Wishing You a Happy Passover
On the cover....

2017-2018
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Wishing You a Happy Passover

Anti-Semitism in Today’s America:
WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

PROFESSOR ALVIN H. ROSENFELD,
internationally renowned authority and spokesman on
global anti-Semitism, will speak to our community on
MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2018 at 4:30 PM at the Jewish
Federation Offices. Seating is limited. RSVP to the
Jewish Federation, 760-324-4737.

Our Desert community has an
extraordinary opportunity to hear
one of the foremost authorities of
global anti-Semitism when Professor
Alvin H. Rosenfeld speaks at the
Jewish Federation of the Desert on
Monday, March 26, 2018, at 4:30
PM. Dr. Rosenfeld is being brought
to our community by Robert and
Sandra Borns, and the lecture is
sponsored by the Jewish Federation
of the Desert, Congregation Har-El
and Action for Tolerance.

Alvin H. Rosenfeld, Professor
of English and Jewish Studies at
Indiana University, Bloomington,
holds the Irving M. Glazer Chair in
Jewish Studies and is Director of the
university’s Institute for the Study
of Contemporary Antisemitism.
He founded Indiana University’s
well-regarded Borns Jewish Studies
Program and served as its director
for 30 years.

He is also the author of
numerous scholarly and critical
articles on American poetry, Jewish
writers, and the literature of the
Holocaust, including “Confronting
the Holocaust: The Impact of Elie
Wiesel” (co-edited with Irving
Greenberg) in 1979 and, in 1980
“A Double Dying: Reflections
on Holocaust Literature” (the
book has since appeared in
German, Polish, and Hungarian
translations). With his wife, Erna
Rosenfeld, he translated Gunther
Schwarberg’s “The Murders at
Bullenhuser Damm,” a book on
Nazi medical atrocities published
by the Indiana University Press in
1984. His most recent study of
Holocaust literature and memory,
has been published in German,
Hebrew, Hungarian, and Polish
translations. In recent years, he has
been writing about contemporary
anti-Semitism, and some of his
articles on this subject have evoked
intense debate. He is also editor of a
series of books on Jewish Literature
and Culture published by Indiana
University Press as well as editor of
IUP’s new book series, “Studies in
Antisemitism.”

Professor Rosenfeld has served
as an editorial board member of
various scholarly journals,
including Holocaust and Genocide
Studies and Antisemitism Studies.
He has also been a board member
and scholarly consultant to
various national and international
institutions and organizations,
including the Anti-Defamation
League, the American Jewish
Committee, the Lilly Endowment,
the Wexner Heritage Foundation,
the Koret Foundation, and the
Conference on Material Claims
against Germany. He held a 5-year
Presidential appointment on the
United States Holocaust Memorial
Council (2002-2007) and also
served on the U.S. Holocaust
Memorial Museum’s Executive
Committee. For 10 years he was
Chair of the Academic Committee of
the Museum’s Center for Advanced
Holocaust Studies and continues
as a member of that committee as
well as a member of the Museum’s
Committee on Holocaust Denial
and Antisemitism.

He has lectured widely in
America, Europe, and Israel. In
recent years, he has been an invited
speaker on the topic of today’s anti-
Semitism at the German Bundestag,
in Berlin, the British House of Lords,
in London, the Canadian Parliament
in Ottawa, the Institute for National
Security Studies in Tel Aviv, the
United States Holocaust Memorial
Museum in Washington, D.C., and
many other places.

Reservations may be made by
calling the Jewish Federation of the
Desert, 760-324-4737. Seating is
limited.

Community Calendar
Vol. 44 • No. 8

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How Is Federation Doing?
From the CEO

From time to time, people ask me: how’s the Federation doing? For better or worse, that’s a difficult question to answer simply because there are so many moving pieces and changing circumstances.

On the one hand, the Federation’s core philanthropy is growing strong. We continue to maintain funding for grants and have impact in the community, and the number of people who are touched through our grants and programs has increased.

On the other hand, there is no sugarcoating the fact that raising money is more challenging. Donors have different interests and approaches to how they like to give money. Professionals and volunteers have different expectations. What used to work in the past won’t take us to where we need to go, and we need to operate more intensely and more intelligently, and in new and altered ways than before.

The Jewish world is changing radically. What turns people on Jewishly or engages different audiences has shifted. Our organized Jewish community has not shifted enough in response, and many institutions are struggling. If the Federation’s mission is strengthening our Jewish community, we have an important role to play here too, even if this is outside of our usual arena or comfort zone.

We have been working on some framing of the strategic issues we are facing as a Federation and in our Jewish community, as well as clarifying what our role and priorities are in addressing these issues. A friend and colleague recently shared a great metaphor that I think aptly describes what we are going through as a Federation. It used to be that we had a clear roadmap to follow, where we could simply plot out how to get from point A to B. Today, there is all of this congestion, construction and confusion out there, and the old set of written directions doesn’t really suffice. Instead, we are learning that there are better ways to make progress. We are redirecting and making adjustments in real time, given the circumstances we face which are constantly in flux. It’s a good metaphor and worth thinking about. The good news is that, ideally, when you do adjust and get nimble at following these new directions and course corrections, you can get to where you need to go quicker and with less tumult along the way.

Renowned Author is Keynote Speaker for Yom HaShoah April 15

The Jewish Community’s 31st annual Yom HaShoah/Holocaust Observance is Sunday, April 15, 2018 at the Galen Auditorium of the Annenberg Center at Eisenhower Medical Center, Rancho Mirage, with renowned author and popular presenter, Elizabeth Rosner, as this year’s keynote speaker. Her first novel, The Speed of Light, was an award winning national best-seller and has been translated into nine languages. It addresses the effects of the Holocaust on the descendants of survivors; it is a story of loss and the redemptive power of storytelling and love. Rosner’s second novel, Blue Nude, also a national bests seller, was inspired by her involvement with a project called Acts of Reconciliation, which brought together second generation Germans and Jews in order to confront their shared legacy from World War Two.

Elizabeth Rosner grew up in Schenectady, New York as the daughter of Jewish holocaust survivors. Her father, who was born in Hamburg, Germany, was sent to Buchenwald concentration camp, while her mother survived the war by hiding in the Polish countryside. Ms. Rosner’s writing reflects her efforts to come to terms with the impact of her parents’ experiences on her own life - the indelible imprints of their history on her language, her identity, and her imagination.

Elizabeth Rosner
Israel’s delegation of athletes competing for Israel in the 2018 Olympic Winter Games included sabras, as well as competitors who were born in Ukraine, the US and UK. A total of ten Israeli athletes competed in four sports: figure skating, short-track speed skating, alpine skiing and skeleton. Until this year, Israel’s largest delegation to a Winter Olympics was five.

Israel’s seven-person figure skating team was led by Alexei Bychenko, who placed 11th in the men’s single skating free skating finals. The 30-year-old skated for Ukraine until 2009. Bychenko, fellow figure skater Evgeni Krasnopolsky and short-track speed skater Vladislav Bykanov — all native Ukrainians — represented Israel in Russia in the 2014 Winter Games and returned to do the same in Pyeongchang. Israel’s other figure skater was Daniel Samohin, 19, finished in 13th place. This was the first time Israeli skaters reached the top 15 in men’s singles at a Winter Olympics. The previous record was held by Michael Shmerkin, who placed 16th for Israel twenty-four years ago, at the 1994 Winter Olympics.

Another member of Israel’s figure skating team was 17-year-old Paige Connors, who missed the US tryouts due to illness, prompting her mother, who has Israeli citizenship, to suggest she try out for the Israeli team. Evgeni Krasnopolsky and Paige Connors finished ninth in the pairs skating short program. Aimee Buchanan finished 10th in the team event for the ladies single skating program. Adel Tankova and Ronald Zilberberg finished in 24th place in the short ice dance event, along with their 10th place in the earlier team event.

