



# Shalom09|19

The Journal of the Reading Jewish Community published by the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks

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## Preview the 18 authors taking part in first season of Literatour Berks

By Amanda J. Hornberger

The Literatour Berks committee is thrilled to announce the line-up for our first season of Literatour Berks! Please see page 10 in this edition of *Shalom* for a complete list of authors, dates and venues. The community is invited to a preview night to learn more about the authors coming to Literatour Berks, purchase some of the authors' books and learn more about how the community can support this new endeavor.

The preview night will be held Monday, Sept.9 at 7 p.m. at two locations! Stop by the JCC or Exeter Community Library to preview Literatour Berks materials. Light refreshments will be served at both locations. You'll also be able to purchase a Literatour Berks tote bag to carry these fantastic reads over the next year!

Literatour Berks will feature 16 events from October through June. As coordinator of the inaugural



season of Literatour Berks, I have been thrilled and humbled by the community support.

A complete list of sponsors, patrons and friends of Literatour Berks will be published in the October *Shalom*, but I could not write this without saying THANK YOU for your kind words, support and enthusiasm for this new project.

The Literatour Berks committee has been working extremely hard since May to plan this program, and we cannot wait to bring these amazing authors to our area!

Save the Date for our first Literatour Berks author event on Monday, Oct. 7, at 7 p.m. at Exeter Community Library.

Author E.R. Ramzipoor will be at the library to discuss her debut novel, "The Ventriloquists," based on a true story of resistance during World War II.

Special thanks to The LGBT Center of Greater Reading for being a community partner on this event.

Interested in supporting Literatour? Patrons and sponsors from the community are encouraged to help support this amazing new collaborative program!

Contact Richard Nassau at richardn@jfreading.org or 610-921-0624 to find out more.

## New era in Jewish education to get underway Sept. 8

By Mark Nemirow

The next era in local Jewish education begins Sunday, Sept. 8, as Israeli educator Adi Shalev comes to Reading to help with our high school, develop youth activities and adult programs and be an on-site representative of Israel to our Jewish and non-Jewish community.

Federation is partnering with the Israeli company Bonim B'Yachad, which means "working together" in Hebrew. Bonim B'Yachad combines outstanding Israeli educators with cutting-edge technology. It provides strong online educational programs that we can collaboratively customize to address the needs of our students.

The Jewish Community High School will meet Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon at the JCC. Federation leaders met with local families in August to discuss some of the plans for the school. Among them are greater collaboration with the local youth groups such as NFTY, BBYO and NCSY. School will not be in session on weekends those groups are having major events. Some weeks students will spend their school time doing community service projects or going on educational trips.

Another goal is to increase contact between children in our community and their counterparts in the Lancaster area. Lancaster's Jewish community is partnering with us to bring Adi Shalev to our area as a Shaliach, an Israeli emissary who will reach out to our Jewish and general communities and develop programs for all ages.



Adi Shalev

Adi, 25, resides in Modi'in, Israel. While serving in the Israeli military, she was a sergeant in the Education and Youth Corps. She has considerable experience working with young people from outside Israel to help them better understand the country.

Adi said she is excited to work with people in the Reading and Lancaster areas. "My main goal is to bring Israel to the community in different ways," she said. "First of all, I'll bring my Israel, my story and my experience from living here, because Israel is not necessarily what we all see in the media and what we hear in demonstrations.

"I think that in general the media is showing something that is not necessarily

true, or it's showing only one side. There are people who are talking of boycotting Israel for things that are not true or are much more complex than people can really understand, saying that 'this is right' or 'this is wrong.'

"What most people know about Israel is related to politics. Israel has so much more to offer, like food, art, business startups, etc.

"I'll try to bring my story as much as I can, because I want to show my Israel."

Adi looks forward to working with many different age groups and developing messages appropriate for each. Her audience may include members of Hillel chapters at local colleges.

"When I arrive, I will try to find out what people need, what they want to know and what I can bring that will make them know Israel better and maybe to feel more connected to it."

As has been past practice, parents must sign up their children for the program. The cost to participating students is just \$250 for the year thanks to funding from the Jewish Federation of Reading's education budget and the generous support of the Edna Rubin Youth and Education Fund. Though Edna is no longer with us, the impact of her quiet generosity makes it possible for us, our children and grandchildren to celebrate and understand our heritage.

Families with children in grades 8-12 are encouraged to get involved and see what this great new program has to offer. Please join us Sept. 8 and on succeeding Sundays to help build a stronger community of young Jews with a greater understanding of Israel.

# Development

- Annual Campaign
- Women's Philanthropy
- Maimonides Society
- Your Jewish Legacy
- Chai Circle
- L'Chaim Society
- Book of Life
- Letter of Intent



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## All working together

By Richard Nassau  
Development Director

It is because of you that our Jewish community is so vibrant and active.

