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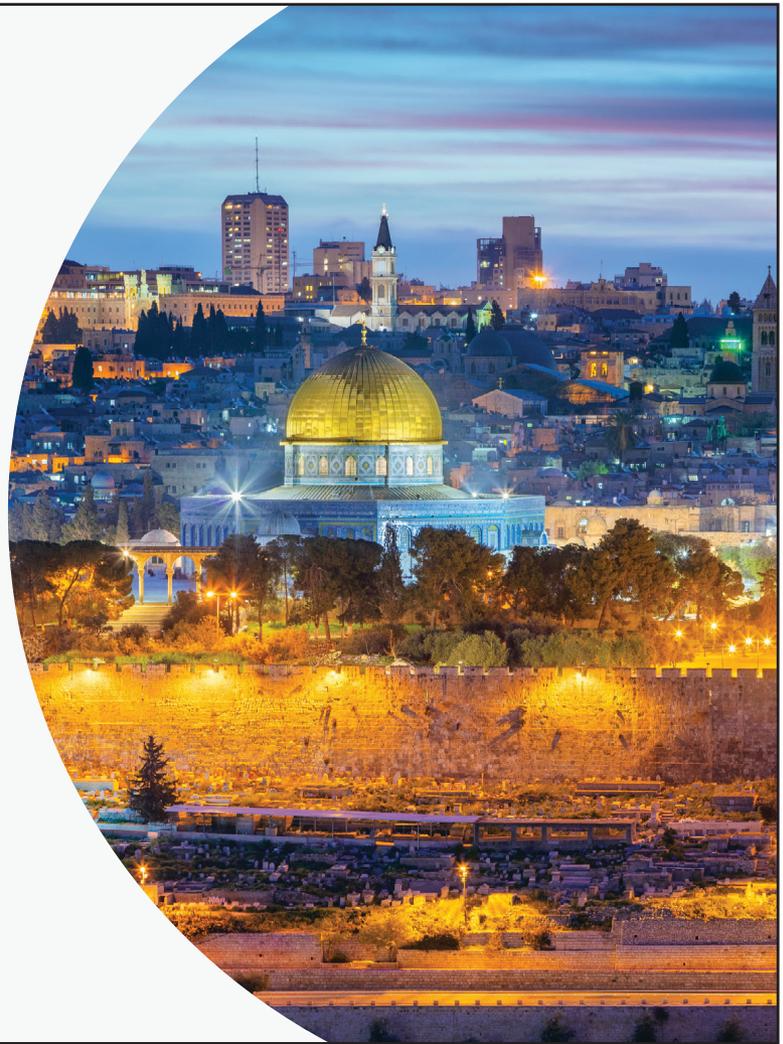
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JLIFE IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
MOTAN, LLC & JEWISH FEDERATION OF
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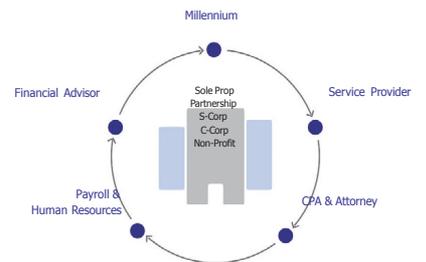
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THIS YEAR IN JERUSALEM

Every Trip to Israel is Different



When I was 16 years old, I and 45 other teens from northern California, specifically the East Bay, spent six weeks in Israel during the summer after our sophomore year in high school. It was an incredible experience, especially at such a young age, and this first trip continues to have a profound impact on my life still to this day.

Since that trip back in 1990, I have been back to Israel twice--once as part of my graduate school seminar in 2000 and again with the Jewish Federation's first community trip to Israel in 2012. And while each trip holds a very special place in my heart for the unique experiences they provided, I will always remember the first time I set foot in the country of our ancestors. I think that is the same for many.

I share these thoughts as we are excited about the community trip to Israel we have planned for the end of October. While we had originally planned to take a group this month, we felt that people were

apprehensive as the COVID-19 numbers were spiking due to the Omicron variant in December and January. This is why we pushed the trip back to the fall, which by many accounts is the perfect time to be in Israel.

I know that for some, the idea of traveling during COVID, let alone doing so internationally (and now that the mask mandates on transportation have been lifted) causes some apprehension. I completely understand. But I want to remind you that the trip is not until October and that you will be traveling to one of the countries that has been at the forefront of COVID research and vaccine development from the beginning.

In my opinion, there is no one better in our community to lead a group trip to Israel than Cantor Judy Sofer, our Cultural Arts Program Coordinator. Not only did she live in Israel for quite a while, but she has also led many, many similar trips and everyone shares how much they enjoyed the insight, perspective and experiences

she shares. Cantor Sofer is always exploring new opportunities to include in her trips. And this year's is no exception.

The itinerary she has put together for this 12-day trip is incredible and is geared to both the first-time visitor and those who be returning. One of the great things about Israel is that no two trips are alike. This is partly to do with the ongoing excavations and discoveries being made throughout the country. Plus, Israel holds a very special place in our history and a trip like this provides an opportunity to see, touch, smell and taste the beauty and richness of the country.

At the end of every Passover seder, one of the last things we read in the Haggadah is "Next year in Jerusalem." Now is the time to fulfill this and make it happen. Join us on a trip of a lifetime. ✨



JASON MOSS IS
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IMMIGRANTS AND INDEPENDENCE DAYS

Celebrating a People’s Freedom

BY TEDDY WEINBERGER

It sure helps to be an immigrant when it comes to celebrating your country’s independence day. Immigrants, especially if they have come as adults, are especially appreciative of their new country.

They have a sense of what their lives would have been like in their native countries, they see what their lives are like now, and they almost always conclude that their immigration was an excellent move. For me as an immigrant to Israel, a country with so many other immigrants, Yom Ha’Atzma’ut is joyous, indeed

Yom Ha’Atzma’ut actually marks two independences. Like several other nations in the mid-20th century (such as Algeria from France, Libya from Italy, and India from Britain), Israel broke free from old-world colonialism and achieved independence. But Israel’s independence is also celebrated by Jews the world over as a day when the Jewish people became independent.

Yom Ha’Atzma’ut festivities emphasize this transition of the Jewish people from exile to sovereignty. Again and again, many of the people given honors during the course of Yom Ha’Atzma’ut (whether in lighting a torch at night or as recipients of the Israel Prize during the day) mention either their own immigration or their parents’ or their grandparents’. The millions of Israelis tuning in to these festivities cannot help but sense a feeling of deep gratitude and appreciation for Israel as an ingathering of exiles.

The aspect of Yom Ha’Atzma’ut as Jewish independence continues to be particularly vibrant: Every immigrant to Israel has moved from a country with a Jewish minority culture to the world’s only Jewish majority culture. Gone are our Jewish noses and our Jewish appearances in general; gone is our Jewish stinginess and our money-grubbing ways; gone is our physical



weakness, our wimpiness, and our unattractiveness.

With our *aliyah*, we are judged independently and not as representatives of the Jewish people, and we realize now how so many of the stereotypes about Jews are both incorrect and laced with anti-Semitism.

America, too, is known as a land of immigrants, but as with Irish Americans and Italian Americans, the Jewish immigrant generation has almost completely died out. For the vast majority of American Jews, therefore, the immigrant experience is a thing of the past—too far removed to make the Fourth of July into a meaningful independence day. This is not to take away from the love that American Jews (myself included) have for America. And on the Fourth of July we are happy to feel and express this love in parades, fairs and fireworks, and to get a lump in our throat when the “Star Spangled Banner” is played.

But joy for America’s independence? Not really—that’s too much of a given for us.

Endnote: In mentioning the passing on of the American Jewish immigrant generation, I want to also note that we are witnessing the end of a staple of American comedy: the Jewish accent. From Mel Brooks to Billy Crystal to Jerry Seinfeld, any time you wanted to play a Jewish person, you would signal this with a kind of Yiddish-accented English. Millennial American Jews will have hardly run across such a speaker in person, and certainly their children won’t. Part of me is wistful about this, though there is nothing particularly endearing about calling attention to a person’s accent. At any rate from here on in, if comedians want their audiences to laugh, they are going to have to be a lot more creative when they depict Jewish characters.

Happy Yom Ha’Atzma’ut! ✨

TEDDY WEINBERGER IS DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT FOR A CONSULTING COMPANY CALLED MEANINGFUL. HE MADE ALIYAH WITH HIS FAMILY IN 1997 FROM MIAMI, WHERE HE WAS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES. TEDDY AND HIS WIFE, SARAH JANE ROSS, HAVE FIVE CHILDREN.

“Children in Israel are precious and represent the future. For Jews to have a future, we must celebrate children.”

GOBSMACKED AND GLEEFUL

Happy Birthday, Israel!

BY ANDREA SIMANTOV

A few months ago, Israel was named the 9th Happiest Country in the World in a publication called “World’s Happiness Report,” a highly touted publication of the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

Happy Israelis? Almost as chipper as the Finns and Norwegians? Better life-satisfaction than New Zealanders?

Like the joke of a waiter approaching a table of Jewish women and asking, “Is anything all right?,” complaining is a national pastime. Everything from politics, weather, religion (or lack of), economy, tourists/no tourists, recalcitrant youth and the ever-present standby called “Who Hates Us Today?” is parsed.

But still.

My husband and I have been recipients of cutting-edge healthcare that, anywhere else, would have sent us to the poorhouse. In addition to new hips and knees, regular scans and other treatments, Israelis are the first in the world to be inoculated against myriad diseases.

Jews, Arabs and other residents have choices among world-class medical institutions. How much does our health care cost? Mostly free and, if one chooses to pay privately, it’s heavily subsidized by one of the respective four or five national health services. Children up to the age of 18 are eligible for free routine dental care, low cost orthodontics and inexpensive higher education. Why? Because children in Israel are precious and represent the future. For Jews to have a future, we must celebrate children.