Itamar Biran, a 19-year-old born in London, was Israel’s sole representative in alpine skiing, and finished the men’s giant slalom in 49th place among 110 competitors, significantly placing this Israeli in the top half of Olympic skiers.

Israel’s first-ever skeleton racer, Adam (AJ) Edelman, originally from Boston, Massachusetts, placed 28th out of 30 competitors. Edelman took up skeleton racing – where the athlete rides prone on a small sled down a frozen track — only four years ago and is self-coached.

In the end, 2018 was not the year that Israel would finally win a medal in a Winter Olympics. But squad members’ impressive performances gave Israelis something to hope for, looking ahead to the 2022 games in Beijing.

Israel’s Olympic athletes and coaches
Medical Cannabis Safely Reduces Pain in Seniors

Israeli study finds medical cannabis treatment significantly relieves pain and improves quality of life for older adults, with minimal side effects

By Brian Blum, Israel 21c

Grandma rolling a joint may become more commonplace following publication of a study led by researchers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU). Published this month in The European Journal of Internal Medicine, the study found that medical cannabis can significantly reduce chronic pain in patients age 65 and older without adverse effects.

“While older patients represent a large and growing population of medical cannabis users, few studies have addressed how it affects this particular group,” said Prof. Victor Novack, a professor of medicine at BGU and head of the Cannabis Clinical Research Institute at Soroka University Medical Center in Beersheva.

“After monitoring patients 65 and older for six months, we found medical cannabis treatment significantly relieves pain and improves quality of life for seniors with minimal side effects reported,” Novack added.

The researchers looked at cannabis therapy in older patients seeking to alleviate cancer symptoms, Parkinson’s disease, post-traumatic stress disorder, ulcerative colitis, Crohn’s disease and multiple sclerosis.

Today, between 7 and 33% of medical cannabis recipients are above age 65, depending on the country. Americans over 65 represent 14% of the country’s total population and use more than 30% of all prescription drugs. That includes opioids, which researchers hope can be reduced by substituting medical cannabis for pain.

In the study, researchers found that after six months of cannabis use, more than 18% of patients stopped taking opioid analgesics or had reduced their dosage.

The study included 2,736 Israelis age 65 and older, who received medical cannabis through Tikun Olam, the largest medical cannabis supplier in the country. One-third used cannabis-infused oil, one-quarter smoked and 6% used vaporization.

More than 60% of study patients were prescribed medical cannabis due to pain, particularly pain associated with cancer. After six months of treatment, more than 93% reported their pain dropped from a median of 8 to 4 on a 10-point scale.

Close to 60% of patients who originally reported “bad” or “very bad” quality of life upgraded to “good” or “very good” after six months. More than 70% reported moderate to significant improvement in their condition. The most common side effects were dizziness (9.7%) and dry mouth (7.1%).

Other researchers in the study were BGU PhD candidate Ran Abuhasira; Lihi Bar-Lev Schleider of Tikun Olam; and Prof. Raphael Mechoulam of Hebrew University. Mechoulam, 87, was the first researcher to isolate the THC compound in cannabis back in 1964.

Other Israeli studies are looking into how cannabis can restore memory function and reverse cognitive impairment.
At a time when women's voices are speaking out and are being heard as never before, it is an exciting opportunity for the women of our community to have Women's Philanthropy bring Rabbi Eve Posen and Lois Sussman Shenker to the Coachella Valley as the speakers at "The Main Event." Posen and Shenker are the authors of *Pirkei Imahot*, a book about giving Jewish women a voice within our Jewish tradition.

Just as *Pirkei Avot*, the rabbinic commentary written by rabbis in the 2nd century, C.E., provided an ethical road map for the community of its day, *Pirkei Imahot* provides an ethical road map written by and for contemporary women today. Through the authors' own unique experiences as women, mothers, leaders and teachers in their community, and those of the many women who contributed their own words of wisdom to this book, *Pirkei Imahot* offers a moral compass for women to gain wisdom on how to live morally within their community, how to participate in tikkun olam, [the repair of the world] and how to strengthen leadership roles to make a difference.

Rabbi Eve Posen serves as the Assistant Rabbi at Congregation Neveh Shalom in Portland Oregon. Lois Shenker is a life coach and facilitator/teacher for the Portland Mothers Circle Program and a contributing writer for deathwise.org.

The Main Event luncheon is on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at 11:00 AM at Desert Willow Country Club in Palm Desert. Chairs Marnie Miller, Elaine Steinberger and Paula Klein promise a meaningful, moving afternoon. Women's Philanthropy Chair Carol Horwich Luber and Women's Campaign Chair Margie Kulp join the chairs in urging the women of our community to make their reservations now and attend this very special event.

As noted on this page, several organizations, corporations and individuals have given funds to sponsor "The Main Event," and we are grateful for their generosity.

A minimum contribution of $180 to the Jewish Federation of the Desert 2018 Annual Campaign is required to attend "The Main Event." Luncheon couvert is $45. Call Linn Menne at the Jewish Federation, 760-324-4737, to RSVP.
One Drug Could Treat Alzheimer’s, MS, Crohn’s and More

A special peptide under development in Israel declares war against chronic inflammatory and neurodegenerative diseases.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

Could one drug effectively treat incurable inflammatory diseases such as Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis as well as neurodegenerative maladies such as Alzheimer’s disease? Yes, says Prof. David Naor of the Lautenberg Center for General and Tumor Immunology in Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, Jerusalem. All these diseases, he explains, are associated with pathological amyloid proteins that could be neutralized by the 5-mer peptide. Naor has spent the last 10 years researching and developing with the support of the university’s Yissum technology-transfer company, the Israeli government and Spherium Biomed of Spain.

It will take several million dollars to start clinical trials of Naor’s novel, IP-protected peptide — a synthetic protein snippet that significantly reverses the damaging effects of inflammatory diseases and Alzheimer’s disease in mouse models, and restores the learning capacity of Alzheimer’s mice. “I believe that within two years we would know for certain if our academic product can translate into a therapeutic drug to combat inflammatory and neurodegenerative diseases,” Naor says. “Once you control the inflammation, you can control the disease, so our target is to reduce as much as possible the inflammatory activity.”

Rheumatoid arthritis

Naor began by studying 5-mer’s effectiveness in rheumatoid arthritis, which affects about one percent of the world population. Currently, about $30 billion worth of biologic drugs are sold each year that effectively control, but cannot cure, rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory diseases.

Furthermore, these drugs don’t work in one-third of patients. The results of Naor’s experiments were astounding. When mice with collagen-induced arthritis were treated with 5-mer peptide, the severely inflamed tissues in their joints reverted to nearly normal. No harmful side effects were observed.

Multiple sclerosis and IBD

“Once the rheumatoid arthritis experiment was repeated successfully several times, we looked at a different chronic inflammatory disease – multiple sclerosis, where the inflammation is not in the joints but in the brain,” says Naor.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is the most widespread disabling neurological condition of young adults around the world, usually striking between the ages of 20 and 50. There is no cure, but the Israeli-developed blockbuster drug Copaxone reduces the frequency of relapses.

Here, too, Naor’s results were noteworthy. Five days after MS-like disease was induced in mice, 5-mer peptide injections caused a significant decrease in accumulation of inflammatory cells in the central nervous system and significant reduction in limb paralysis. The effects were weaker when the disease was more progressed, but theoretically the peptide could be introduced during a remission phase of MS.