The range and depth of programs offered by JCC, our synagogues, Jewish Family Service, Jewish Community Relations Council, Federation, along with our community organizations is outstanding.

We are not a large Jewish community. These programs offer multiple ways for people to connect and become involved with our community. That involvement is a direct result of your donations and support of Federation's Community Campaign. Your support allows us to respond with programs that are engaging more people with our community.

Your support also helps maintain our ongoing services. This month we've highlighted some of the programs offered by Jewish Family Service. These, along with the many other JFS programs, are critically important for



people and families in our community. Think of "Rose," fashioned from the many people helped every day by Jewish Family Service. She is a widow living in the same house she bought with her husband when they were first married. They raised their children here in Berks County, but the closest now lives about four hours away.

As Rose aged, her family realized she needed help. Though they were involved and cared, they could not be here daily. They then began working with Jewish Family Service. JFS staff connected Rose with a caregiver, visited her regularly and kept in touch with her children. JFS also made sure Rose used the JFS transportation program to attend community events and keep her doctor appointments.

Recently, Rose reluctantly agreed to move from her home into an assisted-living facility. JFS staff worked closely with Rose and her family, providing answers and information about the living options and services available to Rose.

The goal of JFS staff was to make the transition as smooth as possible for everyone, especially Rose. After many calls and meetings, Rose moved into a

place that now better meets her needs. JFS continues to provide outreach services, ensuring she remains active and involved with our community.

Your support of Federation's Community Campaign makes it possible for JFS to have the resources to help people like Rose.

In the coming months, we'll be highlighting the many other benefits you provide through your gift to the Community Campaign. These include new initiatives by the JCC, services to global Jewish communities, how we are confronting anti-Semitism and our ongoing commitment to the next generation and to Jewish education.

The cover of Federation's recently completed strategic plan states: All Working Together for One Jewish Community. Federation, with your support, is helping our community connect, collaborate and come together.

Please contact me, 610-921-0624, if you'd like to learn more about the work of JFS, have ideas for new programs, or want information about all that we do and how you can become involved.

## Veteran Israeli diplomat to speak to Reading community in October

Ambassador Ido Aharoni will be the speaker at Federation's Leadership Dinner on Sunday, Oct. 27.

Ambassador Aharoni, a 25-year veteran of Israel's Foreign Service, is the Global Distinguished Professor for International Relations at New York University's Faculty of Arts and Science. He was Israel's longest-serving Consul-General in New York, holding that position with the rank of ambassador for six years and overseeing the operations of Israel's largest diplomatic mission worldwide.

Over the years, Aharoni received many awards recognizing his contribution to the field of public diplomacy from national Jewish organizations and other social-impact charities.

In 2015, he was awarded the title of Honorary Governor by Tel Aviv University.

In 2013, *The Algemeiner* named him among the "Top 100 People Positively Influencing Jewish Life," commonly known as the "Jewish 100."

In 2005, a communications studies scholarship, "Wings of Hope," was named after him by the Yemenite-Jewish Federation of North America. In 1998, he was given the Community Leadership Award in Los Angeles by the American Friends of the Rabin Medical Center.

To attend the dinner, please RSVP no later than Oct. 19 via email at [info@JFReading.org](mailto:info@JFReading.org) or by calling 610-921-0624.

Following the Leadership Dinner, Aharoni will present a lecture that is free and open to the entire community. Please RSVP for the community presentation by Oct. 19.



Ambassador Ido Aharoni.

## This American feels safer in Jerusalem than El Paso

By Patty Nieberg  
Originally published at [Haaretz.com](https://www.haaretz.com)

My parents in Brooklyn ask me to text that I'm OK here in Israel — but maybe in wake of El Paso, Dayton and other mass shootings, I should start asking them that.

I am an American living in Israel and the reality is, I am safer here in Israel than I am in my own country — statistically speaking. Between August 2-4, 143 people were killed in the United States as a result of gun violence. This number includes the mass shootings that took place in El Paso and Dayton and other isolated incidents across the country that went largely unreported. These deaths account for less than 1 percent of gun violence in the past calendar year. According to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been more than 33,000 U.S. incidents involving guns in 2019.