Abundant sunshine is predictable in our corner of the world. Even our daily prayers contain an eternal weather report, pretty much guaranteeing adequate rainfall from the end of Sukkot until the beginning of Passover. Israel’s weather allows months of al-

fresco dining, beach parties and balmy days for camping and hiking.

Locally grown produce spills over the bins in open air stalls and even the most slothful Israeli ingests more fiber than his Western counterpart. Modest tables groan under the weight of fresh falafel, humus,

chopped salads sprinkled with mints and other herbs, thick yogurts and sweating goat cheeses. Just another repast in laid-back, sun-drenched Israel.

How expensive is it to live here? Hoo-boy. Even Tevye the Milkman said to God, “I realize it is no shame to be poor, but it’s no great honor either.”

Still, struggling financially is part of the rhythm here and everyone manages. Obscenely expensive cities are only short drives from developing and affordable periphery towns that pepper the landscape. As a nation that continues to absorb huge numbers of immigrants each year, affordable communities develop constantly according to shared values, ethnicity, adherence to one or another manner of religious observance. No one starves in Israel and you don’t have to take my word for it. We look out for one another, volunteer, donate and obsess over the success of our neighbors in ways that reflect both Torah values and kibbutz mentality. That pioneering spirit of early Zionism is still strong.

There are no parades on Memorial Day. As victims of unprovoked wars and unrelenting terrorism, we don’t



need pomp. Cemetery paths fill with mommies and daddies who festoon marble gravestones of their children who died so that Jews never again march into ovens at the behest of those who loathe us.

As the sun sets on another agonizing Yom HaZikaron, the night sky erupts with fireworks and peals of revelry in gratitude to the aforementioned heroes who died, ensuring continued existence of the only Jewish nation on earth. We dress in blue and white and stream flags from our balconies and car antennas. We are united, celebrating a “miracle in the desert” called Israel.

Even though we have few natural resources, this tiny country has emerged as a world leader in the fields of medicine, veganism, finance, LGBTQ concerns, academia, technology, literature and more. Not too shabby for a country that is only 73 years old and the size of New Jersey.

Happy birthday, Israel. And watch out, Scandinavia. We’re catching up. ☆

NEW YORK NATIVE **ANDREA SIMANTOV** HAS LIVED IN JERUSALEM SINCE 1995. SHE WRITES FOR SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS, APPEARS REGULARLY ON ISRAEL NATIONAL RADIO AND OWNS AN IMAGE CONSULTING FIRM FOR WOMEN.

SWOOSH!

Why do the Utah Jazz, in the Mormon capital, play ‘Hava Nagila’ after wins?

BY ANDREW ESENSTEIN, JTA

A few years ago, Rachel Picado attended a Utah Jazz game in Salt Lake City with Israeli diplomat Eitan Na’eh, who was visiting from Los Angeles. During the closing seconds of the game, which the Jazz won, the two heard a familiar song coming from the speakers in Vivint Arena.

“We were both looking at each other like, why on earth are they playing ‘Hava Nagila?’” Picado recalled.

She asked the Jazz employees who were hosting her group about the musical choice, and “they were confused that we were confused,” Picado said.

“They said, ‘Well, isn’t it a celebratory song? We’re celebrating the win. Isn’t that what it’s for?’” Picado added.

Many professional sports teams play the same song after each win in their home stadiums. The Yankees use “New York, New York” by Frank Sinatra. The Los Angeles Dodgers and Lakers serenade fans with Randy Newman’s “I Love L.A.,” while the Clippers blast Tupac Shakur’s “California Love.”

And, for more than a decade, the Jazz have celebrated home victories by playing “Hava Nagila,” the Hebrew staple of Jewish weddings and bar and bat mitzvah parties that seemingly has nothing to do with Utah — or jazz, for that matter.

For a team with no Jewish players, in a market with relatively few Jewish residents, the choice has long baffled and amused basketball fans in Utah and beyond. The Jazz organization cites the song’s “memorable beat” in explaining the phenomenon.

“The rejoicing of the fans and the memorable beat of the song have proven to be a popular way to commemorate a Jazz win,” Madeline Crandall, the team’s communications director, said in an email.

While Jazz players dictate the arena’s playlist during pregame and halftime warmups, the team has two senior employees who choose the in-game music. “Hava Nagila” has been used specifically as the victory song “as long as they both remember,” Crandall said. “The consensus is that... it feels celebratory and fun and it has just stuck.”

Neither Meikle LaHue nor Jeremy Castro, who would appear to be the employees in question, responded to emails. LaHue has worked with the Jazz since 2006, and Castro since 2007, according to their LinkedIn profiles.

DJ Joune, the team’s official DJ whose job, as he put it in a recent Instagram video, is “curating the vibes” at Vivint Arena, said the tradition predates his tenure with the team.



“I don’t really know how this tradition started, but it’s a great victory ending song for Jazz fans,” he said.

How do Utah Jews feel about the team’s embrace of a song with deep Jewish roots?

“It’s a bit different, I’ll say that much,” said Rabbi Samuel Spector, who leads Utah’s largest synagogue, Congregation Kol Ami in Salt Lake City. “Hopefully it gives people a good association with Judaism and the Jewish community, if they associate our music with fun and winning.”

There are eight synagogues and approximately 6,500 Jews living in Utah today; about a quarter of them belong to Kol Ami, which is affiliated with both the Conservative and Reform movements. By contrast, more than 2 million residents—or two-thirds of the population—belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly known as the Mormon Church, according to Church statistics. (There are also small numbers of “Jewish Mormons,” Latter-day Saints who take pride in having Jewish heritage.)

Spector characterized relations between Jews and Latter-day Saints in Utah as close.

“They have been very generous to us, are always happy to help and have been great friends,” he said. “Even when we have differences, those are not great enough to overcome our friendship.”

Picado, who works in health insurance and attended the game with the Israeli diplomat, said she feels more welcome as a Jew in Salt Lake City than in Seattle, where she lived previously and encountered “a lot of very strong anti-Israel sentiment that definitely spilled over on the Jewish community.” She noted that the LDS Church has helped

honor Jewish history in the state by, for example, helping to erect a historic marker dedicated to Jewish pioneers who established an agricultural colony in Clarion, central Utah, in 1911.

Jazz owners Ryan and Ashley Smith are members of the Church, as were the previous owners, Larry and Gail Miller. Like many NBA teams, the Jazz hold a Jewish Heritage Night each season, usually during Hanukkah. Since 2015, the local emissaries from the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, Rabbi Benny Zippel and his son, Rabbi Avremi Zippel, have led menorah lighting ceremonies during halftime of those games. Avremi sings "Ma'oz Tzur."

First performed in Jerusalem in 1918 to celebrate the Balfour Declaration in support of a future state of Israel, "Hava Nagila" combines lyrics adapted from the book of Psalms—"let us rejoice and be glad"—with a Hasidic niggun, or chanted melody. Over time, it has gone from a Zionist youth group song to a Jewish wedding standard to "a generic ode to happiness," according to academics Edwin Seroussi and James Loeffler. So it's not so unusual to hear it played or sung at sporting events in the United States and Europe today.

"Once upon a time it was viewed as a stirring Zionist anthem, so much so that it was banned in parts of the Arab world," Loeffler, a Jewish history professor at the University of Virginia, told JTA. "Now thanks to its ubiquity it has become pareve to the point of post-Jewish kitsch."

Still, some Jewish basketball fans said they feel uneasy about the song's usage to glorify a non-Jewish group.

"I find it inappropriate for any NBA team to use any cultural song as a victory song, but even more so for a franchise in a city without any real connection to the culture the song is representative of," said Jon Kaufman, a fan who runs a sports memorabilia store on eBay and follows the Jazz closely from his home in Portland. "If they were to celebrate with a Mormon song, that would make some sense." But for the team to "take something cultural that is not yours, and to appropriate it for your liking, is just wrong."

Ben Dowsett, a journalist and videographer based in Salt Lake City who covers the NBA, does not take issue with what the Jazz are doing. On the contrary, Dowsett, who is Jewish, said the Jewish community and other minority communities "should be open to this sort of thing where appropriate, as long as the cultural elements being referenced are not being taken out of context or used offensively, which I don't believe is the case here."

Led by All-Stars Donovan Mitchell and Rudy Gobert, the Jazz are currently facing off against the Dallas Mavericks in the first round of the playoffs.

Rabbi Avremi Zippel has been attending Jazz games for 25 years, and though he will miss games 3 and 4 because of Passover obligations, he said he hopes to watch his team finally win their first championship.

"I look forward to game 7 of the NBA Finals, speedily in our days," he said, "with the Jazz playing 'Hava Nagila' as the Larry O'Brien [NBA Championship] Trophy is lifted in the air." ✨

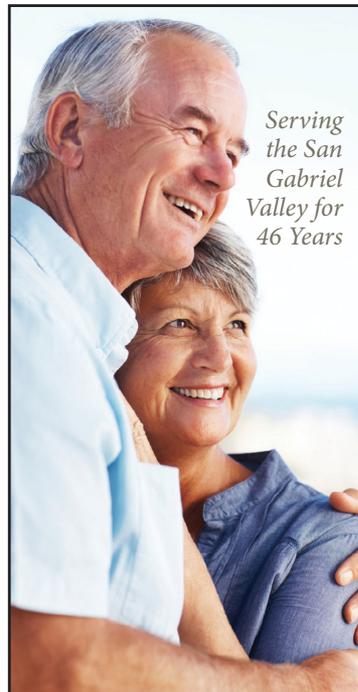
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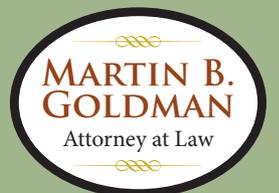
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LIEV SCHREIBER

The actor will play Anne Frank's father in new Disney+ series

BY ANDREW LAPIN, JTA



Liev Schreiber at the opening ceremony of the Berlinale 2018
Image: Martin Kraft (photo.martinkraft.com); License: CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons

Jewish actor Liev Schreiber will play Anne Frank's father Otto in a new Disney+ limited series, the latest dramatization of the Frank family's harrowing life in hiding from the Nazis.