Alzheimer’s disease

After a quarter-century of failed efforts to develop a cure for Alzheimer’s disease, investment money is dwindling. Yet the number of cases is climbing rapidly along with related costs. About one in nine Americans over 65 has this fatal degenerative neurological disorder affecting 44 million people worldwide.

In collaboration with Prof. Hanna Rosenmann from Hadassah, Naor’s lab studied the effect of mer-5 peptide in mice with induced Alzheimer’s disease. Cognitively normal mice placed inside a watery maze learned quickly how to swim to a safe platform and were able to find it faster with every subsequent attempt. But the Alzheimer’s mice took longer finding the platform every time, due to memory difficulties. After treatment with 5-mer peptide, the Alzheimer’s mice regained their ability to learn the location of the platform as quickly as cognitively normal mice.

“We can restore the memory of the animal. This doesn’t mean we’re going to cure Alzheimer’s but it does mean we have to do everything possible to see if our peptide could be successful where so many other potential anti-Alzheimer drugs have failed,” says Naor.

Spherium Biomed now seeks funding for the next step, human clinical trials. “Because the peptide was derived from human material, it makes sense that it is going to work in humans at least as well as in mice,” concludes Naor.
Within three months, South Africa’s capital city and biggest tourist destination may become the first major city in the world to run out of water. The four million residents of Cape Town will have their water supplies cut off unless the city manages to reduce daily consumption by 20 percent. The “Day Zero” shutdown is expected for mid-May 2018 and is recalculated every week based on current reservoir capacity and daily consumption.

The crisis is mostly attributed to three years of unprecedented drought that has dried up the city’s six-dam reservoir system. If the dams fall below 13.5% capacity before the start of the rainy season in June, taps will be turned off and residents will have to line up at municipal points to collect their allotted 25 liters per day. This amount is about a quarter of the water used by the average American daily.

In Israel, a country with its own history of water struggles and triumphs, experts are weighing in on how Israeli innovation and mindset may be able to help Cape Town and other water-scarce locations avoid future disasters.

“We are known around the world for being experts in water and having developed the most advanced technologies to cope with water scarcity,” says Prof. Eilon Adar, director of Israel’s Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research at Ben Gurion University. “But it’s not necessarily so that these technologies can be adapted as is and save the rest of the world. Every society has its own constraints – social, physical, natural – and the most we can do is to try and adapt the Israeli concept to see which technologies or innovations can be tailored for the local needs.”

According to Seth Siegel, author of “Let There be Water: Israel’s Solution for a Water-Starved World,” water problems like the one in Cape Town are almost always avoidable. “These problems tend to come at you pretty slowly; therefore you have lots of lead time to fix the problem or prepare your population,” said the New York-based author, activist and businessman. In order to arrive at the point of humanitarian crisis, he says, “You have to have a willful ignoring of your problems.” He continues, “The water crisis isn’t a ‘developing world’ problem reserved for international aid organizations operating in faraway locales.”

While many places, like São Paulo, California and Cape Town, have reached crisis points in recent years, Israel serves as a model to show that dwindling supplies of natural water sources and declining rainfall do not always determine a country’s destiny.

From its inception, Israel has had to build its nation without abundant water or energy. Despite its arid climate, fast-growing population, and history of droughts, Israel today experiences a water surplus. Israel is so successful in its water management that it has enough water for everybody, it’s self-sufficient in fruits and vegetables, which takes a lot of water, and it has so much extra water that it can export water to its neighbors.”

Israel’s national water grid, established in 1964, gave the country the ability to bring water from a relatively wet place (the north) to a relatively dry place (the south), something that many
countries today still do not do. The grid now integrates surface water, groundwater, and desalinated water into the same pipeline, which Adar says is unique to Israel. This infrastructure has helped Israel withstand drought and expand into desert areas once thought uninhabitable.

Israel’s use of innovative irrigation, desalination, wastewater recycling/reuse, and leak-detection technology has been credited with helping the country become a water superpower. It is the extent to which these innovations have been implemented that sets Israel apart, rather than the technology itself.

For example, drip irrigation is the norm in Israel, where the landscape consists of 60% desert. First developed in 1959 by Israeli inventor Simcha Blass, the method has been proven to save water, enhance yields and reduce energy consumption. Today it supplies 75% of irrigated agricultural fields in Israel with water. In comparison, only 5% of the irrigated fields around the world utilize drip-irrigation technologies. Many countries, including the US, still rely on wasteful flood-irrigation methods.

When it comes to wastewater treatment, Israel’s recycled wastewater ratio is four times higher than in any other country in the world, with 85% of the treated water available for agricultural uses. Currently the US recycles about 9% of its wastewater. A target average of even 20% reclaimed wastewater in the US would be a real revolution.

Israel has also invested heavily in desalination plants on the Mediterranean shore. There are currently six plants, two of which are the largest in the world, producing nearly 500 million gallons of freshwater from salt water every day.

Desalination has allowed Israel to get ahead of droughts and provide a substantial supplement to the water supply, creating more water for agriculture, replenishing its natural water sources, and supplying water to its Palestinian and Jordanian neighbors.

“The global water crisis is unlikely to be solved without widespread use of desalinated water,” writes Siegel. “Even water-rich locations like New York City may decide to build a desalination plant as a backup for security or environmental reasons.”

Two desalination plants are being built in Cape Town, each expected to provide 7 million liters of water per day. However, experts say it is unlikely that residents will see water from these plants before “Day Zero.”

“Cape Town started designing or planning for this two and a half years ago, and now they are still in the middle of construction. It’s too slow and too late,” said Adar, who traveled to South Africa in 2016 to take part in a series of water-focused events organized by the Israeli embassy.

Although seawater desalination comes with a relatively high price tag, Adar reminds that paying more for water is better than having no water at all. “For countries considering investing in the infrastructure, it has to be assessed with reference to a critical value of water,” he says. “This is the cost to produce alternative water when you don’t have enough. And it’s a matter of willingness to pay.”

Technology aside, one of the most unique aspects of Israel’s approach to water is its understanding of water as a commodity. Unlike in the US, where water is a personal property right, a series of laws passed in the mid-1950s made water ownership in Israel public. This gave the government the power to manage, regulate, price and allocate water in accordance with the best needs of the country.

“Around the world, the price of water is nearly universally subsidized,” explains Siegel. “What we know from basic economics is that when people get things for free or at a discounted price, they don’t value it the same way.”

By charging the real price of water, Israel has gained a nationwide interest in saving water and a culture that values every drop. “Somehow, although it is a natural resource, we have all agreed to put a price tag on oil and gas, which means that we refer to it as a commodity,” says Adar. “However almost no one in the world but Israel treats water as a commodity as well.”

Creating a Global Impact

Currently more than 150 countries actively use Israeli solutions – whether technology, training, or technical assistance – to help address their water problems. Despite offers of assistance years ago and more recently by Israeli Ambassador to South Africa Lior Keinan, there has been no formal engagement between Israel and South Africa regarding the looming water crisis. However, the South Africa-based Legacy Water Solutions management consulting company is actively considering various Israeli companies with which to partner.
SEDERS OFFERED IN OUR community

BOTH NIGHTS (MARCH 30 & 31, 2018)

CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS [Kosher]
Chabad of Palm Springs will be conducting Seders open to the community. Affordably priced. Limited seating. For information call 760-325-0774.

CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE [Kosher]
Chabad of Rancho Mirage will be hosting Community Seders both nights, including everything-from-scratch, homemade, genuine Pesach meal. Both Seders begin at 8:15 pm. Everyone welcome. Affordably priced. Limited seating. Call 760-770-7785.

