noted that the rise in incidents is not surprising, given the increasing prevalence of hate speech and its impact on society.

The Audit identified a number of trends, including a significant increase in online anti-Semitic incidents, particularly on social media and other digital platforms. This trend is concerning, as it suggests that hate speech is becoming more prevalent and accessible.

The ADL urges anyone who experiences anti-Semitic incidents to report them to law enforcement and the ADL. The ADL also provides resources and support for victims and communities affected by anti-Semitism.

The Audit highlights the need for continued vigilance and action to combat anti-Semitism and its various forms. The ADL is working to enhance its programs to counter and prevent the spread of anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry.

Anti-Semetic Incidents on American College Campuses Nearly Doubled; Assaults Up More than 50%
New High-Tech Weapon in the War on Cervical Cancer

By Abigail Klein Leichman  
Israel 21c

Biop Medical's device, due out in 2017, optically scans the cervix for early signs of cancer, analyzes the images and indicates where to perform a biopsy.

In the 1940s, George Papanicolaou's Pap smear was introduced and became the standard cancer screening test for cervical cancer, then the number one killer of women and today the fourth most common cancer in women worldwide.

Incredibly, Pap remains the standard despite severe drawbacks. The smear must be sent to a lab for analysis (which takes several days), has a high rate of inaccurate results, and samples only the outer surface of the cervix although cancer begins in the inner layers.

Furthermore, the Pap test isn't readily available in developing parts of the world such as India, Africa and China, where cervical cancer is still the leading cause of death among women.

The Israeli company Biop Medical is designing and testing a better alternative: a state-of-the-art colposcope, the instrument used to check women for gynecological disease. Colposcopy is usually performed after a positive Pap smear, and if it detects suspicious cells the woman must schedule a biopsy.

Biop's device does everything in one visit. It optically scans the inner layers of the cervix for early signs of cancer, analyzes the images instantaneously and indicates where to perform a biopsy if necessary. That takes away the anxiety of waiting for results or for a colposcopy and biopsy appointment, during which time cancer could spread.

"Our device extracts optical features from the cervix and sends them to the cloud in real time to analyze them, all at the point of care," says Biop Medical founder and CEO Ilan Landesman. "Biop tries to find the disease at very early stages and this has a real value because it can give enough time to treat it successfully."

The product is undergoing clinical trials in Israel and Hungary into next year. The company expects to apply for CE (Europe) and FDA (US) approval in 2017.

Cervical Cancer Strikes Young Women

When Landesman and his wife lost a close friend to cervical cancer, they learned the tragic ripple effects of the disease. "Cervical cancer strikes mainly women between the ages of 18 and 35, so it can devastate young families," Biop Medical head of operations Tal Bar Tur tells ISRAEL21c. Founded in 2013, Biop Medical was in the first cohort of IBM's AlphaZone accelerator program in Israel, and was presented at the Cleveland Clinic's Medical Innovation Summit at the end of 2014.

"We have tremendous help and cooperation with IBM," said Landesman. "Using IBM Cloud and Analytics tools, we were able to develop a big-data point-of-care solution that sends information as it scans."

The device scans the cervix in about 100 segments, using more than 20 optical features on each segment to achieve high specificity. "We integrate those segments into a map to show the practitioner the suspicious area," he explains. "Our optics are able to observe what is happening at a cellular level throughout the full depth of the cervix."

Changes observed in the cervical cells during clinical trials will help improve the device's predictive abilities. "Our aim is 90 percent accuracy," says Bar Tur.

Dr. Rami Eitan, chief of gynecologic oncology Rabin Medical Center in Petah Tikva, headed a clinical trial of Biop's device last year; the results were published in the Journal of Obstetric and Gynecological Investigation on March 10. Eitan now is enrolling 50 patients for a second trial.

"We have a problem with technical evaluation of the cervix even by colposcopy," Eitan tells ISRAEL21c. "We sometimes don't see very small lesions, or misinterpret non-lesions. The optical means Biop Medical has chosen probably is one of the best ways to advance our diagnostic ability."