The eight-episode miniseries, "A Small Light," is being produced by the National Geographic Channel, which is owned by Disney. It will follow Miep Gies, Otto's non-Jewish Dutch employee, who along with her husband Jan hid the Frank family in her secret annex for two years to evade the Nazi authorities. Following the family's discovery and deportation to the concentration camps, Gies also discovered and preserved Anne's diary for Otto, the family's sole survivor, to publish after the war.

Gies is often referred to as the Frank family's "protector"—the series title comes from a quote attributed to her late in life.

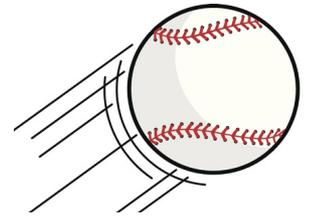
Bel Powley, who like Schreiber has a Jewish mother, will star as Gies, who died in 2010 at the age of 100. Powley's breakout role was as the star of a very different "Diary":

"The Diary of a Teenage Girl," a sexually frank coming-of-age drama from 2015. British actor Joe Cole, who appeared in the Netflix drama series "Peaky Blinders," will play Jan.

Schreiber, who played a growly Hollywood fixer on the long-running Showtime series "Ray Donovan," has appeared in Holocaust projects before. He co-starred in the 2008 thriller "Defiance," about three Jewish brothers who formed a guerrilla group to fight the Nazis, and he had a supporting role as a boxer in the 1999 concentration camp drama "Jakob the Liar."

"A Small Light" is set to begin shooting this summer in Amsterdam and Prague. It is far from the only Anne Frank project in recent years: "My Best Friend Anne Frank," a Dutch film about Hannah Goslar, another figure in the Franks' orbit, premiered on Netflix earlier this year, and a controversial new animated adaptation of Frank's diary premiered last year at the Cannes Film Festival from Israeli director Ari Folman. ✨

ANDREW LAPIN IS A CONTRIBUTING WRITER TO JTA AND JLIFE MAGAZINE.



BATTER UP!

All the Jewish Major League Baseball players we'll see in 2022

BY JACOB GURVIS, JTA

After two pandemic-altered seasons, a three-month lockout and a truncated free agent frenzy, the 2022 Major League Baseball season has finally arrived.

For Jewish fans of America's Pastime, there is plenty to look forward to this season, from Atlanta Braves ace Max Fried starting on Opening Day to the fashionable Joc Pederson playing for reigning National League Manager of the Year Gabe Kapler and the San Francisco Giants.

Here is a full rundown of what Jewish fans can look for in 2022, starting with the Jewish players on Opening Day rosters.

• **Max Fried, Atlanta Braves pitcher:** Fried is the ace of the defending champions. He is coming off a 2021 season in which he won his second consecutive Gold Glove award, given to the league's best defensive pitcher, and his first Silver Slugger award for best hitting pitcher—he will likely be the last to ever win that award as a pitcher, as a universal designated hitter will be introduced this season. Fried also pitched his Braves to a World Series win.

• **Alex Bregman, Houston Astros third baseman:** Staying healthy is at the top of this slugger's to-do list in 2022. Bregman played in only 91 games for Houston last year, but he will look to return to form this season—a form that included back-to-back top-five finishes in the American League Most Valuable Player races, in 2018 and 2019, when he hit 31 and 41 home runs, respectively.

• **Joc Pederson, San Francisco Giants outfielder:** The Giants are hoping Pederson's World Series streak continues in 2022—the flashy outfielder won rings the last two years, for the Dodgers and then the Braves. Pederson will now be playing for Jewish manager Gabe Kapler, who won the National League's top manager award last year after guiding the Giants to a historic 107-win season.

• **Rowdy Tellez, Milwaukee Brewers first baseman and designated hitter:** Tellez is entering his first full season in Milwaukee after being traded by Toronto last July. The lefty has some pop—he hit 21 homers in 2019—and will look to find a groove in his third full season in the big leagues.

• **Dean Kremer, Baltimore Orioles pitcher:** The first Israeli to sign a MLB contract, the young righthander is starting the season with the club in Baltimore. He only has 17 big-league games under his belt with an earned-run average near 7—the league leaders hover around 2.5-3—so Kremer will have to prove himself to keep his spot with the team.

• **Richard Bleier, Miami Marlins pitcher:** Entering his seventh season, Bleier has proven to be a solid relief pitcher, sporting a career 2.96 ERA. The soon-to-be 35-year old signed a two-year extension with Miami during spring training.

• **Scott Effross, Chicago Cubs pitcher:** Effross made his Major League debut last season, and made his first Opening Day roster for the Cubs this season. The 28-year-old righty had a strong spring.

• **Eli Morgan, Cleveland Guardians pitcher:** Morgan is another young reliever who made his debut in 2021, starting 18 games for Cleveland after his call-up in May. Morgan will begin 2022 in the Guardians bullpen.

• **Garrett Stubbs, Philadelphia Phillies catcher:** After appearing in the World Series with Houston last season, Stubbs has moved over to Philly to become the backup to one of the game's better catchers, J.T. Realmuto.

There are also several Jewish players who will look to crack into the big leagues this season—including some familiar faces.

• **Kevin Pillar, Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder:** Pillar has bounced around the league a bit since his debut in 2013. After playing for the Mets last year, the outfielder signed a minor league contract with L.A. He's a proven veteran and should see time this year—somewhere—as a fourth outfielder.

• **Ryan Sherriff, Philadelphia Phillies pitcher:** Sherriff is beginning the season on the injured list, but is expected to be in the Philadelphia bullpen once he returns from his left biceps tendinitis.

• **Ty Kelly, Los Angeles Dodgers utility:** A former Team Israel fan favorite, Kelly is the ultimate journeyman—he has played all over the minor leagues, independent ball and in Israel, and even briefly retired. He signed a minor league deal with the Dodgers.

• **Ryan Lavarney, Detroit Tigers catcher:** Another Team Israel alum, Lavarney signed a minor league contract with Detroit. He has not appeared in more than 10 big league games in a season since 2015.

• **Jake Kalish, Los Angeles Angels pitcher:** The 30-year-old pitcher has yet to make his major league debut despite a long career in the minors. He is starting the season in Triple A with the Salt Lake Bees.

• **Zack Weiss, Los Angeles Angels pitcher:** Weiss made his debut with Cincinnati in 2018 but hasn't broken out of the minor leagues since.

• **Andy Yerzy, Arizona Diamondbacks catcher and first baseman:** The 23-year-old Canadian was drafted in 2018 and has been playing in mostly low-level minors. He's shown some power, with 21 home runs in 94 games last year.

• **Rob Kaminsky, free agent pitcher:** The former first round pick hasn't appeared in a game since 2020.

Finally, there is a special prospect to keep an eye on: Jacob Steinmetz.

The first Orthodox Jew drafted into Major League Baseball, Steinmetz is the No. 25 ranked prospect in the Diamondbacks organization, and has had an impressive spring. He is likely years away from the big leagues, but it's worth keeping an eye on his development.

And it wouldn't be a Jewish baseball preview without Sandy Koufax. The legendary pitcher will have his own statue unveiled at Dodger Stadium this summer. ☆

“WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?”

Gwyneth Paltrow funds historical signboard at her Jewish ancestors’ cemetery in Poland

BY CNAAN LIPSHIZ, JTA



Gwyneth Paltrow (Photo Credit: WIKIMEDIA)

Movie star Gwyneth Paltrow has funded a sign chronicling the history of the Jews in her ancestors’ hometown in Poland.

The informational signboard—as the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland, which is leading the project, called it in a statement—will be unveiled on Tuesday at the Jewish cemetery of Nowogród in northeastern Poland.

The sign “recounts the history of the Jewish community dating back to the 15th century as well as the creation of the cemetery in the late 18th century, and the destruction of the local Jewish community and its cemetery” during and after the Holocaust.

Paltrow’s father’s family descends from Nowogród, according to research done for the 2011 episode of the celebrity genealogy TV show “Who Do You Think You Are?”

Paltrow’s great-great-grandfather Simon Palterovich, who went by Simcha, had immigrated

from Eastern Europe to the United States, she said during the show, and she discovered that Simcha’s father, Hirsch, was also a rabbi in Nowogród.

Hirsch Palterovich, who was murdered in the Holocaust, was remembered by survivors from Nowogród as a courageous man who singlehandedly put out a fire that threatened to consume the entire Jewish neighborhood of the town, Paltrow learned on the show. He was also a Kabbalah expert.

“This is kind of blowing my mind. Because I study Kabbalah. I can just feel how his spirituality is coming off the page,” she said on the show. Paltrow, who won an Oscar for best actress in 1999’s “Shakespeare in Love,” was particularly attached to her father, director and producer Bruce Paltrow, who died in 2002, she said.

“My dad was the love of my life until he died. My father really instilled in me the importance of unconditional love and support, and to treat your family with love and respect because they’re your family,” she said on “Who Do You Think you Are.” “And you know, those are the ties that bind.” ✨

SENT WITH LOVE

US Postal Service honors Jewish poet Shel Silverstein with ‘The Giving Tree’ stamps

BY SHIRA HANAU, JTA



The United States Postal Service released a new series of Forever stamps in honor of Shel Silverstein. (USPS)

The United States Postal Service released a new series of Forever stamps Friday in honor of Shel Silverstein, the Jewish author and illustrator who died in 1999.

The stamps commemorate what is perhaps Silverstein’s most famous book, “The Giving Tree,” which tells the story of the relationship between a boy and a tree. The stamps feature an image of the boy from the story catching an apple with Silverstein’s name written below.

“The issuance honors the extraordinarily versatile Shel Silverstein (1930-1999), one of the 20th century’s most imaginative authors and illustrators. His picture book “The Giving Tree” and his quirky poetry collections are beloved by children everywhere,” the description on the postal service’s website reads.