FIRST NIGHT- FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018

TEMPLE ISAIAH [Kosher]
58th annual Community Seder. 6:00 pm, conducted by Rabbi David Lazar. Members: $75 (children $36); non-members $90 (children $45). RSVP online at www.templeisaiahps.com or call 760-325-2281. Deadline March 23 at 5:00 pm.

CONGREGATION HAR-EL [Kosher-style]
6:30 pm. Led by Rabbi Richard A. Zionts. Members: $79; non-members: $86; children under 11: $58. For location and additional information email harelurj@gmail.com or call 760-779-1691.

SECOND NIGHT – SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018

TEMPLE SINAI [Kosher-style]

DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE [Kosher-style]

SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES [Kosher-style]
6:00 pm. Open to Sun City Jewish Service members, their families and guests. Led by Rabbi Ken Emert. Information: Call 707-332-3947.

TEMPLE HAR SHALOM OF IDYLLWILD [Kosher]
6:00 pm. Community Passover Dinner. Led by Rabbi Malka Drucker. For information go to www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org.
Dr. Eshbal Ratson and Prof. Jonathan Ben-Dov of the Department of Bible Studies at the University of Haifa have managed to decipher and restore one of the last two Qumran (Dead Sea) Scrolls that remain unpublished, out of some 900 scrolls uncovered at the site in the 1940s and 1950s.

The researchers spent over a year painstakingly reassembling more than 60 tiny sections written in a secret code. The reward for their hard work is fresh insight into the unique 364-day calendar used by the members of the Judean Desert sect, including the discovery for the first time of the name given by the sect to the special days marking the transitions between the four seasons: “Tekufah,” or “period.”

The Qumran sect, who lived a hermitic life in the desert, wrote numerous scrolls, including a small number written in code. Their 364-day calendar was involved in one of the fiercest debates during the late Second Temple period because it eliminated the human decisions necessary in following the traditional Jewish lunar calendar.

The scroll describes two special occasions not mentioned in the Bible, but which are already known from the Temple Scroll of Qumran: the festivals of New Wine (celebrated 50 days after Shavuot) and New Oil (celebrated 50 days after New Wine).

“This scroll includes numerous words and expressions that we find later in the Mishna. This shows once again that many of the subjects discussed by the Scribes several centuries later had origins that predated the Second Temple period,” Ratson and Ben-Dov said.

The person who wrote the scroll apparently forgot to mention several special days marked by the community and another scribe corrected the errors, adding the missing dates in the margins between the columns of text, the researchers noted.

They are now turning their attention to the last remaining scroll that has yet to be deciphered.

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Update on Critically Ill Syrian Baby Flown to Israel

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

In the February issue of the Jewish Community News we reported on a critically ill baby, born to Syrian refugees in Cyprus, being airlifted to Israel for emergency treatment at Sheba Medical Center in Haifa. We thought you would like to hear the update.

The critically ill newborn, suffering from a serious congenital heart defect, was airlifted to Sheba Medical Center's Edmond and Lily Safra Children's Hospital in Israel, just days after he was born to Syrian refugees in Cyprus.

On the child's arrival, Dr. David Mishali, chief of pediatric and congenital cardiothoracic surgery at Safra, observed: “It was not clear to us if he needed an operation or could be stabilized with proper treatment without the need for surgery. After monitoring the situation closely, it was decided that an operation was needed. We were able to substantially improve his pulmonary blood flow, which resulted in a quick improvement in his condition. After a period of recovery, we released him from the hospital. He is scheduled to return to Sheba when he is six months-plus old in order to finish the treatment for his condition.

“During the baby's time in the hospital, we made sure that the family felt at home and we will continue to follow his progress.”

Mishali said the Israeli children's hospital “constantly receives patients with some of the most complex problems from all over the world in order to fashion the proper treatment in a medically holistic manner within our special children's emergency cardiac care and surgical facility.”

The infant's journey to Israel was facilitated by a representative of the Cyprus Ministry of Health, who contacted Israeli Ambassador Sammy Revel. Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with security forces and officials from Ben-Gurion International Airport, successfully appealed to Israeli Interior Minister Aryeh Deri to allow the baby and his father to enter the country.

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TEMPLE SINAI

TEMPLE SINAI COMMUNITY SEDER SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018 • 5:30 PM
SECOND NIGHT OF PESACH

SEDER WILL BE CONDUCTED BY RABBI ANDREW BENTLEY

Please join our Temple Family for Seder in the Temple's Samson Bentley

Doors open at 4:45 pm • Seder begins at 5:30 pm • Menu will include traditional Passover favorites

Adults:  Members - $72  Non-members - $88
Children 7-13  Members - $25  Non-members - $30
Children 3-6  Members - $10  Non-members - $15

Reservations, with payment, must be received by March 22, 2018 • Seating limited • RSVP early.

CALL 760-568-9699

Temple Sinai, 73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260
Major Gifts

1 Major Gifts Co-Chair Stephanie Ross, CEO Bruce Landgarten
Co-Chair Lori Fritz, keynote speaker to former Co-Chair Nancy Ditlove
Chair & Nancy Ditlove, Board Co-Chairs Allan Lehmann & Carla Norian, and CEO Bruce Landgarten
4 Phil & Elan Glass
7 Sheryl & Allan Lehmann
6 Dr. Paul & Stephanie Ross
Carol Horwich Luber, Marjorie Kulp & Maddy Feidtman

2 Dennis & Nancy Ditlove
3 Board Co-Chairs Allan Lehmann & Carla Norian, and CEO Bruce Landgarten
4 Phil & Elan Glass
7 Sheryl & Allan Lehmann
6 Dr. Paul & Stephanie Ross
Carol Horwich Luber, Marjorie Kulp & Maddy Feidtman

8 Barbara & Bernie Frenses
9 Sherry & Howard Scher
10 BLP & Joanne Charonowitz
11 Bruce Landgarten & Hiken Vann
12 Barbara Platt & Nona Kaufman
13 Peggy & Jeff Greenbaum & Costa Cimberg
14 Adrienne Garfield & Carol Levine
15 Alice Alt, A. Lee & Elise Sacks
16 Barbara & Ronnie Kahn

17 Carol & Alan Passow
18 Dave Wight & Mark Yacko
19 Eric Goldfman
20 Bruce & Scott Green & Leslie & Gordon Diamond
21 Dave & Michelle Cantil
22 Ed & Sande Freimann
23 Lisa & Francie Cook
24 Bruce & Sondi Green & Leslie & Gordon Diamond
25 Don & Michelle Carafiol
26 Ed & Sande Freimann
27 Jim & Louis Zoller
28 Judy & Steve Ehrlichman
29 Elaine Blitz
30 Marjorie & Stephen Kulp
31 Nora & Donald Rados
32 Karen & Chuck Cohen
33 Larry & Jane Sherman
34 Lilly & Buddy Hoffman
35 Ruth & Max Kaufman
36 Sandy & Brian Borns
37 Sandy Seplow & Susan Walpert
38 Sandy Seplow, Sheila Sloan & Bruce Landgarten

39 Sig Feiger & Rose Gershing
40 Sheila Kohn
41 Sherry & Howard Levy
42 Patricia & Howard S. Levy
43 Pearl & Mark Levy
44 Richard & Barbara Rosenfield
45 Jerry & Margot Harperin
46 Audrey & Les Johnson
47 Sandy & Brian Borns
48 Sandy Seplow & Susan Walpert
49 Sandy Seplow, Sheila Sloan & Bruce Landgarten

* Past Federation Chairs
On February 22, Jewish Federation of the Desert, in partnership with Secure Community Network (SCN) and local Law Enforcement, Captain Jason Huskey and Lieutenant John Shields, held a three-hour workshop for local Non-Profit agencies and places of worship of all denominations on Community Security.