It is hard for me to ignore the visibility of firearms in Israel. But it is also hard to ignore the situational differences. An 18-year-old Israel Defense Forces soldier hugs his M16 waiting at a bus stop in Jerusalem, steps away from the Mahane Yehuda market, where terrorist attacks have occurred in the past. A

tour guide explains a war with Lebanon breaking out in his backyard as he shifts car gears with a gun tucked next to his thigh. A stranger hosting Shabbat dinner says he has a gun in the next room. I was never comfortable around guns, but being around people who are trained in how to use them puts me more at ease. I have never been involved in a shooting, but gun violence has infected my life in other ways: When I hear firecrackers in my home neighborhood in Brooklyn, I hold my breath; when I eat at a restaurant, I face the door to see who's coming; I observe NYPD officers place their hand on their gun holsters when they approach a rowdy group of teenagers on Flatbush Avenue.

In Israel, the annual rate of gun deaths per 100,000 people in 2015 was 1.38 percent, with 111 deaths. In the United States it was 11.28 percent per 100,000, with 36,247 deaths. According to the Small Arms Survey, in Israel there 6.69 firearms for every 100 people — a total of 557,000. In the United States, there are 120.48 per 100 persons, or 393 million firearms. This means Israel accounts for less than 1 percent of civilian firearms held in the United States.

Taking into account my privilege as a

white woman, I understand that my safety in terms of gun violence when it comes to law enforcement is not comparable to young black men or Palestinians, due to racial discrimination or other political factors. But that's a whole separate issue.

My concern is how easy it is for a civilian to obtain a gun. My concern is a lack of federal background checks, which gives guns to men who openly share racist manifestos online. My concern is for a Second Amendment that lets someone use military-grade weapons and open fire in an elementary school. My concern is for the "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" that is taken away from Americans who end up in the wrong place at the wrong time.

In El Paso, investigators are looking into hate crime charges as a result of a four-page manifesto posted online minutes before the alleged shooter took the lives of 20 people in a Walmart in the Texan border city. The document refers to a "Hispanic invasion of Texas."

In the United States, walking out of your front door and fearing for your safety in the most "normal" settings has become normalized.



# Take deeper look at issues behind congresswomen’s visit

By William D. Franklin  
President

The recent controversy over U.S. Reps. Ilhan Omar’s and Rashida Tlaib’s planned trip to Palestine requires a deeper understanding of the issues.



One can argue that Israel should have admitted Omar and Tlaib while also arguing that the decision to bar them was legitimate and understandable.

Barring extremists does not compromise the democratic status of a country. Countries routinely deny visas to those with dangerous views.

In 2017, the government of Israel amended its Entry into Israel Law to prohibit any foreigner who makes a public calling for boycotting Israel or any area under its control from entry. Omar and Tlaib are not the first to be refused entry into Israel.

Our country excludes people with ideologies hostile to the U.S. In 2005 Narendra Modi, now India’s prime minister, was denied entry.

In 2012, the Obama administration denied a visa to Michael Ben-Ari, a member of the hard-right Israeli Kach party. The UK denied entry to Israel’s Menachem Begin in the 1950s.

Other democratic countries routinely deny entry to public figures with bigoted views as “not conducive to the public good.” Congresswomen Omar and Tlaib certainly qualify.

One thing the visa denial is not about is hiding from criticism. Israel allows entry to vocal and one-sided critics all the time. This is about avoiding massive public disorder and risk to lives at the Temple Mount, the Gaza fence, and countless malls across Israel.

However, the current clash raises many questions and is a teachable moment.

What was the purpose of Omar’s and Tlaib’s trip? Their stated destination was “Palestine,” not Israel. Unlike other Democratic and Republican members of Congress who have visited Israel, they did not ask to meet any Israeli officials, either from the government or the opposition.

Miftah, the organization that was funding their trip, is an avid supporter of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement and includes members who have expressed support for terrorism against Israel.

BDS is a movement whose overtly stated goal is the destruction of Israel as a Jewish state.

Omar and Tlaib acknowledged that they were not on a fact-finding mission. They self-described their mission as a

*“Whether we agree or disagree with Israel’s tough decision, we, the American Jewish community, cannot let this become a wedge partisan issue.”*

“Delegation to Palestine” — which they define as the land from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

The Israeli government stated that the congresswomen’s itinerary revealed that the sole purpose of their visit was to harm the Jewish state, increase incitement against it, and deny Israel’s legitimacy.

No evidence suggests that Omar and Tlaib were interested in learning about the complexity of the Middle East or to experience the Israeli pluralistic perspective.

Their trip contrasts with a congressional delegation to Israel and the territories earlier in August. That visit involved 72 members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats. They met with both Israeli and Palestinian officials and activists.

Tlaib and Omar are not just critics of Israel. They actively support the destruction of Israel as a Jewish state.

I found it ironic that in our Torah portion for mid-August, G-d denied Moses entry to Israel.

I am not comparing Omar and Tlaib to Moses, but there is one striking parallel. Scholars suggest that G-d recognized that Moses’ skills and abilities were not transferable to the needs in Israel and that his strong persona would have a negative impact on his people’s survival and cohesion in the new land.