Silverstein was born in 1930 to a middle-class Jewish family in Chicago. He started drawing and writing from a young age and drew his first cartoons for adult readers when he was a GI in Japan and Korea. In addition to his career as a children’s book author, Silverstein was a prolific songwriter and playwright. (He also inspired the name of the youngest child of a Jewish family that recently appeared on Ava Duvernay’s home-swapping TV show.)

The U.S. Postal Service’s special edition stamps commemorating notable Americans have included many Jews, including the physicist Richard Feynman in 2005, cartoonist and inventor Rube Goldberg in 1995 and, in 1991, comedian Fanny Brice, the inspiration for the musical “Funny Girl.” The series in which Brice appeared was drawn by the Jewish illustrator Al Hirschfeld. ☆

SHIRA HANAU IS A CONTRIBUTING WRITER TO JTA AND JLIFE MAGAZINE.

HIGH (COURT) ART

Supreme Court rules heirs to a Jewish art dealer can use US courts to recover a painting taken by the Nazis

BY ANDREW LAPIN, JTA



Rue Saint-Honoré in the Afternoon, Effect of Rain by Camille Pissarro (1897). (Photo Credit: WIKIMEDIA)

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that heirs to a German Jewish art dealer could use the U.S. court system to reclaim a valuable painting their family had used as a bargaining chip with the Nazis, even though the painting is currently owned by Spain.

In a unanimous ruling Thursday, the justices found that the property-law dispute could be debated in court in California, where the descendants of Lilly Cassirer live today. Jewish Justice Elena Kagan wrote the opinion.

“Our ruling is as simple as the conflict over [the painting’s] rightful owner has been vexed,” Kagan wrote in the case of *Cassirer Et Al. v. Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection Foundation*. The case was the most explicitly Jewish one on the Court’s docket this term, although Jewish groups have filed amicus briefs in others, some of which involve religious freedom issues.

In 1939, Cassirer had surrendered the French painting “Rue Saint-Honoré in the Afternoon, Effect of Rain,” by the 19th-century Impressionist Camille Pissarro, to the Nazis in exchange for an exit visa so she could leave the country amid rising persecution of Jews. Cassirer had inherited the painting from her father, who had

bought it from Pissarro’s agent.

Two decades later, unable to track down the painting, Cassirer’s descendants instead accepted compensation from the German government—only to later discover that the painting had undergone a journey of its own, from an art gallery in St. Louis to a private home in Switzerland to, finally, an art foundation owned by the Spanish government.

The Cassirer family discovered the painting listed in a catalog for a Madrid museum and sued to reclaim it, which led the Spanish foundation to argue that the matter should be decided in Spanish courts, not California courts.

The Supreme Court decided on purely procedural grounds that, in property-ownership disputes, a foreign state “is subject to the same rules of liability as a private party” and therefore can be sued in U.S. court.

The ruling clears the way for the Cassirer family to continue to use American legal means in an attempt to reclaim the painting.

In the 17 years since the lawsuit began, its original plaintiffs, Claude and Beverly Cassirer, have both died. Claude was Lilly’s grandson and sole heir; his son David is continuing the legal fight. ☆

ANDREW LAPIN IS A CONTRIBUTING WRITER TO JTA AND JLIFE MAGAZINE.

ALIYAH.COM

Some Jewish tech workers won't ever return to the office. Instead, they've moved to Israel.

BY EMMA GOSS, JTA

Koby Geduld clocks into work at 7 p.m. most nights. He's a project coordinator for Tile, the San Mateo–based maker of Bluetooth-enabled tracking devices. He boots up his laptop from his home, responding to messages and having meetings until 3 a.m.

No, Geduld isn't nocturnal (at least not naturally).

He's working overnight hours because he no longer lives in the Bay Area. Instead, he's 10 hours ahead, in Jerusalem—where he and his wife moved last summer. And the 24-year-old isn't alone.

Guy Rosen, an Israeli and a vice president at Meta, the parent company of Facebook, worked at the social media network's Menlo Park offices prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, he's planning to relocate to Israel, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Working from Israel while retaining a Bay Area tech job is the result of the willingness of many Silicon Valley companies to allow their employees to work remotely—indefinitely.

"I've never been in the offices, which is weird," said Geduld, who began working for Tile's parent company, Life360, during the pandemic in December 2020.

The pandemic had already thrown a couple of major wrenches into his life. When it first hit, he was studying communications at Reichman University in Herzliya, and his classes went remote. Then, his planned wedding to his college sweetheart, Ariel, was postponed, and what had been anticipated as a short, pre-wedding stay in Oakland turned into a year and a half there.

The couple used the time to look for post-college jobs, with Geduld doing Bay Area deliveries for Instacart and DoorDash before he landed a part-time job at Life360, which turned into a full-time position with Tile in July 2021.

A month later, the Cleveland native and Ariel (now his wife) relocated to Jerusalem, where Geduld's siblings have lived for years, and where the newlyweds had always hoped to live.

"I think it's an amazing opportunity that I have," Geduld said of their move. "I don't take it for granted at all. I'm beyond grateful."

The pandemic has allowed many businesses—Silicon Valley and Bay Area tech companies, in particular—to rethink the way work can get done.

"I think they're super understanding and willing to give you a lot ... especially if they see you're contributing with a time difference," Geduld said. "They realize that you're here not just for a paycheck. You're here for something bigger."

That belief is what led him to ask for something he was at first hesitant to bring up: time off for Shabbat. He got an



Dan Cohen and his family at a bat mitzvah in Tel Aviv. (Courtesy of J. The Jewish News of Northern California)

immediate yes.

As for how he manages the graveyard shift, "It's honestly not that bad," he said. "I wake up late and take some midday naps."

For Dan Cohen, who relocated from Oakland to Israel five years ago, the pandemic "really changed the equation" of working remotely from Israel.

Cohen, 53, lives in Raanana and runs Full Court Press, a public relations firm headquartered in Oakland that specializes in supporting nonprofits, federations and social enterprises, many of which are Jewish. Though his team of seven employees is entirely Bay Area–based, the CEO and founder (Cohen) has led the company from Israel since 2017.

When he first relocated, Cohen recalled, picking up a phone and calling someone was how most companies operated. Now he communicates almost entirely over Zoom, which he feels builds stronger connections with people than a standard phone call can achieve. Five years ago, he worried that missing out on handshakes with clients and not having a seat at a literal conference room table might weaken the social capital he was fostering. Now, he said, it feels normal, both for him and the companies he supports.

"What felt like a leap off a cliff five years ago now just feels like a walk in the park," he stated.

Cohen and Geduld both said they are atypical of most of Israel's workforce; for example, Cohen's Israeli friends and neighbors are openly jealous of his work schedule that includes Sundays off.

Like Geduld, Cohen works overnight hours so he can stay available for his Bay Area team and clients. He works Monday through Thursday each week—reaping the benefits of an Israeli workweek that ends on Thursday and the traditional U.S. workweek that starts on Monday.

"I get to do physical fitness, I get to volunteer, I get to spend time with people I care about. And I get to really be active and supportive in my kids' lives," Cohen said.

"The best thing is," he added, "I get to live here." ☆





FALL TRIP TO ISRAEL SET

Itinerary covers most of central, northern areas

BY CANTOR JUDY SOFER

One of my favorite things to do is to take groups to Israel. I have the opportunity to share a place that is very close to my heart.

People read so much about Israel in the news: newspapers, radio or television, but it doesn't expose them to the wonders of this amazing country that holds centuries and millennia of history.

I lived in Israel for 11 years. I went on the Junior Year Abroad program and stayed. Israel was, and is, such a vibrant country that every minute there was exciting. I first went there in 1969, and made Aliyah in 1974. I came home in 1985 in order to be with family but I go back every year to be with my husband's family and to infuse myself with the intense presence and atmosphere of this unique place in the world, its bellybutton, because it is where "G-d cut the cord."

The country has changed dramatically from year to year with more building, more modernization, more ancient sites uncovered. Every time I go back, I make a point to go see new places and sites that I haven't seen before.

There are many exciting, interesting, and fun places to see in the world but I feel that Israel has to be on everyone's bucket list--especially for Jews and anyone connected to the Judeo-Christian religions. It opens up our awareness of how close we really are to the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. Those

stories really did happen and there we can see the proof.

I am coordinating the Jewish Federation's next community trip to this incredible country from October 23 through November 3. This is a wonderful time to be there. The weather is fabulous, warm but not too warm. Israel is the origin of what is called the Mediterranean climate.

We set an itinerary which takes us through most of central and northern Israel with an option to visit Petra in Jordan at the end of the trip. Because Israel is a small country, actually the size of the state of New Jersey, we are able to see many places in a day. If you join us and want to put in a request to visit certain sites, please let me know.

Israel has been very strict about COVID-19 but has recently opened up its doors to bring in everyone. It is a very safe place to be right now. It has been leader in dealing with the pandemic in the most successful way, often cited by the CDC for the way vaccines and boosters have been handled.

If you are interested, consider joining us this fall as we travel around the most exciting place to be in the world! For questions and more information send an email to jsofer@jewishsgpv.org or call 626-445.0810. ✨

CANTOR JUDY SOFER IS THE JEWISH FEDERATION'S CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAM COORDINATOR AND CONTRIBUTING WRITER TO JLIFE MAGAZINE.

JEWISH COOKING CONNECTION MARKS 1ST YEAR

It Features Variety of Food that Unites Jews Around the World

BY ROBIN EVANS



Robin Evans demonstrates how to make a Sephardic spinach quajado for Passover

Have you seen any of the Jewish Cooking Connection videos? Have you tried any of the delicious holiday dishes yet? Did you know the Jewish Federation has its own YouTube channel?

One short year ago, the Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys launched a fun and creative cooking show to feature the wide variety of Jewish food that unites Jews around the world. Wherever they lived, Jews adopted the local cuisine and adapted it to comply with Jewish holiday traditions and the kosher dietary laws. This resulted in an amazing cuisine, rich in flavor, variety and versatility.