At this interactive, discussion-based exercise attendees participated in information sharing activities and protective security measures caused by acts of terrorism. The scenario consisted of two modules in chronological order, which portrayed an international terrorist attack and domestic terrorist attacks.

Our partner, The Secure Community Network (SCN), is part of the American Jewish community’s response to heightened security concerns in the United States. SCN is a proven, critical partner for Jewish communities across the country and a “community insurance policy” for executives, Rabbis, Ministers and staff in need, quickly becoming a resource for immediate assistance, information and trusted guidance and expertise.

Facilitating the workshop were Michael Masters, the new National Director of SCN and counter-terrorism trained Doron Horowitz, who has over 28 years in the security consulting industry.

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Shabbat Schedule March 2018
Check the websites or call the synagogues for a full schedule of services.

Community Seders listed on page 10

BETH SHALOM  (Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)
Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader
79-733 Country Club Drive, Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203
www.congregationbethshalom.net  760-200-3636
Friday evening Shabbat services have been discontinued.
9:30 am Saturday Shabbat morning services, followed by sit down Kiddush. Weekday minyan: call 760-200-3636 for information.


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 SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES
Rabbi Yonason Denebeim
425 Ortega, Palm Springs, CA 92264
www.chabadpalmsprings.com  760-325-0774
Shabbat services Friday/ Saturday; daily morning and evening minyan.

CHABAD OF PALM DESERT
Rabbi Mendy Friedman
Services in private home. Call 760-651-2424 for information.
www.chabadpd.com  760-969-2153 / 760-969-2158

CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE
Rabbi Shimon Posner
72295 Via Marta, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
www.chabadrm.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 & Rabbi Ken Emert. www.harelurj.org / harelurj@gmail.com  760-779-1691.
Mailing address: P.O. Box 564, Palm Desert, CA 92261. First Friday: Music Shabbat. For information about Shabbat services contact Har-El by email or phone.

PURIM: Friday, March 2 – 5:00 pm: Music Shabbat and Purim Dinner. Dinner: $24 per person. Pre-paid reservations required. No services March 30. Har-El is holding its Passover Seder that evening.

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
Friday evening Service once a month, at Mission Lakes Country Club with Rabbi Faith Tessler. March service: Friday, March 2nd at 7:00 pm.

DESSERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE
Rabbi in Training Jules King.
Note new location and different week: Meet at Palm Valley School, 35525 Da Vall Drive, Rancho Mirage.
Musical Shabbat service with DOS choir on second Friday of each month at 7:00 pm, followed by wine/light nosh oneg.

SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES
Rabbi Ken Emert.
Services held at Sun City Del Webb, Palm Desert/Sunset View Clubhouse/Speakers Hall, First and third Friday evenings at 7:15 pm.

TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild
Rabbi Malka Drucker. (951) 468-0004. www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org Email: templeharshalomidyllwild@gmail.com.
Friday Night Service - March 9 at 6:00 pm. Dairy Potluck following service. Held at St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church, 25525 Taquitz Drive, Idyllwild, CA. No Saturday Shabbat Study in March.

TEMPLE ISAIAH
Rabbi David J. Lazar.
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262, 760-325-2281.
www.templeisaiahps.com. Shabbat evening: 6:30 pm; morning services 10:00 am. No evening Shabbat service Friday, March 30; Temple Isaiah is holding its Community Seder that evening.

TEMPLE SINAI (Reform)
Rabbi Andrew Bentley
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260.
Friday evening services 7:30 pm, plus Family Services at 5:30 pm on the first Friday. Friday, February 16: 6:00 pm dinner followed by Zimra Service at 7:30 pm. Saturdays: 8:45 am Torah study; 10 am Shabbat services. Saturday, March 17, Norman Wine will be called to the Torah for his Second Bar Mitzvah.

BIKUR CHOLIM
A project of Chabad of Palm Springs & Desert Communities (Community Outreach)
www.BikurCholimPS.com
March Community Calendar

Sundays
Chabad Rancho Mirage
Children’s Programs
C Teen Global Teen network
offering social, educational &
humanitarian programming.
C Teen Jr. For 7-8 graders.
Educational and social
programming.
C Kids ages 4-11. Meets Sundays
Cooking. Teaching life skills.
Call 760-272-1923 or email
Chaya@chabadrm.com for
information about the groups
and meeting dates.

Mondays
6:30 pm Chabad of Rancho
Mirage Men’s Talmud class,
given by Rabbi Benny Lew at
Chabad of Rancho Mirage.
RSVP 760-636-2897 or
call 760-770-7785.
Information: 760-200-3636.

Tuesdays
5-7 pm Chabad of
Rancho Mirage Weekly BBQ.
Affordable, fun and kosher.
Reservations not required but
helpful: 760-770-7785.
Chabad of Rancho Mirage
Women’s Rosh Chodesh
Society. New course: “Pause
& Affect.” Monthly class.
Reservations essential.
Call 760-272-1923.

Thursday, March 1
3:00-5:00 pm Temple Sinai
Memory Café. For the memory
challenged, their families and
caregivers. No charge. RSVP
appreciated 760-325-2281.

Thursday, March 1
6:00 pm Temple Sinai Kabbalah
Workshop

Thursday, March 1
7:00-9:00 pm Desert Outreach
Synagogue Purim Party and
Potluck. RSVP to 760-449-
0111 to sign up for dish to
bring. Non-members $15.
Will be held at the Unitarian
Church, 72425 Via Vail,
Rancho Mirage.

Sunday, March 4, 18
10-11:15 am Coffee and
Conversation with Rabbi Sally
Olins, ‘the Coffee House
Rabbi,’ Hyatt Hotel, Palm
Springs.

Sunday, March 4
3:00 pm Beth Shalom
Sunday at the Movies “The
Zookeepers Wife.” Members
free; non-members $5.
Light refreshments served.
Information: 760-200-3636.

Monday, March 5
8:30 am 2018 Men’s Federation
Day, hosted by Tamarisk
Country Club. Open to all
male golfers and tennis players
in the Coachella Valley who
would like to contribute and
participate in the event.
See ad page 4.

Tuesday, March 6
3:00 pm Temple Sinai
Brotherhood Dinner and
Movie: “Oh God.”
Call 760-568-9699 for
reservations.

Tuesday, March 6
7:30 pm Chabad of Palm
Springs Torah Class for men
and women, held in private
home, led by Moishe Witkes.
Information/reservations call
Moishe at 760-412-1005.

Tuesday, March 6
7:00 pm Temple Isaiah Twice
Blessed Event “Boo2Bullying.”
Animation clips that focus
on bullying issues with the
LGBTQ community, plus B2B
founder/president Dimitri
Halkidis. $10 members;
$18 non-members. RSVP to
www.templeisaiahps.com or
760-325-2281.

Wednesday, March 7, 14, 21, 28
Noon Temple Sinai 613
Mitzvot.

Wednesday, March 7
1:00 pm Temple Sinai
Bereavement Group.

Wednesday, March 7, 14, 21, 28
2:00 pm Temple Sinai Adult
B’nai Mitzvah class.

Wednesday, March 7, 14, 21
3:30 pm Temple Sinai
Introduction to Judaism.

Thursday, March 8
5:30 pm Temple Sinai
Brotherhood Dinner and
Movie: “The Main Event,”
Luncheon with Rabbi Eve Posen
and Lois Sussman Shenker.
See page 6 for more
information and to RSVP.

Monday, March 12
10:30 am Har-El Galen Trimester
Book Club. “To the End of
the Land” by David Grossman.
Information call 760-779-1691
or email harelurj@gmail.com.
See page 19.