We can be strong supporters of Israel and not agree with every policy decision, just as we can be strong supporters of the U.S. and not agree with every policy decision.

Whether we agree or disagree with Israel’s tough decision, we, the American Jewish community, cannot let this become a wedge partisan issue.

Israel’s security would be severely undermined without bipartisan U.S. support.

If Israel is weakened, so too is the U.S. position in the Middle East.

Both countries have disturbing issues, but the common values of democracy, freedom and minority rights must keep us aligned and allied.

# Let’s have some truth about the situation in Gaza

By Barbara Kay

Originally published at Nationalpost.com

In late June, Canada’s *Globe and Mail* newspaper published a front-page feature article by former Mideast bureau chief Mark MacKinnon concerning the depressed situation of Palestinians and Gazans under Israeli rule. The article does point to the damage done by Hamas to its own people, but any balance is undermined by the accompanying art — seven photos illuminating Palestinians’ poor health conditions, lack of city infrastructure and buildings destroyed by Israeli bombs.

The use of scare quotes around “terrorists” to describe Hamas, officially designated a terrorist organization by our own and many other governments, including the European Union, does not help either.

These observations and many more are included in a trenchant response to MacKinnon’s article by ever-vigilant Honest Reporting Canada.

Another, radically different, view on the lives of Gazan and West Bank Palestinians is available in Israeli writer-scholar Ben-Dror Yemini’s new book, “Industry of Lies: Media, Academia, and the Israeli-Arab Conflict.”

Chapter 12 of Yemini’s book, for example, debunks “the Auschwitz Myth” (Google “Gaza Auschwitz” and you’ll find more than 2 million citations).

One graph shows that in 1967, when Israeli control over the West Bank and Gaza began, life expectancy there stood at 48 years. By 2000, it had leapt to 72, higher not only than in most Arab countries, but higher than in South America and some EU countries.

In 1967, infant mortality among Palestinians was about 157 per thousand births. In 2006 it was 21 per thousand births, significantly

lower than in neighboring Arab and North African countries.

Indeed, Palestinian infant mortality rates are now better than in Turkey and Bulgaria, and Gaza ranks third in the world for natural population increase due to high birth rates and low death rates. Some “Auschwitz”!

How about education? According to a World Bank Report that Yemini cites, “Palestinians are the most educated population in the Middle East and North Africa,” and “Palestinians’ educational achievements extend not only to literacy, but also to a relatively high rate of participation at all levels of education, including higher education.”

By contrast, statistics show that “Palestinians in Lebanon lag far behind those in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.”

Before June 5, 1967, no universities existed in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.” Now? According to an official publication of the Palestinian Authority, the West Bank and Gaza have “10 universities and 20 community colleges ... and boast one of the highest per capita rates of university graduates in the Arab world.”

Israel-bashers often point to difficulties Gazans have in accessing clean water, definitely a quality-of-life metric. Yet, pre-1967, under Jordanian rule, only four of 708 Palestinian villages in the West Bank had running water. After five years of Israeli rule, 50% of homes were connected to a freshwater network. By 2004, 641 of 708 Arab communities, representing 96% of the population, had running water 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Compare Palestinians under Israeli rule with their counterparts in Jordan, who experience continual problems, sometimes getting running water only one day a week.

In Gaza, Yemini says, the “ground water has already been compromised by mismanagement and over-drilling by Hamas.”

He notes as well that the Palestinians have repeatedly spurned outside offers to build them a desalinization plant.

As for poverty, a little context is in order. Gaza gets plenty of money. In fact, according to the Washington-based Institute for Near East Policy, “the Palestinians have received — all told — four times the aid per capita allocated in Europe under the post-World War II Marshall Plan.”

But the money doesn’t go toward infrastructure. It goes to expanding the public sector, rewarding terrorists and paying religious clerics to broadcast hysterical Judeophobia. In spite of all this, Gaza’s gross

national income per capita, or GNI, is \$1,760, which seems like nothing to us but isn’t for the region, where the average GNI is \$1,593.

If you’re tired of slanted news about Israel, I highly recommend Yemini’s fine book.

He writes, “The beginning of Israeli rule over West Bank and Gaza was a turning point when neglect and repression decreased and the circumstances of daily life improved.”

Nobody wants to be ruled by another country, and nobody wants to stop ruling the Palestinians more than Israel does. But if the subject of a reportage is life under Israeli rule, it is not so much to ask that the reportage reflect more than superficial knowledge and provide objectivity and balance.