Over the past year, 12 accomplished cooks and bakers from the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys demonstrated dishes from the Ashkenazi, Sephardic and Mizrahi traditions. Each video, directed and recorded by the Jewish Federation's Cultural Arts Program Coordinator, Cantor Judy Sofer, demonstrates a dish, describes the ingredients in detail and reveals

the finished product. The recipe and nutrition analysis for each dish is available on the Jewish Cooking Connection webpage at <https://jewishsgpv.org/jewish-cooking-connection>.

We hope you will visit the website each month and see what special dish we are highlighting. You might see one of your friends or fellow congregants demonstrating a special dish. Perhaps you are also a great cook or have a special family recipe that you would like to share. If so, please contact Sofer at jsofer@jewishsgpv.org to find out how you can become one of our cooks. ✨



ROBIN EVANS IS A CONTRIBUTING WRITER TO JLIFE MAGAZINE.

SGPV'S JEWISH YOUTH & PARENTS

kiddish

*Summer's
Coming*

Get Ready for Some Fun

MAY 2022

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kiddish

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ART ARTSGPV@GMAIL.COM JLIFE IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MOTAN, LLC 1 FEDERATION WAY, IRVINE, CA 92603

Jlife is published monthly by Orange County Jewish Life, LLC. Subscription rate is \$24 for one year (12 issues). Send subscription requests to Jlife, 1 Federation Way, Irvine, CA 92603. Jlife is a free and open forum for the expression of opinions. The opinions expressed herein are solely the opinion of the author and in no way reflect the opinions of the publishers, staff or advertisers. Orange County Jewish Life, LLC is not responsible for the accuracy of any and all information within advertisements. Orange County Jewish Life, LLC reserves the right to edit all submitted materials, including press releases, letters, articles and calendar listings for brevity and clarity. Orange County Jewish Life, LLC is not legally responsible for the accuracy of calendar or directory listings, nor is it responsible for possible postponements, cancellations or changes in venue. Manuscripts, letters, documents and photographs sent to Orange County Jewish Life, LLC become the physical property of the publication, which is not responsible for the return of such material. Orange County Jewish Life, LLC is a member of the American Jewish Press Association and the Business Consumer Alliance. All contents © 2016 Orange County Jewish Life.

First Summer at Overnight Camp

The Surprising Thing Helping My Son Prepare

BY LINDSAY KARP, KVELLER

A bittersweet parenting moment has arrived. My 10-year-old son will be embarking on his first vacation without parents this summer. That's what he called sleepover camp when we first talked about it last year.

My husband attended the same camp for seven years, followed by another four years on staff. When he's not working or parenting, chances are he's talking to a camp friend, reading about camp events or telling someone about camp. If I gave him the go ahead, I'm pretty sure he'd move back into cabin 19. This summer, my husband will live vicariously through our son as he begins his camp journey on the very same grounds that my husband grew up on.

There's no question that my son is excited, too, but his excitement is sprinkled with a healthy amount of unease.

When we talk about camp, he questions if he'll be able to do everything on his own. I'm not sure he fully understands the idea of a laundry service, but if he wants to learn how to do laundry in preparation for camp, I'm totally OK with that! He'll be ecstatic to find himself among other boys who don't know what a rinse cycle is and who pull up the bed covers and call it a day.

He often wonders if he'll remember to brush his teeth or wear his retainer. There's also some concern over being separated from the group, but I assure him the counselors won't let that happen.

Last summer, my son visited camp for the first time with my husband. They toured the grounds, went for a swim, met other kids his age and, most importantly, ate in the dining commons. Latkes were on the menu that day and apparently, they were the best damn latkes he's ever had. These latkes continue to come up during conversation over a year later and have made all the difference when it comes to mentally preparing for camp. I will assure him as much as I can, but any jitters fizzle as soon as he remembers there will be a delicious, warm, salty treat waiting for him in the dining commons.

His two best friends are attending camp with him (what could be better? Vacation without parents WITH your two best friends! Sign me up!). I recently



overheard them discussing camp and, obviously, the most important topic of discussion was the menu. They spouted off a list of foods that may or may not be offered at camp like hot dogs, steak and cheeseburgers. (I hate to break it to them, but I'm pretty sure we're dealing with a kosher-style kitchen, so no, there will not be cheeseburgers). But then, in a very serious tone, my son added, "Don't worry, they have latkes." And with that, all was good in the world. Something as simple as a Jewish comfort food can provide these kids with the contentment they need to be away from home for the very first time.

I am so thankful that my son will have the experience of a Jewish sleepover camp. These summers can play a huge role in shaping his personality, his interests and his Jewish identity. But more importantly, I hope the chef is prepared to cook a year's supply of latkes for the month of July.

As for me, I'm sure I'll have moments during quiet, summer evenings where I sit and wonder what he's doing: whether he's eating enough fruits and vegetables, flossing his teeth or changing his sheets. But mostly, I'll wonder if he's happy. In these moments, as I miss his high energy giggles and his frequent, curious questions, I'll know he's doing just fine, because as he often reminds me, they've got latkes. And so even if I'm not the one eating them, those best damn latkes in the world help calm my own Jewish mom anxieties, too. ✨

LINSEY KARP IS A CONTRIBUTING WRITER TO KVELLER AND KIDDISH MAGAZINE.

Summer Fun

The holiness of returning to summer camp.

BY EVA GROSSMAN, JTA



I am a camp person through and through. Camp has always been my happy place. For a long time it was the only place I felt genuinely Jewish.

I grew up being the only Jew most people in my hometown knew, and switched synagogues several times. I never felt attached to any Jewish community during the year, so my one month at camp had to provide all of my connection for the year. To steal from an Instagram caption I wrote after my last summer as a camper: "If you aren't a camp person and you're wondering why I always talk about camp, here's why: the people that will always be there for me are those I've met at camp."

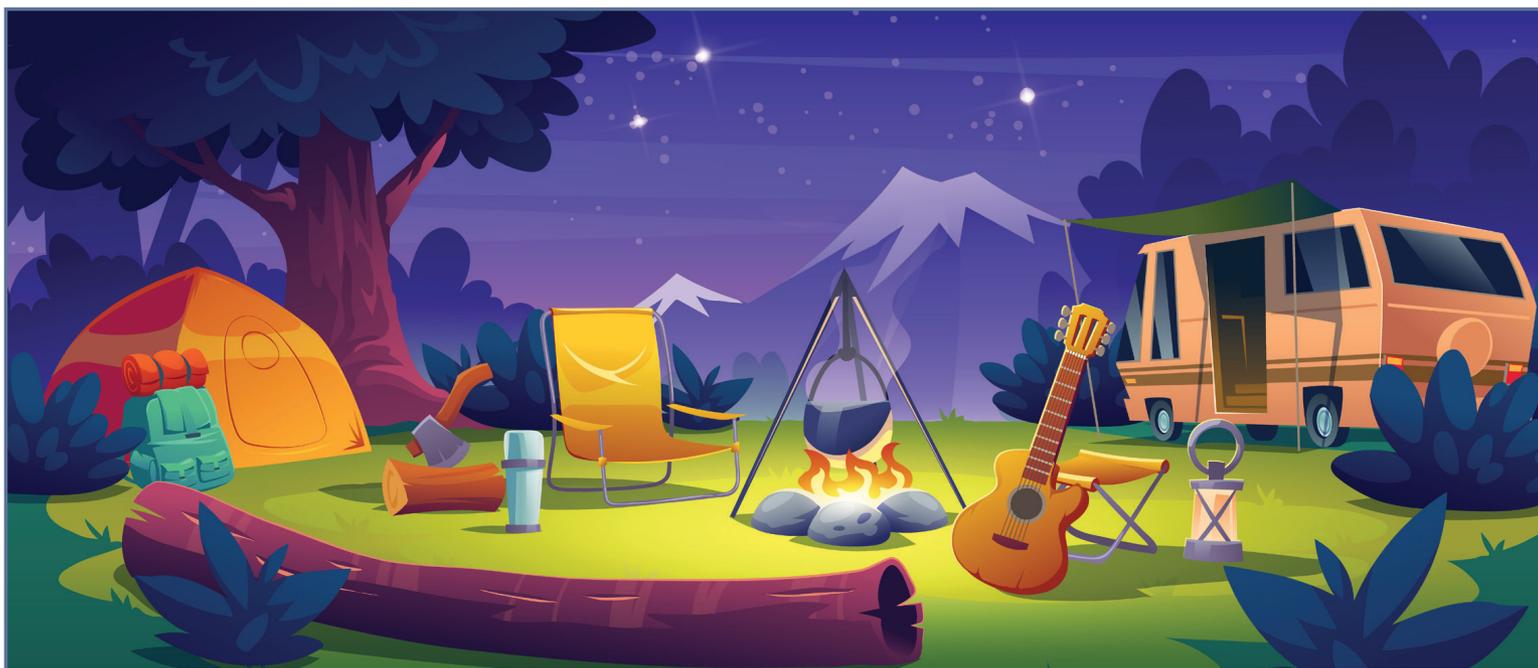
Camp shaped me as it allowed me to be wholeheartedly Jewish and explore hobbies I would never get to at home. Daily services were annoying as a kid, but I also learned every Shacharit (morning service) prayer through experience rather than tedious studying. I learned every Lecha Dodi tune from weekly camp-wide Kabbalat Shabbat services. I got to learn how to make earrings in jewelry, paint with watercolor in art, and

bake challah in cooking. I even got out of my comfort zone and climbed the ropes course every year.

I always connected more with people at camp than school because I felt like they just got it. Many of them could relate to being one of few people with their traditions in their school. Camp gives opportunities for structured learning and activities and free time. Living together capitalizes on the in-between moments and unstructured time that school doesn't really have.

So naturally, when the time came, I transitioned pretty seamlessly from camper to staff. I had always known that I wanted to work at camp, so the decision to apply was easy. In summer 2019, I was a counselor as well as a ropes course specialist, so I spent most of my day working on the ropes course while still sleeping and eating with campers.