Thursday, March 1
10:00 am Sabra Hadassah
meeting in Sun City Shadow
Hills. Speaker: Gloria
Guttmann, “Way to Wipe
Out Cancer.” Continental
breakfast: $15. Information:
call 760-360-4902.

Friday, March 9
6:30 pm Beth Shalom Friday
Night Dinner celebrating
Shabbat Across America.
Members $25; non-members
$30. Prepaid reservations
required. Information:
760-200-3636

Tuesday, March 6, 13, 20, 27
10:00-11:30 am Temple
Sinai Yiddish Group. Share
stories in Yiddish (English
when necessary). Temple
membership not required.

Monday, March 12
10:30 am Har-El Galen Trimester
Book Club. “To the End of
the Land” by David Grossman.
Information call 760-779-1691
or email harelurj@gmail.com.
See page 19.

Sunday, March 18 – Wednesday,
March 21 Temple Isaiah’s
5th Annual Jewish Film
Festival. All films screened at
the Camelot Theatres, Palm
Springs. Previews of films
now available online at

Monday, March 19
8:30 am 2018 Men’s Federation
Day, hosted by Tamarisk
Country Club. Open to all
male golfers and tennis players
in the Coachella Valley who
would like to contribute and
participate in the event.
See ad page 4.

Wednesday, March 21
10:30 am Temple Sinai
Book Club.

Wednesday, March 28
3:00-4:15 pm Temple Isaiah
ExploraTorah with
Rabbi David Lazar.

Wednesday, March 28
6:00 pm Temple Isaiah 2B A
Jew course (Basic Judaism/
Conversion) with
Rabbi David Lazar.
Our Community Calendar lists events of the current month. However, with our busy lives, we felt you would appreciate learning about and being able to calendar special programs coming in the weeks beyond.

Sunday, April 1
10:00 am LGBT Shalom Group Passover Brunch. $18. For details and reservations go to www.ShalomGroupPS.com.

Thursday, April 5
3:00-5:00 pm Temple Isaiah Memory Café. For the memory challenged, their families and caregivers. No charge. RSVP appreciated 760-325-2281.

Sunday, April 8
3:00 pm Brandeis National Committee Desert Chapter and Women of Sinai at Temple Sinai present Jewish Women’s Theatre “Sex, Lies & Virtual Relationships.” General admission $50; reserved section $75. See ad page 8.

Tuesday, April 10
7:00 pm Temple Isaiah Twice Blessed Event “Liberation, Statehood and Finding the

Mid-Century American Dream” With Steven Aaron. Members $10; non-members $18. RSVP to www.templeisaiahps.com or 760-325-2281.

Sunday, April 15
3:00 pm Community Observance of Yom HaShoah. Keynote speaker: Elizabeth Rosner. See page 3.

Sunday, April 29

Sunday, April 29

Digital Cancer Patient Platform Offers Info and Support
Belong’s free app provides all the resources cancer patients need in one place.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

Founded in 2015 by Israeli entrepreneurs Eliran Malki, Irad Deutsch and Ohad Rubin, who each lost relatives to cancer, BELONG is a free patient navigation app for cancer patients and their support network throughout their treatment regimen.

The proprietary big-data platform allows Belong users to connect, receive and share clinical information anonymously and discuss issues in public and private chats with doctors, professionals and patient communities. Machine-learning technology enables Belong to send out personalized alerts including information about relevant clinical trials. The app can be downloaded for iOS or Android.

Claiming to be the world’s largest digital cancer patient platform despite its staff of fewer than 50, Belong has partnerships with the American Cancer Society and Colorectal Cancer Canada (CCC), providing closed forums for members of these organizations.

“Belong’s unique app and advanced technology provides all the resources cancer patients need in one place. Our partnership will improve the quality of life for people living with cancer, and increase patient engagement, opening a modern, effective and up-to-date communication channel that enables real-time interaction,” said CCC President and CEO Barry D. Stein.

Similarly, Belong’s partnership with the American Cancer Society in November last year provides a direct discussion line to this leading science and patient advocacy resources via the Belong app.

Malki said Belong welcomes additional collaboration with cancer advocacy groups and organizations across the world.

Belong has offices in a Tel Aviv suburb as well as in New York City.
Honorarium Tributes – In Appreciation For:

- Joe Bernstein, Happy special birthday from Leslie and Barry Usow.
- Lilo Cooper, Happy 75th birthday, from Merle Arenson.
- Barbara Fromm, Donations to the Fromm Youth Enrichment Fund were made in honor of Barbara’s birthday by David, Reid, Hannah and Jeremy Fromm.
- Bernie Fromm, Donations to the Fromm Youth Enrichment Fund were made in honor of Bernie’s birthday by Davida, Reid, Hannah and Jeremy Fromm, Rhona, Lou, Jordan and Jaime Fromm, and Michael and Susan Fromm.
- Ted and Cora Ginsberg, Happy Anniversary from Lila Rauch.
- Margot Halperin, Happy 80th birthday, from Merle Arenson.
- Rosemary Hertz, Happy birthday from Muriel Becker and Joan Sharfstein.
- Frances Horwich, In honor of your special birthday, from Margot Halperin, Phyllis and Gary Schahet, Larry and Jane Sherman, Ginger and David Smerling, and Leslie Usow.
- Carol Horwich Luber, In honor of your 65th birthday, from Jane Sherman.
- Bertel Lewis, Thank you from Jane Sherman, Debbie and Mickey Star.
- Barbara Platt, Thank you from Roberta Nyman.
- Maddy Redstone, Mazel tov from Jane and Larry Sherman.
- Gail Scadron, Thank you from Barbara Paget.
- Nancy Schechtman, Mazel tov on your “Woman of Valor” from Cass Graff-Radford.
- Nancy Siwak, Happy 80th birthday from Joseph and Audrey Bernstein, and Joanne Chunowitz.
- Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Solomon, In honor of your granddaughter’s Bat Mitzvah, from Charlotte and Lester Morris.
- Claude and Chickie Steinberger, Congratulations on your big anniversary, from Mimi and Harold Paley.
- Stephen and Shelly Zucker, Mazel tov on Sammi’s Bat Mitzvah, from Adrian and Cass Graff-Radford.

Refuah Shleimah – Get Well Wishes To:

- Helene Galen, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Larry and Jane Sherman.
- Dottie Palay, Wishing you an easy road to good health from Mimi and Harold Paley.
- Bob Scadron, Wishing you a speedy and complete recovery, from Barbara and Bernie Fromm (Fromm Fund), Barbara and Robert Paget, and Mimi and Harold Paley.

Memoriam Tributes – Condolences Sent To:

- Mrs. Hy Bear and Family, Our sincere condolences from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- Skip Horwits, A donation was made to the Fromm Fund in loving memory of Marilyn by Barbara and Bernie Fromm.
- Harriet Karmin, In memory of your beloved husband Ernie, from Muriel and Irving Becker.
- Gordon Poster, In memory of your beloved father, Arnold Poster, from Jay Jarvis.
- The Sacks Family, In loving memory of Reddy, from Bob and Carol Friedman.
- Family of Wilma Samson, In memory of Wilma Samson, from Ellen Ginsberg, Eric Hatch, Donald Leve, Daniel Pelsinger and Joe Ratner.
- Trudy Schwartz, In memory of your beloved husband Eddie, from Muriel Becker, Joseph and Audrey Bernstein.
- The Shlensky Family, In loving memory of Jerry, from Harriet Bernstein.
- Burton Sunkin and Family, In memory of your beloved wife Susan, from Sande and Ed Fineman, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Irwin and Arlene Volk.