The Biop device was designed by a multidisciplinary team from the areas of physics, optics, biology and software. Headquartered in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan, the company recently raised $2.25 million in a Series A investment round led by Shanghai Creative Investments of China.

"We have a team of 12 extraordinary people," Landesman says, "and an advisory board of top gynecologists in the United States and Israel. We're fortunate to have Sidney Braginsky, former CEO of Olympus America, as our president."

The mobile device also could be used in remote areas and requires only a short training to be used by any healthcare provider, says Bar Tur.

Biop is positioned as a high-end manufacturer of colposcopes, says Landesman. Its optical technology could be adapted for identifying other types of epithelial cancer, such as oral, esophageal, rectal and bladder.

Holocaust Survivor Goldie Jacoby Honored in Sacramento

Desert resident Goldie Jacoby was honored by the California Legislature at their May 16, 2016 "California Holocaust Memorial Day" observance at the State capitol, pictured here with Assemblyman Chad Mayes and State Senator Jeff Stone. For many years Goldie has been actively involved in the Tolerance Education Center's program which brings students from our desert area schools to the Center to learn about the Holocaust. The testimony of survivors as Goldie has profoundly impacted these students, giving them an understanding of the enormity and depravity of the Holocaust in a way they could never appreciate from what too often is a cursory reference in their history books.
Holocaust Survivors to Receive Increased Aid from Germany

After long negotiations with German government, Claims Conference secures large increase in aid to elderly Holocaust survivors.

Arutz Sheva Staff

On July 6th Julius Berman, President of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (generally known as the Claims Conference), announced that the organization has negotiated an agreement with the government of Germany securing substantial increases in funding for homecare for poor Holocaust survivors worldwide in need of care. The agreement, subject to approval by the German Parliament, provides for approximately $500 million in additional funding over previous levels for the coming two years, including an increase of $111 million for 2017 and a total of nearly $388 million for 2018.

“We commend the government of Germany for recognizing its continuing obligation to victims of the Holocaust, more than 70 years after liberation,” said Claims Conference Special Negotiator Amb. Stuart Eizenstat. “We have worked exhaustively to arrive at this agreement with the German government. Holocaust survivors, now in their final years, should know of our total commitment to trying to ensure they live in dignity, with the help they need.”

Over eight months of ongoing discussions, the Claims Conference has negotiated with the German government to address the significant and increasing need for homecare among Holocaust survivors around the world. The need is expected to rise in the future, as all the survivors who remain alive are increasingly elderly, with many growing more frail and vulnerable.

“We have been fighting for the rights of survivors for 65 years and this new agreement will have a huge impact on the most vulnerable, poor and disabled among Holocaust survivors,” said Claims Conference President Julius Berman.

In December 2015, a high-level, fast-track joint working group was established, consisting of representatives from the Claims Conference and the German Ministry of Finance, in order to establish an amendment to the existing homecare agreement. That working group has met continuously since its establishment.

“Elderly Holocaust survivors, who lived through the worst of humanity’s horrors, now need assistance to be able to live out their years in the comfort and security of their own homes. Thousands of survivors emerged from camps and ghettos and they deserve to live their final years in dignity. This agreement will ensure that they can,” said Greg Schneider, Claims Conference Executive Vice President.

Under the agreement, the German government will provide €281.75 million in 2016, €315 million in 2017, and €350 million in 2018. The previous agreement, struck in 2013, provided €210 million for 2016 and €215 million for 2017. There had not previously been an agreement for 2018 funding from Germany. Additionally, in late 2015, the Claims Conference secured €35 million more for 2016 to make up for potential funding shortfalls due to the decline in the Euro. Details of the agreement are to be finalized in the coming months.

Currently, the Claims Conference provides homecare to 67,000 elderly survivors and additional services, such as medical care, food and emergency financial assistance to a total of 121,000. The Claims Conference works with 240 organizations helping Holocaust victims in 46 countries. The new agreement will expand current Claims Conference aid to Holocaust victims worldwide.