## Shalom

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# Film series begins this month with ‘Shoelaces’

By Amanda J. Hornberger

The Jewish Cultural Center and Fox Theatres are excited to kick off the sixth annual Reading Jewish Film Series with the Israeli drama “Shoelaces.”

“Shoelaces” tells the story of a complicated relationship between an aging father and his special-needs son, whom he abandoned while he was still a young boy. The film portrays a relationship full of love, rejection and co-dependency and raises questions of the importance of human life, human connection, and if life is even possible without either one of them.

According to director Jacob Goldwasser the film was a very special project for him. He said: “As a father of a special-needs son, I never felt that the depiction of special-needs characters on film rang true. However, when I saw Nevo Kimchi’s work, I was dumbfounded. He created a special-needs character who was human and real, filled with humor, optimism and charm.”

The 2020 Reading Jewish Film Series is co-sponsored by the Rubin Educational Fund of the Jewish Federation of Reading and Fox Theatres. Admission is \$8 per film (\$6 for JCC



members) or \$50 for the series of seven films (\$35 for JCC members).

All films will be shown at Fox East in Exeter Township. Tickets can be purchased at the theater beginning a half hour prior to show time on the day of the screening, and series tickets can be bought at the JCC. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted. New this year is online tickets available for purchase at [www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org](http://www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org).

The other dates and films are:

**Nov. 10**, 3 p.m. — “Cojot,” a documentary about Holocaust survivor Michel Cojot, with an in-person discussion with the filmmaker, Penn State professor Boaz Dvir

**Dec. 4**, 7 p.m. — “The Keeper,” a romantic drama from England about German soldier turned British footballer Bert Trautmann

**Jan. 8**, 7 p.m. — “Carl Laemmle,” a documentary about the German Jewish immigrant who founded Universal Pictures and saved 300 Jewish families from Nazi Germany

**Feb. 5**, 7 p.m. — “The Interpreter” (Slovakia’s 2018 Academy Award entry), a road drama about two unlikely travelling companions resolving past conflicts

**March 4**, 7 p.m. — “93 Queen,” an American documentary about the Hasidic women who create the first all-female volunteer ambulance corps in New York City.

**May 17**, 3 p.m. — “Picture of His Life,” an American documentary about legendary Israeli photographer Amos Nachoum on his quest to photograph a wild polar bear, with an in-person discussion with the filmmaker, Dani Menkin

## Expert to offer valuable lesson in fraud prevention

By Amanda J. Hornberger

A special program on protecting yourself from fraud will be held Thursday, Sept. 5 at 2 p.m. at the JCC. This program is free and open to the public.

“Protect Yourself from Fraud” will be presented by David Shallcross, senior community liaison and coordinator of the Elder Abuse Unit of the state attorney general’s office.

Shallcross is a specialist on fraud against older adults and is the attorney general’s designee on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s Elder Justice Advisory Council. He is a certified instructor

in Community Crime Prevention by the Pennsylvania Commission of Crime and Delinquency.

He will share vital information and teach attendees how to safeguard themselves and avoid scams

## Israeli-born choreographer to appear at JCC event

By Amanda J. Hornberger

The community is invited to a special program, “The Artist from Israel” by Ronen Koresh, artistic director of Koresh Dance Company on Thursday, Sept. 19 at 2 p.m. at the JCC.

Koresh’s visit is part of a community outreach program prior to his company’s performance at RACC’s Miller Center for the Arts, to

take place Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets to that show, please contact the Miller Center at 610-607-6270

Koresh Dance Company was founded in 1991 by Israeli-born choreographer Koresh. Known for its engaging performance and technically superb dancers, the company performs critically acclaimed works at its biannual Philadelphia seasons, as well

as in performances around the country. Koresh has been hailed internationally in such destinations as Spain, Turkey, Israel, South Korea, Mexico, and Guatemala.

Koresh’s work is a unique blend of ballet, modern, and jazz that leaves audiences dazzled by raw passion infused into movement. Roni has created a repertoire of more than 40 works.

The Sept. 19 program will include a short video and presentation in which Koresh discusses how his Israeli roots continue to influence his choreography. Dancers from his company will perform a duet.

RSVP is requested to Carole at [caroler@jfreading.org](mailto:caroler@jfreading.org) or 610-921-0624 for this free and entertaining program!

A River Could be a Tree

with Angela Himsel

Wednesday

October 16th

7 p.m.

Registration required.