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.
The world's largest beer brewer has bought an Israeli beer startup for a price reportedly in the “tens of millions of dollars.” In January, Belgium-based Anheuser-Busch InBev SA/NV acquired Tel Aviv's Weissbeerger (weissbeerger.com/) for the latter's beverage consumption analytics application, which Weissbeerger says creates a “connected bar.”

Weissbeerger’s “smart taps” can be placed on beer kegs to measure consumer drinking behavior in real time. They can tell a bar owner how much beer is being consumed, at what times, and which brands are the most popular. The data is analyzed and sent wirelessly to the cloud, where the bar owner can view what’s happening through a mobile iPad app.

The Weissbeerger system is also hooked up to the bar's cash register, so it can compare how much beer flows through the tap with the amount of money collected, reducing waste and minimizing the “freebies” given by bartenders to their friends.

Anheuser-Busch InBev is expected to transform Weissbeerger’s offices into the company’s R&D center in Israel. AB InBev was formed by the 2008 merger of Interbrew of Belgium, Brazil-based AmBev and American brewer AnheuserBusch. Headquarters are in Belgium with additional offices in London, New York City, São Paulo, Mexico City, Buenos Aires and Johannesburg. Total sales in 2016 were $45 billion, with nearly $15 billion in revenues in the last quarter of 2017 alone.

AB InBev includes some of the best-known suds in the business: Corona, Budweiser and Stella Artois. Add to that now Weissbeerger, which even though it has “beer” in it and translates loosely as “white lager” in German, was the maiden name of company CEO Omer Agiv’s grandmother.

Vitamins Before and During Pregnancy May Cut Autism Risk

Study of 45,300 Israeli children reveals statistically significant link between maternal vitamin use and lower chance of ASD in offspring

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

Women who take folic acid and/or multivitamin supplements before and/or during pregnancy appear to lower the risk of their children having autism spectrum disorders (ASD), according to a multinational study published January 3 in the American Medical Association journal JAMA Psychology.

The findings have “important public health implications” according to the authors of the study, which was led by Stephen Z. Levine and Dr. Arad Kodesh of the University of Haifa’s Department of Community Mental Health, with Alexander Viktorin of the Seaver Autism Center for Research and Treatment, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York and the Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.

The case-controlled cohort study – using data from Meuhedet, one of Israel’s four national HMOs — involved 45,300 Israeli children (22,090 girls and 23,210 boys) born between January 1, 2003, and December 31, 2007 and who were later diagnosed with ASD, compared to a control group from a random sampling. Data on vitamins purchased by their mothers was extracted from Meuhedet’s pharmaceutical registry.

Vitamin supplements were classified for folic acid (vitamin B9), multivitamin supplements (vitamins A, B, C and D), and any combination thereof, taken by the mothers in the intervals before and during pregnancy.

“Maternal exposure to folic acid and/or multivitamin supplements before pregnancy [and/or during pregnancy] was statistically significantly associated with a lower likelihood of ASD in the offspring compared with the offspring of mothers without such exposure,” according to the report. “The results generally remained statistically significant across sensitivity analyses.”

Previous studies on the specific link between vitamins, folic acid and autism have had inconsistent results, and the authors of the current study state that the reason for the association they observed remains unclear.
Saving Lives in the ICU Through Artificial Intelligence

An Israeli venture capitalist’s personal tragedy brought him to a startup seeking to provide immediate health updates for fragile patients.

By Brian Blum, Israel 21c

Two years ago, Gal Salomon’s mother developed sepsis during a stay in the hospital. “It was a big hospital with a lot of patients and no one saw or understood it was happening,” Salomon recalls bitterly. “We lost her after two days.”

So when Salomon, then a partner at Israeli venture capital firm Pitango, was introduced to Clew Medical, he knew immediately that he had to get involved. Clew develops software that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to predict which patients in a hospital’s intensive care unit (ICU) are at the highest risk of imminent deterioration, and it alerts staff so they can intervene early.

Hospitals today run according to evidence-based medicine, explains Salomon, who is now Clew’s CEO. That makes for smart science. But for critical care, it can be a problem. “You need to make sure something is happening 100 percent before you take action,” observes Salomon. A patient may appear normal, “but if you had a sign that, in two to three hours, that patient will need a major intervention, if you don’t do it now, you are already too late. The biggest problem in the ICU is that we don’t respond in time.”

Clew’s software connects to the ICU’s systems – for example, those that track blood pressure and heart rate – and pairs it with data from a patient’s electronic medical record. Clew then adds a third element – the cloud.

Using AI, Clew can match a patient’s history and current vital signs with knowledge from thousands of other patients in similar situations to predict the patient’s trajectory more accurately than an overworked doctor or nurse can.

For example, Clew can identify the patients who are most likely to become unstable, along with the source and kind of deterioration they may encounter. It can predict how long a patient will need to be connected to a ventilator or a dialysis machine, and when a patient will be ready to be discharged.

Clew has built the capacity to process real-time updates coming from the many devices in the ICU, where blood pressure is measured every few seconds. “We track hundreds of parameters coming in high frequency,” Salomon explains. That can also help the ICU staff with resource management. “We can tell them that if they have 20 beds, here’s where they should put those resources,” Salomon says. “Here are the patients who need a dedicated nurse, here are the patients who are stable. Here’s how to manage your team in a more efficient way.”

Clew’s own team is composed of both doctors and mathematicians. Salomon is from neither discipline. An engineer by training, he worked for Intel and DSP Communications before joining Pitango. He also founded Sansa Security, which he sold to ARM. So Salomon is no stranger to technology.

But using technology to “save lives is something important. We see around us many companies with very talented guys using AI to get you to read more articles or do more shopping. This is completely different.”

Clew has been in proof-of-concept testing at Sheba and Ichilov hospitals in Israel, and the Mayo and Cleveland clinics in the United States. The next step is FDA clearance.

“Our customers don’t actually require us to be FDA approved, but we decided this was the right thing to do,” Salomon says. The company will be on display at the HIMSS (Health Information and Management Systems Society) conference in Las Vegas in March, where Salomon says Clew will announce the results of the testing at the Mayo Clinic “and probably one to two other commercial products as well.”

The 26-person Netanya-based company, founded in 2014, has raised just over $10 million and is now looking for another $20 million in 2018. In addition to reaching out to more hospitals, the money will help Clew more effectively harness the power of the cloud. Currently, Clew engineers have to install a dedicated PC at each hospital ICU. That makes it hard to scale: Every time there’s an update, someone has to go to the hospital and manually install the latest software. Moving the data and AI to the Internet means Clew will only need to set up the system once per customer. “We won’t need to maintain multiple versions of the same product,” Salomon says.

Clew is not just an AI-powered research tool but plays an active role in the ICU, allowing doctors to see at a glance the status of every patient in the unit. Although “the ICU is still our only market and 99 percent of our energy is going into the ICU domain,” Salomon says that Clew hopes to expand to other hospital units where acute patients are cared for, including the operating room.

That expansion was the reason behind a name change at the end of 2017. The company’s previous name, Intensix, was too associated with “intensive care analytics,” Salomon explains. Clew comes from Greek mythology where Ariadne gave a ball of thread (a “clew”) to Theseus so he could use it to find his way out of her father’s labyrinth. Clew Medical hopes to guide doctors and patients through the maze of modern medical data. Plus, as Salomon points out, “it’s short and easy to pronounce!”
Israel EMS Team Awarded for Lifesaving Aid in Panama

United Hatzalah receives award from Panama Homefront Command for partnership in lifesaving

By Rebecca Stadlen Amir, Israel 21c

United Hatzalah received an award from the Panama Homefront Command on February 5, 2018, honoring the lifesaving aid the Israeli voluntary first-response organization has helped provide to the small Central American country in recent years.