These funds are used to assist elderly Holocaust victims with daily living needs such as bathing, dressing, cooking, taking medication, so that they may continue to live in their own homes.
A Year After Tragedy, Big, Colorful Jerusalem Pride Parade is a Celebration of Tolerance

It took the murder of a teenage Israeli girl last year to mobilize the masses in a demonstration of diversity and acceptance.

By David Horovitz, The Times of Israel

One afternoon a year ago, as we all too often do in this terror-blighted city, we heard the sounds of ambulances near our offices in central Jerusalem. Unusually, though, the sirens grew louder and closer. Whatever had happened, had happened very close by.

We knew the 14th annual Jerusalem gay pride parade was under way, and the route passed along Keren Hayesod — the main road at the end of our side street, Washington Street. But we didn't put two and two together. When we hear ambulances, we tend to worry about Palestinian bombers and stabbers and car-rammers. We don't expect the terrorist to be a hate-spouting "ultra-Orthodox" man who has plunged his knife mortally deep into the body of an Israeli teenager.

We had sent a young reporter-photographer to cover the parade; he came back to pen a story very different from the mundane one he had expected to be writing. He came back with photos of the blood that had been spilled right alongside him. The blood of Shira Banki, 16.

Eulogizing her four days later, Israel's President Reuven Rivlin said Banki "loved to enjoy life, she loved life, and she believed in life." She was, he went on, "also a girl of principles. She joined the parade in the name of the values in which she believed — tolerance, equality, hope, and love." Her parents, Uri and Mika, mourned the terrible loss previous years — it had plainly taken the heartbreaking killing of Shira Banki to bring home that the holy city's gay pride parade was a march with resonance and relevance and importance far beyond the community that organizes it. Believe in loving-kindness toward your fellow Jerusalemite, your fellow man, woman and child? Then this march is for you, too.

Failing to prevent Shira Banki’s murder — the killer had stabbed three people at the march in 2005, and had made it crystal clear he intended to repeat the feat when he was released from jail three weeks before last year's parade — had plainly taken the heartbreaking killing of Shira Banki to bring home that the holy city’s gay pride parade was a march with resonance and relevance and importance far beyond the community that organizes it. Believe in loving-kindness toward your fellow Jerusalemite, your fellow man, woman and child? Then this march is for you, too.

"It is better to teach good than to condemn evil." The crowds were solemn here, and reluctant to move on.

But much of the rest of the march was celebratory. Out on the streets were men holding hands with men, women with women, families, and plenty who walked alone. There were the young and the old, Orthodox and secular, dressed outrageously (shout-out to that man in the interesting pink furry outfit) and unremarkably. You couldn't tell what the sexual proclivities of all these happy people were at all.

Politicians were there, from most of the way across the spectrum, certainly Meretz to Likud. The municipality had festooned the route with rainbow flags — though not very large ones and not on the poles immediately adjacent to the Great Synagogue. The US Embassy had put up a rainbow ad outside its American Center.

A young male couple — Yohai and Yotam — celebrated a civil wedding in the park where the parade got under way. A group of Orthodox youngsters danced the entire length of the march. People carried all manner of pleading placards. They urged an "End to racism and intolerance." They urged Rabbi Yigal Levinstein, who brands homosexuals "deviants," to repent. One banner declared, "Standing Together Against Hate Crimes." Another, "Love Always Wins." There were Israeli flags, and rainbow flags, and rainbow flags with white Stars of David sewed at their center.

And one lady held a small, simple placard on which was written, "Thou Shalt Not Murder."
Cisco to pay $293 million for Israeli-founded CloudLock

By Abigail Klein Leichman, ISRAEL 21C

The California-based multinational networking technology leader Cisco has announced its intent to acquire CloudLock — founded in 2011 by three Israeli military veterans — for $293 million in the first quarter of fiscal year 2017.