And then last summer happened. Due to the pandemic, camp had to move from in person to virtual. During a summer of mourning and loss, camp was still able to provide some distraction from the real world, albeit in a much different way. We ran two weeks



of online programming including teaching edah (units divided by grade) songs, bunk bonding activities and maccabiah (color war). I was lucky to have high schooler campers who already had a lasting relationship with camp and would participate in any event we put on, but something was missing.

Every summer, counselors would remind campers that camp is not a physical space, but rather, it's a mindset. They were right, but there's no way to pretend that last summer wasn't markedly different from all others. The community was technically there, but something about those Zoom calls was incredibly isolating.

Knowing that I will be back at camp this summer is the only thing that got me through the semester. I took the hardest classes I have since starting college, dealt with my parents' divorce, and moved across the country after a semester at home. I've been incredibly lucky to get through a global pandemic without losing anyone I know personally. Even so, a huge part of my life has been missing.

In a normal year, camp is the most abnormal part of my life. But this year, camp will mark a much-needed return to normalcy. Calls with my camp planning for this summer are the only Zoom calls I don't dread anymore, because I know that they're leading somewhere better. Filling out tedious forms doesn't feel like a chore, it feels like a reward for the year we've been through.

I only lost a year of camp as a staffer. I feel immensely for my kids who lost a whole year of being campers, and the connection and kehilla (community) that comes with it. My childhood is intertwined with camp, and I would not have come to love camp as a young adult had I not been able to go as a child. I would not have come to love and want to explore Judaism in the same way. As Rabbi Mitch Cohen put it last year, "camp gives children a time

to be Jewish, to learn about Judaism in a joyous setting, where young role models set the standard, providing opportunities for deep spiritual, ritual, and ethical development."

As a staff member, camp still affects me. I still learn and grow through both formal staff learning sessions and opportunities with my campers. I got to redo fifth-grade Shacharit services, this time knowing every single word and helping my campers learn them as well. As a camper, I was never the teacher, and definitely never an expert on anything Jewish. I also get to make new connections with older generations of staff and Jewish leaders. I can ask them career-guiding or philosophical questions instead of when lunch is.

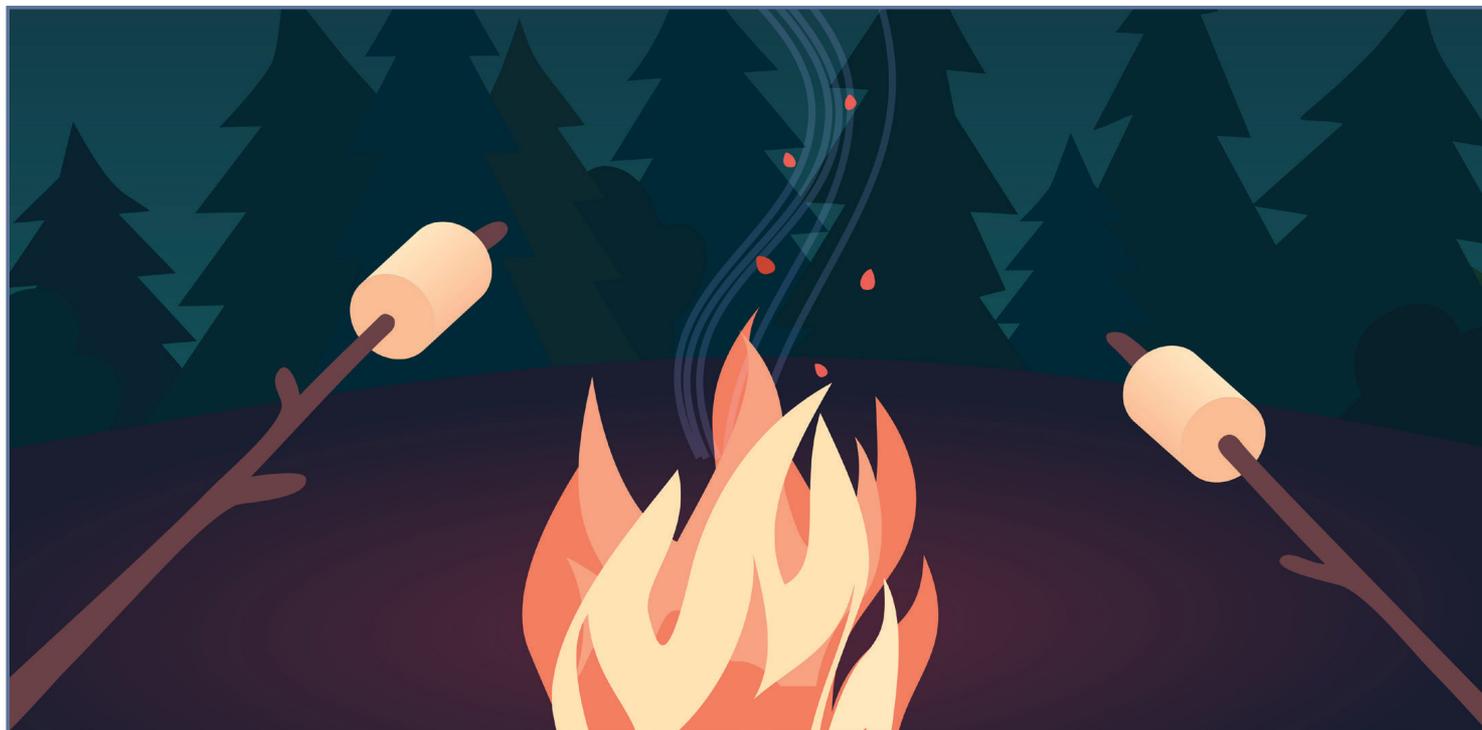
Of course, the pandemic has changed how camp will operate this summer. All staff members are required to be fully vaccinated before first session starts. Everyone will be getting tested often, and camp will operate as a bubble. Within the bubble, we'll have pods, and maybe by the end of the session we'll be able to come together as larger groups. But even though we'll be in pods, wearing masks and getting COVID tests often, we'll be back at camp. We won't feel the same isolation we've felt over the past year. Instead we'll be within our community surrounded by those we love. The optimism of this summer is incredible compared to the despair of last.

Camp gave me my best friends, college roommate and love for Judaism. I would not be the person I am today without it. In geography, we discuss the concepts of space and place. While space is just a matter of measurements, place is a matter of meaning. People ascribe meaning to spaces, making them important places. Going back to that place always feels like returning somewhere holy, and I can only hope that this summer will be the same. ✨

Life Lessons Under the Stars

Being a Jewish summer camp counselor taught me everything I need to know in life

BY MOLLY WERNICK, JTA



Even though I haven't technically been a camp counselor for a decade or so, the role has never fully left me. Camp counseling is an unassuming yet all-powerful part of my identity. The skills I learned have helped with every job I've done, every degree I've earned, every relationship I've built. Yet this summer, my fellow Jewish summer camp colleagues across the country are facing hiring challenges with our college-age counselors.

It seems that instead of loading up their fannypacks and heading off to wrangle young campers for the summer, most college kids feel pressure to find "real jobs" like internships and fellowships in their chosen future fields. So the would-be senior counselor is alphabetizing files in a local law firm, and the would-be operations director is entering data into spreadsheets at a tech company.

And that's a shame.

I feel eternally grateful for the six would-be internship summers I spent at my beloved summer camp in Pennsylvania. On paper, I started as a camp counselor and became a camp director. In actuality, I spent those summers becoming a coach, facilitator, program designer, manager, choreographer, comedy writer, chef, party planner, song leader, Jewish educator,

blogger, activist, community organizer — the list goes on.

The skills I learned during my summers at camp travel with me everywhere I go. The overall lessons of camp counseling provide an essential blueprint for building empowered professionals, successful teams, healthy organizations and strong communities. So yes, it's true: Everything you need to know in life, you can learn as a Jewish camp counselor. Below are some of the most translatable skills from my summers as a counselor:

1. Enthusiasm Generates Enthusiasm (EGE) has become my modus operandi. What started as a vehicle to psych up campers enough to get into a cold pool has had fruitful dividends. Whether leading a training, pitching a new idea or speaking with a donor or investor, the energy you bring to a space is infectious. Use it right!

2. Get comfortable with feedback: How to give it, ask for it, receive it and mediate it. From teaching two 11-year-olds how to use "I feel statements" (I feel excluded when you don't invite me to come sit with you) to unpacking the gender and power dynamics of our counselor-in-training group, we learned that not running away from the tough stuff made our relationships (and our work) stronger.

Pro tip: If you're interested in learning how to start giving feedback, practice by graciously telling someone



when they have food in their teeth or that a restroom is out of toilet paper.

3. Meet people where they are: When our campers saw that we took the time to learn their taste in music, validate their experiences and understand their needs, we developed a deep trust that opened up the gates of conversation and built a foundation of mutual respect. Whether you're 14 or 40, you deserve to feel seen and understood. Taking the time to understand those you work with will not only aid in creating new meaning for you and your team, but working with mutual trust and respect will help exceed your goals.

4. Mobilize in times of crisis and calm: Once we ran a "Zombie Apocalypse" special day at camp. Our campers "trained for battle." They stood up for their community in a (simulated) time of need. After sunset, our local fire department appeared, sirens roaring, to remove the "captured zombies" from camp.

Fast-forward to the shooting at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue. Shortly after hearing the news, I put out a call on Facebook to gather members of the Philadelphia Jewish community for a vigil of solidarity. Two of the first to respond and help were camp friends living in the area. Together we were able to take a stand in a time of real fear and threat, gather a diverse representation of local

leaders, and navigate the infrastructure of local police and city parks departments to provide last-minute permits, electrical power and protection. Hundreds of people gathered that evening in Philadelphia's Rittenhouse Square. We spoke, we listened, we cried, we mourned. We showed up, together.

5. Embrace scrappy and (literal) campiness: Like the scene in the movie "Hook" in which the Lost Boys eat an imaginary feast that becomes real to them, camp counselors are the world's most resourceful thinkers, as they suspend belief on a daily basis. Their low-budget productions can turn a kickball into an orb of magic energy. Everything they see has a hundred different possibilities. It's their exercise of thought that will create solutions to the challenges of industry and society both great or small.