President and Founder of United Hatzalah Eli Beer accepted the award, presented by José Donderis, chief of SINAPROC, Panama's response agency in charge of helping to protect the population against damage from disasters. “The task of saving lives is the highest priority of first responders in both organizations who have shown professionalism and teamwork,” said Donderis at the award ceremony.

Beer expressed pride in bringing the award back to display at the United Hatzalah headquarters in Jerusalem. “The relationship between what you do at the Homefront command do and what the United Hatzalah of Panama volunteers do every day is incredibly successful and one of a kind,” he said.

Donderis praised the work of Beer’s organization and said he looks forward to continuing to save lives together in Panama.

United Hatzalah’s international expansion began in 2015 with the establishment of branches in South America and other countries. The organization has trained volunteers in the United States, Panama, Argentina, Brazil, Lithuania and India how to reach people in a medical emergency within an average of three minutes.

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.

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This lovely photo is of beloved member of our community 101 year old Pearl White, holding her great granddaughter, Alia Simone Andre, born to Tikva Krindle and Nick Andre January 30, 2018 at Desert Hospital and living in Beaumont. Mazel tov to Chaya and Rabbi Shimon Posner on the birth of their newest grandson, born to David and Chaya Mushka Posner in New York on February 14th. Jewish tradition refers to a lifetime as 70. From that number the math is simple: 70 + 13 = 83, hence 83 is the perfect age to have a second Bar Mitzvah, which is why Norman Wine has been diligently studying and preparing for months and, on March 17, will be called to the Torah at Temple Sinai to celebrate his second Bar Mitzvah. Mazel tov to Norman and his very proud wife Joan, family and friends. We were delighted to hear from Ruthie Kritzik-Gassner (aka Ruthie Darling) that her third children’s book is now published and receiving great reviews. We announced her first book “The Hole Story” in December 2010, and her second book “Miranda the Panda” in March 2015. This book, “Mrs. Libra and Zoey Zebra” is a story about accepting and appreciating yourself for who you are. You can contact her at ruthiedarling8@aol.com. On the topic of books, Richard Levik called to say he is having a book presentation and signing of his book “Off My Chest” at the Palm Desert Library on April 9th at 4 pm. The book is a collection of his provocative, often angry letters to the editor, the first section being about Los Angeles’ Jewish Journal. …Share your Simchas with us. Contact Miriam Bent by email at mbentjcn@earthlink.net or phone: 760-323-0255.

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.

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 30 years experience; nine in the desert. Will come to your home or at my location. Call Leora at 760-778-0068.


We Mourn the Passing of...

Lenora (Lee) Breyer, Sandra Bryan, Nelson Colman, Robert Eichberg, Steve Garrett, Sandy Kootman and Herman Munic. Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.

Candle Lighting Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 2</td>
<td>Shabbat Ki Tisa</td>
<td>5:01 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 9</td>
<td>Shabbat Vayakhel-Pekudei</td>
<td>5:07 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 16</td>
<td>Shabbat Vayikra</td>
<td>6:13 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 23</td>
<td>Shabbat Tzav</td>
<td>6:18 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 30</td>
<td>Shabbat Pesach</td>
<td>6:23 pm</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 31</td>
<td>Second night Pesach</td>
<td>After 7:49 pm</td>
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* Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 11th
Israeli Star Shiri Maimon is Headed for Broadway

After an action-packed year for Gal Gadot on the big screen, another Israeli star is heading for the spotlight, but this time it’s on the Broadway stage. Starting in September, Shiri Maimon is expected to star as Roxie Hart in Kander and Ebb’s “Chicago,” a production that has been running for more than 20 years. The Israeli pop star will follow in the footsteps of icons like Liza Minnelli, Brooke Shields and Melanie Griffith, who have all played Roxie on Broadway.

Maimon made her first major mark on the Israeli entertainment scene almost 15 years ago, when she placed second in the inaugural season of “Kochav Nolad,” similar to “American Idol” in the US. A series of hit records helped solidify the Haifa-native as Israel’s representative at the 2005 Eurovision Song Contest in Kiev, where she placed fourth.

It was her lead role in Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Tony Award-winning musical “Evita” that captured the attention of the “Chicago” producers. “Evita” ran for a year and half at Habima Theater, the national theater of Israel, and received rave reviews.

Other noteworthy Israeli appearances on the Great White Way include Chaim Topol as Tevye the dairyman in “Fiddler on the Roof” and Dudu Fisher’s Jean Valjean in “Les Misérables.”

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Banana Nut Matzah Kugel (parve or dairy)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 matzahs, broken into ½ inch pieces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 eggs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 tablespoons honey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ cup melted butter or margarine</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 bananas, sliced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ cup chopped walnuts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cinnamon</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Place matzah in bowl. Pour cold water over, then drain immediately. Beat eggs with honey and butter. Add matzo to mixture and mix well. Spread half of mixture in the bottom of a 9” X 9” greased baking pan. Arrange banana slices on top. Sprinkle nuts over bananas. Put remaining half of matzo mixture on top. Dust top lightly with cinnamon. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes, or until lightly browned.

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Orange and Raisin Matzah Meal Pancakes (Dairy)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1½ cups whole-milk cottage cheese</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 large eggs, separated</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 tablespoons orange juice</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 tablespoon finely grated orange peel</td>
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<tr>
<td>½ teaspoon salt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ cup unsalted matzah meal cheese</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ cup golden raisins</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/3 cup sugar</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter or margarine, divided</td>
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<tr>
<td>½ cup sour cream</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 tablespoons honey</td>
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</table>

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Stir cottage cheese, egg yolks, orange juice, orange peel and salt together in large bowl. Mix in matzah meal and raisins (batter will be thick). Using electric mixer, beat egg whites in medium bowl to soft peaks. Gradually add sugar, beating until firm peaks form. Stir 1/3 of whites into batter. Fold in remaining whites in 2 additions.

Melt 1 tablespoon butter in large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Drop batter by quarter cupfuls into skillet. Cook pancakes until brown on bottom, 1 to 2 minutes. Turn over (pancakes will be soft). Cook until brown on bottom, 1 to 2 minutes longer. Transfer to nonstick baking sheet. Repeat with remaining butter and batter. Bake pancakes in oven until slightly firm to touch, about 5 minutes.

Blend sour cream and honey in small bowl; serve with pancakes. Makes approximately 18 pancakes.

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Chremslach (Parve)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 matzahs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 tablespoons currants or chopped dried cranberries</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 tablespoons almonds, chopped</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 tablespoons dried apricots,</td>
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<tr>
<td>chopped</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 eggs, separated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ cup matzah meal</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/3 cup sugar (or sugar substitute) or to taste</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grated rind of 1 lemon</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 tablespoon lemon juice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetable oil for frying</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Soak matzah in water to cover for 3 to 5 minutes. Squeeze dry. Mix matzah, currants, almonds, apricots, egg yolks, matzah meal, sugar, lemon rind and juice in bowl. Beat egg whites in bowl until stiff, not dry. Fold into matzah mixture.

Using an electric frying pan or wok, heat a quarter inch deep vegetable oil to 375 degrees. Drop mixture by measuring tablespoons into oil; cook gently 2-4 minutes, turning when first side is golden. Drain on paper toweling. Serve at room temperature.
The Jewish Federation is the safety net for our community here at home, in Israel and in over 70 countries around the world. Through our efforts and with your help, a hungry child in Kiev receives hot meals. Medicine gets delivered to a fragile Holocaust survivor in Haifa. Shelter is provided for a homeless family in the Coachella Valley. And much more. **Change hardship into hope today.**

Our 2018 campaign is underway and we ask that you give generously. The needs are great. The time is now. **Your link to getting started: www.jfedps.org.**