CloudLock is a privately held cloud security company based in Massachusetts, with a development center in Tel Aviv. The 150-employee company specializes in cloud access security broker technology, which provides visibility and analytics around user behavior and sensitive data in cloud services.

CloudLock CEO Gil Zimmermann blogged: “From the day Ron [Zalkind], Tsahy [Shapsa] and I founded CloudLock we had a grand vision — build the cloud security platform that enables people and businesses to accelerate their goals, securely in the cloud. …

Microsoft Opens Third Research and Development Center in Israel

By Einat Paz-Frankel, NoCamels

Software giant Microsoft has inaugurated a research and development center in the Galilee city of Nazareth, Israel, its third in Israel. Located in the heart of Nazareth, the new center is joining those in Herzliya and Haifa, which employ more than 1,000 people.

Developers at the new Nazareth center — a few dozens in the initial phase — will work on major projects involving cyber-security, big data, business intelligence, cloud storage, and personalization.

Microsoft opened its first R&D center outside the US in 1991, in Israel. The company’s R&D centers in Israel are among the few strategic global development centers the company operates outside the US, and are home to some of the company’s most innovative technologies, including some components of IBM Watson, its flagship artificial intelligence technology.

Microsoft also operates a local startup accelerator-venture capital combo called Microsoft Ventures in Israel.

Our cloud cybersecurity and CASB platform has been adopted by more than 700 customers with tens of millions of users. …

We’ve been recognized as one of the 100 fastest growing privately held companies and as one of the fastest growing security companies in the US by Inc. Magazine.”

Rob Salvagno, vice president of Cisco Corporate Development, explained that as security increasingly moves off-premises to the cloud, “CloudLock brings a unique cloud-native, platform and API-based approach to cloud security which allows them to build powerful security solutions that are easy to deploy and simple to manage.”

Earlier this month Cisco signed a financial technology MoU with Israel’s Bank Hapoalim “designed to speed up the digital revolution in Israel,” according to Globes. This follows a $15 million Cisco investment in Israeli storage software startup Elastifile and the acquisition of Israel’s Leaba Semiconductor for $320 million in March.
Israel is Operating in the Sinai - With Egypt's Blessing
Former Egyptian and Israeli officials confirm claims by senior IDF official that Egypt, Israel closer than ever, working to crush ISIS.

By Nitsan Keidar, Arutz Sheva

Israel's military is operating in the Sinai Peninsula – and with Egypt's blessing, says a senior Egyptian official and former parliamentarian.

According to a report in Bloomberg, Mohamed Kamal, who previously served in the upper chamber of the Egyptian parliament, claims Israel and Egypt are cooperating in the war on terrorism, working together closely to defeat the ISIS terror organization in the Sinai.

"There is definitely a high level of cooperation that could be unprecedented, especially in the field of combating terrorism," Kamal told Bloomberg.

The report noted that Egyptian President A-Sisi has aggressively fought Islamic terrorists inside Egypt – including in the Sinai, where treaty limitations restrict Egyptian military deployments.

Kamal's comments appear to validate claims by IDF Deputy Chief of Staff Yair Golan, who suggested Israel and Egypt were closer than ever before, sharing intelligence information and effectively operating in tandem in the Sinai.

"The level of cooperation is something we've never experienced before. It's not about love, its not about common values. I wouldn't describe it as the relationship we have with the United States of America, but I think it's a good starting point."

A senior Israeli official speaking on condition of anonymity said Israel was operating armed airborne drones in the Sinai, with the full support of Egypt.

Beach Wheelchair Makes Sand and Water Available to All

By Viva Sarah Press, Israel 21c

There are 96 recognized beaches on the Mediterranean Sea coast, 27 sandy strips around the Kinneret, 16 beaches at the Dead Sea and four beaches at the Red Sea.

Banana Beach in Mikhmoret, a community just north of Netanya on the Mediterranean Sea, took the concept that the beach is for everyone one step further and added two beach wheelchairs to its coastal furniture collection.