A decade after my years as a camp counselor, I see my camp friends as rising leaders in their fields. Each has a story about how their time at camp trained them for a crucial facet of their volunteer and professional work, as well as their relationships. And each will tell you that yes, being a camp counselor is indeed a real job.

Wishing you all a happy and safe summer! If you need to find me, I'll be back at camp. ✨

COOKING JEWISH

Lifestyle

MARK THE WEEKLY HOLIDAY SHABBAT

**Traditions for All
Jewish Families**

BY JUDY BART KANCIGOR

Mushroom and
Cheese Strudels

When it comes to celebrating, we Jews have it covered. After all, we celebrate a holiday every week; it's called Shabbat. A new cookbook by Faith Kramer, "52 Shabbats: Friday Night Dinners Inspired by a Global Jewish Kitchen" (The Collective, \$32.50) is an accessible Shabbat primer inviting everyone, regardless of religious background, to the joy that is the Shabbat table.

"In a way, I wrote the cookbook I wanted to read and use, one that gave perspective to Shabbat, provided lots of background info on traditions, foods, Jewish communities and more, and was full of recipes I would like to make for my friends and family," Kramer told me by email while on a camping trip.

"I love that Shabbat is the holiday we celebrate every week and that just the very act of intention is what sets it apart. That intention can be a small thing or a bigger effort, but it's still Shabbat, and I wanted these traditions to be accessible to all kinds of Jewish families no matter what their backgrounds."

Kramer, a food writer, recipe developer and columnist for "JWeekly," the Jewish News of Northern California, has drawn on global flavors—South Indian Inspired Fish Cakes with Coconut-Cilantro Chutney, Matzo Ball and Chicken Pizole Soup from Latin America, Oregano Roast Chicken with Leek-and-Mint Fritters from Greece, for example—as well as new twists on traditional flavors.

The recipes are arranged by season, and each recipe is accompanied by a "Make it Shabbat" full menu. I especially appreciate her tying some of the recipes to the holidays that fall within that season. Case in point: Shavuot, which this year begins the evening of Saturday, June 4.

"Shavuot marked the end of

the barley harvest and the beginning of the wheat, but became associated with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai and the 10 Commandments," she writes. "The Mushroom and Cheese Strudels combine two Shavuot traditions: foods shaped like Torah scrolls and those made with dairy. There were many symbolic explanations for dairy foods being associated with the holiday, but one simple reason is that spring is when milk and other dairy products are plentiful."

Then she suggests other recipes for the holiday, including Spinach and Dill Phyllo Pies and Mango and Cardamom Mini Cheesecakes. "Tuna Freekah Salad made from smoky roasted greens, connects to the wheat harvest, since freekah is made from young green wheat."

What makes a recipe Shabbat-worthy? "I think as long as you have the intention of celebrating Shabbat any food can be Shabbat-worthy," she explained. "Pressed for time or not prepared? Pizza or rotisserie chicken from the store is fine. For the book, I wanted special meals, since to me Shabbat is a holiday meal. I like vibrant flavors and lots of color and texture, so that gets added onto my Shabbat recipe wishlist. The recipes in the book have a connection to Jewish traditions, ingredients, techniques, or symbolism, which I feel adds to their Shabbat-worthiness. I use ingredients in unexpected ways (say, Falafel Pizza with Feta and Herbs or my Middle Eastern Grilled Corn), but I do have some classic Jewish fundamentals that my 'JWeekly' readers have asked for repeatedly over the years. This is the food I cook for my friends and family at Shabbat and on weekdays and holidays. And I try to give make-ahead directions wherever I can, since while Shabbat may be a holiday, it is still a workday for many."

According to rabbi and food historian Gil Marks (of blessed

memory), rugelach, which had morphed from a yeast dough pastry to a yeast-less crescent made with sour cream, made its first appearance as cream cheese rugelach in 1950 with the publication of "The Perfect Hostess" by Mildred O. Knopf.

Cream cheese rugelach became a Shavuot treat, and by the 1980s were being mass produced by commercial bakeries, not all of them Jewish. "Whereas cream cheese dough predominates in the United States, Israeli rugelach are still commonly parve and made with a yeast dough and sometimes even paired with a savory filling, such as olives," he writes.

Rugelach (the word means "little twists" in Yiddish) are rolled and filled crescent shape cookies with roots in Austrian history. As the story goes, in 1793 Austrian bakers celebrated the lifting of the Turkish siege of Vienna by creating pastries with a crescent shape to represent the Ottoman flag. Some say the croissant has similar ancestry. Brushing them with melted butter is a brilliant technique I picked up from my cousin Staci Robbins years ago when she visited from Atlanta on a high school trip. She mentioned her Grandma Claire taught her to do this so that they brown without overbaking—not to mention what it does for the taste. ☆

“Shavuot traditions: foods shaped like Torah scrolls and those made with dairy.”

JLIFE FOOD EDITOR **JUDY BART KANCIGOR** IS THE AUTHOR OF "COOKING JEWISH" (WORKMAN) AND "THE PERFECT PASSOVER COOKBOOK" (AN E-BOOK SHORT FROM WORKMAN), A COLUMNIST AND FEATURE WRITER FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.COOKINGJEWISH.COM.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY KANCIGOR



Mushroom and Cheese Strudels

Serves 4 to 6 as main course, or 8 to 10 as an appetizer

- 2 tablespoons + ½ cup olive oil, divided
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2½ cups thinly sliced onions
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon Za'atar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1¼ teaspoons paprika, divided
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 pounds mixed fresh mushrooms, chopped, such as button, cremini and shiitake
- 10 (13-17-inch) sheets phyllo dough, at room temperature
- 1 cup breadcrumbs
- 6 ounces Brie or Camembert, cut into ½-inch chunks and chilled
- 2½ cups shredded Swiss and/or Gruyère cheese
- ¼ cup chopped green onions or chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley



- 1.** In 12-inch skillet, heat 2 tablespoons olive oil and the butter over medium-high heat. Add onions and sauté until softened, 5 to 7 minutes. Add garlic and sauté until golden, 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in za'atar, salt, 1/4 teaspoon of paprika and the black pepper.
- 2.** Add mushrooms to skillet in batches, sturdier ones (such as shiitake) first. Sauté until they begin to soften, then add softer ones (such as oyster) until all mushrooms are tender and liquid evaporates. Let cool 5 minutes.
- 3.** Preheat oven to 350°F. Line large baking sheet with parchment paper
Recipe continues at <http://www.jlifespv.com/mark-the-weekly-holiday-shabbat/>

“Shabbat is the holiday we celebrate every week.”

Rugelach

DOUGH

- 1 pound (4 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, at room temperature
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt

FILLING

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 2½ cups pecans or walnuts, toasted and chopped
- 1 cup sweetened flaked or shredded coconut
- 1½ cup raisins
- About 1½ cups seedless raspberry or apricot jam
- About 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

- 1.** Dough: Cream butter and cream cheese on medium speed until blended and smooth. Mix flour with salt and sugar. Reduce speed to low and add gradually until smooth. Wrap well with plastic wrap and refrigerate 2 hours to overnight.
- 2.** Filling: Mix sugar, cinnamon, nuts, coconut and raisins.
- 3.** Preheat oven to 350°F. Line several baking sheets with parchment paper.
- 4.** Divide dough into eight portions and use one at a time, keeping remainder refrigerated. Gently knead dough until soft enough to roll. Roll dough on lightly floured board or between two sheets of waxed or parchment paper, and cut out a 10- to 12-inch round (I use a pot lid with a sharp edge). Spread thin layer of jam over dough to 1/2 inch of the edge. Sprinkle with about 1/2 cup of filling. Using a pizza wheel, cut into 12 wedges (like a pie). Roll up each triangle, starting at large end. With the tip end down, bend each cookie slightly to form a crescent shape. Place on prepared baking sheets and brush with melted butter.
- 5.** Bake, two sheets at a time, on middle third and top third oven racks, rotating sheets from top to bottom and front to back halfway through, until rugelach are lightly golden, 20 to 25 minutes. They will seem soft, but will firm up on cooling. Carefully transfer to a wire rack to cool. Makes 8 dozen
Source: “Cooking Jewish” (Workman) by Judy Bart Kancigor ✨

NEVER FORGET

Ukrainian refugees joined March of the Living at Auschwitz for first post-COVID commemoration

BY CNAAN LIPSHIZ, JTA



Participants of the March of the Living exit a gate in the former Nazi camp Auschwitz in Poland, May 2, 2019. (Courtesy of the International March of the Living)

Refugees from Ukraine joined the March of the Living commemoration event at Auschwitz.

The refugees were among 2,500 people from 25 countries who signed up for the mission to the former death camp, the first since March of the Living suspended such activities due to COVID-19, the educational group said in a statement. The March brings young people from around the world to Poland and Israel to study the history of the Holocaust.

The event on April 28 will culminated in the traditional two-mile march between the Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau camps near Krakow in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, the statement said.

One of the Ukrainian participants was Yefim Podlipsky, a Jewish refugee from Vinnitsa. He ran a tourism company before he fled Ukraine after Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of the country.

Lila Buzeniuk, another Ukrainian refugee who participated in this year's event, also came from Vinnitsa.

"The war divided our family and forced us to leave our home and our country," Buzeniuk, a mother of three, said in the March of the Living statement. "But we survived and we are alive. We found shelter and refuge in a sister country," she said of Poland. "Thanks to wonderful people we will live, we will remember—and never forget." ☆

CNAAN LIPSHIZ IS A CONTRIBUTING WRITER TO JTA AND JLIFE MAGAZINE.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAYS

7:15 - 8:30 PM

Every week until May 4, 2022

Warriors, Worshippers and Wives: Women in the Bible and Contemporary Israel, Via Zoom and In-Person, TBI

7:30 - 8:30 PM

Every week until June 29, 2022.