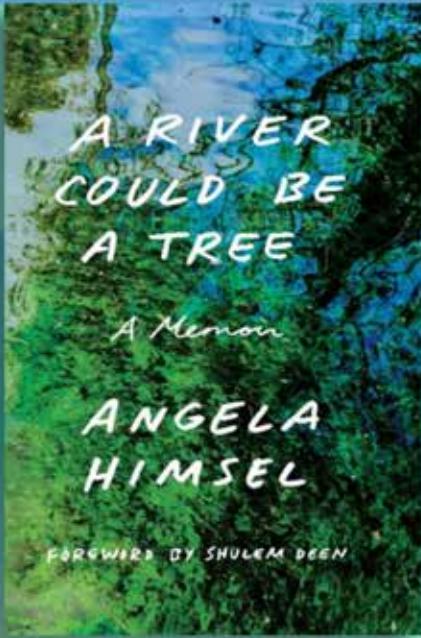
To register, visit:

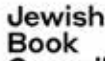
[www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org/home/literatour](http://www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org/home/literatour)

The seventh of eleven children, Angela grew up in southern Indiana in an apocalyptic, doomsday Christian faith. Himsel’s memoir follows her journey attempting to understand the church’s strict tenets and time spent in Israel during college. Instead of strengthening her Christian faith, her time in Israel made her question Christianity itself. She ultimately converted to Judaism and lives in New York City with her family.

Copies of *A River Could be a Tree* will be available for sale onsite through Barnes & Noble Wyomissing.

Location provided upon registration.









# Clean up your digital life at JCC workshop


RSVP is required online ([www.picatic.com/digital-tydy-up](http://www.picatic.com/digital-tydy-up)) or by calling 610-921-0624. Cost is \$10 per JCC member and \$20 for non-members. Participants are encouraged to bring a notebook, pen and laptop to this workshop.

**Harry Knoblauch**, 98, of Reading. Harry lived on a horse farm in Exeter Township and was a horse trainer and sulky racer. He and his sisters ran the Terminal Hotel in Reading, and he and his late wife, Edith, were antiques dealers.

<div>  <div> <b>September</b> <b>Elul-Tishri</b> </div> </div>	
<div> <b>Shabbat Candle Lightings</b> </div>	<div>  <div> <b>Torah Portions</b> </div> </div>
<b>September 6</b> 7:09 p.m.	<b>September 7/7 Elul</b> <b>Shoftim</b> (Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9)
<b>September 13</b> 6:57 p.m.	<b>September 14/14 Elul</b> <b>Ki Tetze</b> (Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19)
<b>September 20</b> 6:46 p.m.	<b>September 21/21 Elul</b> <b>Ki Tavo</b> (Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8)
<b>September 27</b> 6:34 p.m.	<b>September 28/28 Elul</b> <b>Nitzavim</b> (Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20)

# The Ventriloquists

with E. R. Ramzipoor







**Monday  
October 7th  
7 p.m.**

**Registration required.**  
**Call - 610-406-9431**

## Exeter Community Library

Brussels, 1943. Twelve-year-old street orphan Helene survives by living as a boy and selling copies of the country's most popular newspaper, *Le Soir*, now turned into Nazi propaganda. Helene's entire world changes when she befriends a rogue journalist, Marc Aubrion, who draws her into a secret network publishing dissident underground newspapers. Copies of *The Ventriloquists* will be available for sale onsite through Barnes & Noble Wyomissing.

**Exeter Community Library | 4569 Prestwick Dr., Reading, PA 19606 | 610-406-9431 |**



# Jewish community is perfect environment for meaningful change

By Rabbi David Sislen  
Keshar Zion Synagogue

As I write this, we have just begun commemorating the drei vochen, the three weeks from the fast of 17 Tamuz until the 9th of Av, when we remember the destruction of the Beit Hamikdash, the Holy Temple, and, by extension, numerous other calamities which have befallen the Jewish people which are ascribed to that same day.

Our tradition takes a curious detour in its approach to this period. It is observed as a period of semi-mourning, with many of the same traditions.



The Talmud refers to the Haftarat for the Three Weeks are the Haftarat D'puranuta, the Haftarat of Rebuke, in which the people of Israel are chastised for their misdeeds.

But for the seven weeks following, the haftarat, rather than being connected to the themes of the weekly Torah portion, are instead the Haftarat D'nechamta, the Haftarat of Comfort, which console the people in a process which will lead us right up to the doorstep of the High Holidays, and the start of the penitential season.

Which parent among us has not given a swift and strong directive regarding what our child should do (or not do), then has spent time consoling the same child when they were experienced the retribution for

their actions? It's simple psychology. We learn by making missteps, then gain our footing as we understand what we did wrong. Then, we need to be comforted by knowing that we've done the right thing, and that our new path is the right one.

I started my career as a lay person; leading services, reading Torah, and volunteering for lifecycle functions around town in my native Washington, D.C., area. After more than 15 years as a theater designer and technical director, I devoted myself to my shuls full-time, first as a cantor, then as a rabbi/hazzan. Should I kick myself for not recognizing my calling from the outset? Of course not. Who can know what life has in store for you as you embark on life's journey?