"The decision to add these chairs to our beach is to truly make the beach accessible to everyone who wants to enjoy it," Yossi Doktori, manager of Banana Beach in Mikhmoret, tells ISRAEL21c.

According to Access Israel, more than 20 beaches across Israel are considered accessible to people with disabilities. However, being accessible and actually offering equipment to aid accessibility are not one and the same.

The Italian-made chairs sport big yellow wheels that can easily navigate the sand without getting stuck. Doktori says the chairs are for the elderly or disabled or whoever needs help moving over the sand.

"It is the most fulfilling and exciting feeling to see people use these special chairs and go into the water with ease," says Doktori. "You can see their happiness."
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Three Israeli Companies Sweep the Board at the Asian App Competition

By Nicky Blackburn, Israel21c

Israeli startups swept the board at the Asia Smartphone Apps Competition in Hong Kong in late June, winning three of the four top prizes.

Israel’s Tekoia, which has developed a universal remote, won the grand prize for the event, and came first in the advertising and marketing category. Castle Builders came first in the Games and Edutainment category, and Bazz, came in second in the creative lifestyle category. The other first place winner in creative lifestyle was a Hong Kong company, Ticker International.

“We have conquered the competition, to put it bluntly,” Sagi Karni, Israel’s Consul General for Hong Kong and Macau, told ISRAEL21c. “This is our third year of participating in the Asia app competition, and this year has been the best one for us.”

“The growing success of the Israeli companies at this event shows the increasing strength of the app industry in Israel, and the growing interest of the Asian industry in Israeli apps,” added Elad Goz, the head of the Economic and Trade Mission at the Consulate General of Israel in Hong Kong.

“Out of nine qualifying apps, three are from Israel. It’s a clear sign of the interest from this part of the world. We look forward to next year’s event,” he said.

The Asia Smartphone Apps Contest, held at Cyberport in Hong Kong on June 15-16, has been operating every year since 2012 and is organized by the Hong Kong Wireless Technology Industry Association (WTIA).

Over 118 companies took part in this year’s competition from eight countries: Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia, Japan and Israel. Of these, just nine startups made it to the finals of the competition, three of them from Israel.

Tekoia’s app, Sure Universal, is a free universal remote-control app for the mobile phone. The app controls anything from smart TVs and media streamers to air conditioning, security cameras and video, photo and music streaming via Wi-Fi. The company was founded in May 2012 by Viktor Ariel, who was the president and general manager of Samsung’s Israeli R&D Center, and the founder and CEO of TransChip, a fabless semiconductor company developing digital cameras for cell phones, which was purchased by Samsung in October 2007.

“I’m speechless. It was way above and beyond anything we had hoped for,” said Ariel, after his win. “I think it’s a great success for our team, which is the best I’ve ever worked with.”

He added that the company is now launching in China, and is setting up a subsidiary in Hong Kong.

Petah Tikva-based Castle Builders was founded by Gil Abramovich in 2010. Its app, Bookclip, allows you to make free interactive multimedia apps or albums, and is based on the company’s platform which has been used to develop a range of successful multimedia apps for Sony Pictures, DreamWorks Animation, Paws (Garfield) and Sanrio (Hello Kitty).

“I’m deeply honored to have our app reaching the first place on the Asia Smartphone Apps Contest. We hope that all our hard work in creating an innovative user-experience and an intuitive interface will help us reinvent storytelling and make app creation accessible to everyone,” he said.

The Bazz Safe Connect platform was founded by Eliezer Polak, a brigadier-general in the Israel Defense Forces. The hands-free app allows drivers to listen to text and voice messages while driving, and is designed not only for car drivers but also for motorcyclists and fleet companies.