"Wise Aging" Class Via Zoom, TSG

SATURDAYS

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Tanach Study with Rabbi Singer, TBR

TUESDAYS, THROUGH MAY 31

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Social Justice: The Heart of Judaism in Theory and Practice
Instructor: Rabbi John Carrier, 10 Sessions on Tuesdays
Zoom Classroom (limited to 25 students)

All events listed here are virtual unless otherwise noted. Please visit www.jewishsgpv.org/virtual-calendar for details.

TUITION: \$295 (Includes Melton Student Reader) Scholarships available- contact melton@pjtc.org for more information.

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SUNDAY, MAY 1

7:00 PM

Israel: Jewish V. Democratic
Dr. Talshir leads Reflections on the 1948 Declaration of Independence through the Netanyahu Era and Beyond Both in-person & on Zoom, PJTC

TUESDAY, MAY 3

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

(Every month on the 1st Tuesday)
Caffeine for the Soul, CIE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

7:15 - 8:30 PM

Warriors, Worshippers & Wives: Women in the Bible & Contemporary Israel, Both in-person & on Zoom, TBI

THURSDAYS, MAY 5, 19 & JUNE 2

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Rabbi Suzanne Singer:

Book of Job-How Do We Understand Evil in the World? On Zoom, TBR

THURSDAY, MAY 5

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Interfaith National Day of Prayer Service, Santa Anita Church, 226 W. Colorado Blvd., Arcadia, CA 91007 (626) 446-8206

SUNDAY, MAY 8

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Every month on the 2nd Sunday until June 12, 2022
Journey through the Bible, TSG

THURSDAY, MAY 12

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Money, Mitzvah and Meaning: How to Live the Life You Want with Howard Rubin
On Zoom, TBR

SUNDAY, MAY 15

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Shir Delights XII Jewish Choral Concert, Cost \$15, TBD

MONDAY, MAY 16

7:00 - 9:00 PM

JFed Players Participatory Play Reading, Contact

Cantor Judy Sofer
jsofer@jewishsgpv.org

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18- TUESDAY, MAY 31

2022 Israel Trip

Contact

Cantor Judy Sofer
jsofer@jewishsgpv.org

Beth Shalom of Whittier (BSW)

www.bethshalomofwhittier.net

B'nai Simcha Community Preschool

www.bnaisimcha.org

Chabad of Arcadia (CoA)

www.jewisharcadia.com

Chabad of Pasadena (CoP)

www.chabadpasadena.com

Chabad of the Inland Empire (CIE)

www.chabadinlandempire.com

Congregation Hugat Haverim (CHH)

www.hugathaverim.com

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Pasadena Jewish
Temple & Center (PJTC)
www.pjtc.net

Temple Beth El Riverside
(TBR)
<https://www.tberiv.org>

Temple Ami Shalom
(TAS)
<https://templeamishalom.org/>

Temple Beth Israel of
Pomona (TBI)
www.tbipomona.org

Temple Beth David of
the San Gabriel Valley
(TBD)
www.templebd.com

Temple Beth Israel of
Highland Park and Eagle
Rock (TBILA)
www.tbila.org

Temple B'nai Emet (TBE)
www.templebnaiemet.org

Temple Sinai of Glendale
(TSG)
<http://temple-sinai.net>

Temple Sholom of
Ontario (TSO)
www.templesholomofontario.org

Tree of Life Preschool
(formerly TBI Preschool)
(ToL)
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NEWS & JEWS



Anti-Defamation League CEO Jonathan Greenblatt speaks at the group's 2018 National Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. (Michael Brochstein/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images)

Number of antisemitic incidents surged in 2021, according to latest ADL tally

By Asaf Shalev, JTA

The number of antisemitic incidents recorded by the Anti-Defamation League in the United States in 2021 reached an all-time high, according to a new report by the group.

The 2,717 incidents identified in news articles by the ADL or reported to the ADL directly in 2021 represent a 34% increase from the 2,024 incidents of antisemitism tallied by the group in 2020. Previously, the 2,107 incidents in 2019 were the highest total since the ADL began publishing annual counts in 1979.

Anything from a slur to a terror attack can be included in the tally. For the second straight year, 2021 saw no fatal incidents tied to antisemitism in the United States, but the ADL counted 88 antisemitic assaults, a 167% increase from the 33 assaults in the 2020 count.

The group cited several reasons for the high numbers—including what the ADL said was “improved reporting” because of partnerships with multiple Jewish organizations.

The partnerships—with several Jewish organizations including the Community Security Initiative, Community Security Service, Hillel International, Secure Community Network, Union of Reform Judaism and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism—were responsible for

identifying 494 incidents, or 18% of the total.

The ADL also documented a surge in incidents linked to the May 2021 round of deadly clashes between Israel and Hamas, many of which made national headlines at the time.

“Jews were being attacked in the streets for no other reason than the fact that they were Jewish, and it seemed as if the working assumption was that if you were Jewish, you were blameworthy for what was happening half a world away,” ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said in a statement.

The 297 incidents that took place during the fighting in May represent an increase, but the ADL recorded other spikes later in the year, without a similar trigger.

More than any single factor, Greenblatt said the overall increase in antisemitic incidents can be linked to political instability and polarization.

“When it comes to antisemitic activity in America, you cannot point to any single ideology or belief system, and in many cases, we simply don’t know the motivation,” Greenblatt said. “But we do know that Jews are experiencing more antisemitic incidents than we have in this country in at least 40 years, and that’s a deeply troubling indicator of larger societal fissures.”

Nearly 20% of the incidents the ADL tallied last year were attributable to right-wing actors, according to the report, which notes a sharp rise in the distribution of antisemitic pamphlets by groups such as the Goyim Defense League. A man set fire to a synagogue last October in Austin, Texas, shortly after the group held a rally there.

The Anti-Defamation League has lately faced criticism over both its overall strategy and its specific efforts to tally antisemitic incidents. Right-wing critics have charged that the group has abandoned its focus on Jewish security and, in the course of doing so, has grown concerned only with antisemitism on the right. Meanwhile, left-wing critics have argued that the group too easily conflates Israel criticism and antisemitism, leading to an inflated measure of hatred against Jews.

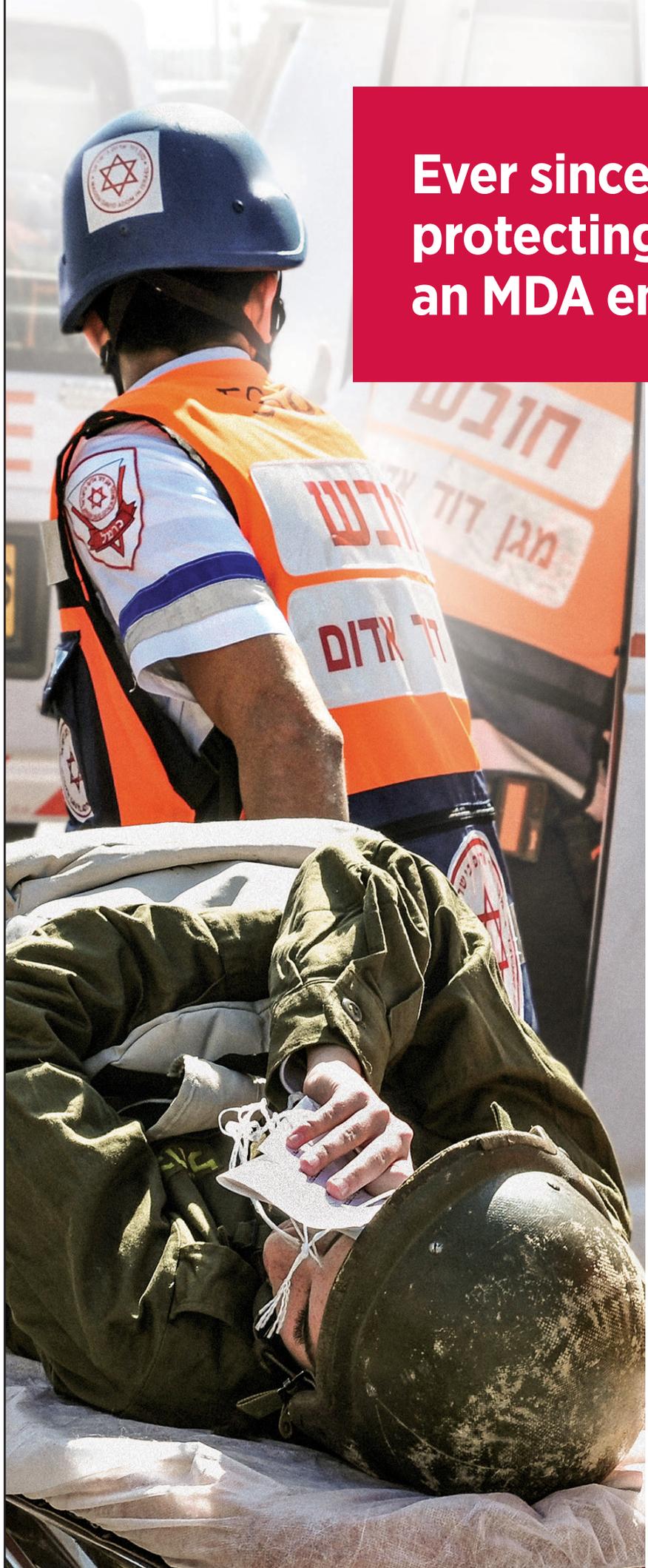
In a field where a number of newer entrants have adopted a combative approach to identifying and fighting antisemitism, the ADL has said that it remains committed to applying traditional research methods to its work. When it announced the Hillel partnership last year, for example, the group emphasized that it would not automatically count Israel criticism as evidence of antisemitism, and that it would seek to independently verify incidents of antisemitism reported to it. Last month, the group announced that it had developed an algorithm to track antisemitism on social media—a project that it had taken on because social media companies had not, ADL officials said. ✨

LAST WORD



“Happy 74th Anniversary Israel!”

— JLife



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