But the message of this period of the Jewish calendar has something to teach us. Our past may be glorious or messy, organized or chaotic, praiseworthy or regrettable. But once we achieve our reconnection with G-d and our tradition, we can have order, meaning, significance, and comfort.

That's what Jewish life is all about. Each of us has the ability to change rebuke and regret to comfort and meaning. And the Jewish community surrounding all of us is the place to do it. Our local shuls have open doors and open hearts that are ready and willing to embrace anyone anywhere along the path connecting to the Jewish community.

I am very grateful that Keshar Zion Synagogue has selected me as their new Rabbi/Hazzan. I hope that many of you will come and join us for Shabbat, the High Holidays, a special event, or the regalim (Festivals). Our unique combination of a traditional service in a warm, charismatic environment is what makes us special.

But if an egalitarian Conservative shul is not your preference, please reach out to one of the other shuls in town, become a regular, and get involved.

As you read this during the weeks of nechamta, comfort, let's rededicate ourselves to becoming active members of our Jewish community, as we prepare for the weighty process of repentance and atonement for 5780.

## All Around the Town

Mazel Tov to **Sue and Michael Farrara** on the wedding of their son Steve to Erica Miele.

\*\*\*

Mazel tov to grandparents **Lisa and Alan Levine** and great-grandparents **Elaine and Gerald Levine** on the birth of Liam Nathan Trobman, to daughter Emily and her

husband, Harris.

*We love good news about members of our community! Please share it by emailing Marknem@aol.com or calling the JCC office at 610-921-0624.*

*Until next time: Shalom!*

### LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

**CHABAD CENTER OF BERKS COUNTY (610) 921-0881**  
Saturday mornings: 9:30 a.m.; Friday evenings: 6:30 p.m.

**KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE (610) 374-1763**  
Weekly services Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.; Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.

**REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034**  
Friday, Sept. 6: Shabbat service, 6 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 7: Austin Kohler Bar Mitzvah, 10 a.m.  
Friday, Sept. 13: Musical Shabbat, 7 p.m.  
Fridays, Sept. 20 and 27: Shabbat services, 7:45 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 21: Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

**CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH**

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*Keshar Zion Synagogue*  
*High Holidays*  
*Tishrei 5780*

### Selichot

#### Joint Program & Service with RCOS & KZ together

Saturday, September 21, 2019  
Program: 8:30 p.m.  
Dessert: 10:00p.m.  
Service: 10:30p.m.

### Erev Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 29, 2019  
Evening Service 6:15 p.m.  
Dinner 7:00 p.m. **at the Inn at Reading**

### Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 30, 2019  
Morning Service 9:00 a.m.  
Kiddush Luncheon following services **at the Inn at Reading**  
Tashlich 5:30 p.m. at Reading Public Museum: Mincha to follow  
Tuesday, October 1, 2019  
Morning Service 9:00 a.m.  
Israeli Kiddush Luncheon to follow services **at the Inn at Reading**

### Shabbat Shuvah

Saturday, October 5, 2019  
Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

### Kever Avot

Sunday, October 6, 2019  
(At the Keshar Zion Cemetery)  
Memorial Service 10:30 a.m.

### Erev Yom Kippur

Tuesday, October 8, 2019  
**at the Inn at Reading**  
Mincha 6:00 p.m.  
Kol Nidre 6:30 p.m.

### Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 9, 2019  
**at the Inn at Reading**  
Morning Service 9:00 a.m.  
Yizkor 10:30 a.m.  
Mincha 6:15 p.m.  
Neilah 7:00 p.m.  
Shofar 7:45 p.m.  
Maariv & Havdalah to follow  
Communal Break the Fast

### Sukkot

Monday, October 14, 2019  
Morning Service 9:30 a.m.  
Lunch and Learn in the Sukkah 12:00 noon  
Tuesday, October 15, 2019  
Morning Service 9:30 a.m.  
Lunch and Learn in the Sukkah 12:00 noon

### Shemini Atzeret

Monday, October 21, 2019  
Morning Service 9:30 a.m.  
Yizkor Recited  
Kiddush Luncheon following services

### Simchat Torah

Monday, October 21, 2019  
Maariv and Hakafot 7:15 p.m.  
Tuesday, October 22, 2019  
Morning Service 9:30 a.m.  
Kiddush following services

Join us next time!  
September 21st at 10:00am

**Tot Shabbat**

Members and non-members are invited. No registration is required. Tot Shabbat services are held Saturday mornings at 10:00 am at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing unless noted. Please call the Temple office with any questions, 610.375.6034.