“So many lives are lost on the road because drivers are texting as they drive. It’s become an epidemic in every country in the world,” said Polak. “Bazz solves this problem by reducing the temptation to touch the phone. It reads the messages to the driver and lets them respond verbally, without taking their eyes off the road, or their hands off the wheel.”
Mazel tov mazel tov to Pearl White on celebrating her 100th birthday August 15. She continues an active life, still recites Haftorahs several times a year at Temple Isaiah and just gave up driving and teaching classes at the Stroke Center last year! An amazing lady! ... Mazel tov to Mitzie and Jack Olshansky who are the very proud great grandparents of Owen Charles Brucker, born to Jack's grandson Dr. Richard Brucker and his wife Dr. Lindsey Brucker in Los Angeles June 6 ... And Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy Administrative Assistant Linn Menne is equally excited and proud of her adorable great grandson, Otto Patrick Tise ... Mazel tov mazel tov to Rabbi Yonason Denebeim of Chabad of Palm Springs is a sought-after Birthright Israel leader and on his May trip to Israel he brought his entire birthright bus to Yishuv Eliav, where he saw and had his picture taken below the sign stating their Central Hall was underwritten by our Jewish Federation! Share your Simchas with us. Contact Miriam Bent at mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call 760-323-0255.

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, August 5  Shabbat Matot-Masei  7:02 pm
Friday, August 12  Shabbat Devarim  6:55 pm
Friday, August 19  Shabbat Vo’etchanan  6:47 pm
Friday, August 26  Shabbat Ekav  6:38 pm

We Mourn the Passing of...

Pearl Busch, Max Chodak, Ember Cohen, Ruth Davis, Dr. Robert Feldman, Mitch Fishman, Isaac Friedman, Martin Hecht, Joy Jacobs, Michael Levitas, Dr. Hal Linstone, Richard Marks, Robert Morrow, Harvey Roth, Robert “Bob” Seigle, Charles Speights, Steve Tiger, Harold Tivol and Elaine Winer. Heartfelt sympathies to their family and friends. May their memories endure for a blessing.

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.

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A crowd of 200,000 persons attended Tel Aviv's annual Gay Pride parade, including the British ambassador to Israel and his partner. Not all the participants were members of ‘the kehilah’ (the LGBT community): Several dozen straight IDF veterans from an artillery reserve unit joined their gay commander First Lieutenant (res.) Omer Nahmany (26) as a sign of solidarity… a move led by Nahmany’s own commanding officer, brigade commander Lieutenant Colonel (res.) Itam Berger (36) who told the press he was only following the IDF tradition of ‘leading from the front’. (Yediot)

(Israel has openly-gay lesbian and transgender officers. The first step taken by the newly-minted Minister of Defense Avigdor Lieberman was to declare the partners of LGBT soldiers killed in action would receive equal rights identical to bereaved kin of straight couples.)

**CALL TO DUTY**

When Dr. Pierre Smadja heard a patient in the General Surgery ward at Beilenson Medical Center calling for help, he immediately responded – springing to the patient’s bedside, where the intensive care specialist immediately took charge from two nurses on the floor. Even when the on-duty physician (whom he told them to call) arrived on the run, the house surgeon preferred that Dr. Smadja resuscitate the woman who had been choking and close to death’s door. The thing is, Dr. Smadja wasn’t a visitor. It was 1:00 AM – well past visiting hours. Smadja was a post-op patient from the adjoining room, who jumped out of bed in his hospital pajamas to respond to the call-of-duty. Smadja, who was discharged the next day, continued to get updates on ‘his patient’ at home. (Israel HaYom)

**POLE CHUTZPAH**

In a truly incredible case of identity theft, a Polish non-Jew claimed to be an Israeli Orthodox Rabbi named Jacob Ben Nistell from Haifa, even boasting he had a son in the Israel Defense Forces. The imposter, decked out in full ultra-Orthodox attire managed (much to the embarrassment of the Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Poland) to get himself officially appointed ‘Chief Rabbi of Poznan’ (which only has a couple of dozen Jews). Alas, a member of the Jewish community began to suspect something was fishy after he spied the volunteer ‘Rabbi’ holding a Torah scroll upside down. Jacob Ben Nistell turned out to be a Catholic ex-cook from Ciechanow named Jacek Niszczota. (The photo is from Nistell’s closed Facebook account). (Israel HaYom)
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