A musical, story-filled, interactive hour for children through grade 2. Bring your family & friends to celebrate with Rabbi Michelson & stay for a pint-sized oneg of juice, challah, fruit, & child-friendly treats!

**FUTURE TOT SHABBAT DATES:**  
Oct. 19, Nov. 9, Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 29\*\*\*  
Mar. 14, Apr. 25, May 16, June 13

\*Tot Shabbat & PJ Library at Brecknock Orchard 10am

\*\*Intergenerational Tot Shabbat at The Highlands

\*\*\*Tot Havdalah & PJ Library at RCOS at 5pm



# Israeli company grows bones in a laboratory

From online news sources

While bone fractures caused by injury usually have the ability to repair themselves, regeneration can be compromised by complex clinical conditions requiring additional and often invasive treatment. Healing can be impaired by bone defects resulting from aging, infection, tumor resection, trauma and skeletal abnormalities.

Osteoporosis, a disease resulting in brittle bones due to loss of bone tissue, affects an estimated 200 million people worldwide and causes more than 8.9 million fractures per year. Until today, the gold standard of treating extensive bone loss has been an autologous bone graft procedure, involving the painful relocation of bone from one location in the patient's body to another. Bones can also be held together by bone substitutes, including metal pins, screws and bars.

Haifa-based biotechnology company Bonus BioGroup, however, has developed a unique technology that promises to revolutionize the future of bone healing and is delivering promising clinical results. Founded by Dr. Shai Meretzki and the late Professor Avinoam Kaduri in 2008, the company is behind the world's first viable human bone graft manufacturing facility, where bone grafts are constructed outside the human body from the patient's own live tissue.


BonoFill, the company's method for growing a three-dimensional and high-density bone graft, requires the isolation of a unique kind of cell from the tissue with the ability to repopulate. From that cell, a new bone is grown in a laboratory bioreactor mimicking the body's physiological micro-environment.

Within two weeks, a live and viable bone has grown and can be implanted back into the patient. "Because every patient gets his own tissue and own cells back, the safety profile of this kind of therapy is very high," said Meretzki, chief executive and president of Bonus BioGroup. "There is no immune reaction to the implant, never mind rejection. The body doesn't know that the cells underwent a short cycle of two weeks outside the human body, and we see a very nice recovery and complete healing of the bone gap."

When the company started working on tissue regeneration for large gaps between bones, they sought to precisely rebuild and implant the exact bone that was missing. Yet instead of large bone gaps caused by trauma, the majority of patients actually suffer from large bone cavities with a small entrance hole caused by bone loss resulting from osteoporosis, infection and tumors. "To overcome this, we grow the bone in thousands of tiny particles and then we can just inject those particles into the gap," Meretzki said. "The bone is filled with tens of millions of cells that keep growing, and become bigger and solid within 24 hours. Filling the cavity with injectable bone reduces a painful operation of 15 hours into a treatment of 10 minutes, and within two months, the bone is healthy, alive, viable and active again."

Bonus BioGroup's technology is undergoing two Phase II clinical trials in Israel for maxillofacial and orthopedic applications. With positive results, the company expects to start a Phase III U.S. Food and Drug Administration trial at the beginning of 2020, with an outcome expected within two-and-a-half years.

SUSHI  
IN THE SUKKAH





THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 17, 2019  
5.30PM

AT CHABAD  
2310 HAMPDEN BLVD,  
READING, PA

RSVP to [office@chabadofberks.org](mailto:office@chabadofberks.org) or 610-334-1577  
Sponsored by Dr. Jerome Marcus

B"H



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HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

5780 – 2019

Services will be held at the  
**CHABAD CENTER**  
2320 Hampden Boulevard  
Reading, PA 19604  
No membership required.  
Suggested contribution for a seat is \$100.  
Please call 610-334-3218  
email [Office@ChabadofBerks.org](mailto:Office@ChabadofBerks.org),  
or visit [www.chabadofberks.org/highholiday](http://www.chabadofberks.org/highholiday)  
to reserve a seat  
*This program is sponsored by Dr. Jerry Marcus*

ROSH HASHANAH:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Mincha Service..... 6:30 PM

Light candles at..... 6:32 PM

Ma'ariv Service..... 6:45 PM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Shacharit Service..... 9:00 AM

Shofar Service..... 11:00 AM

Kiddush following Services approx 1PM

Mincha Service..... 2:00 PM

Tashlich Service..... 2:15 PM

Ma'ariv Service..... 7:15 PM

Light candles after..... 7:28 PM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Shacharit Service..... 9:00 AM

Shofar Service..... 11:00 AM

Kiddush following Services approx 1PM

Mincha Service..... 6:45 PM

Ma'ariv Service..... 7:00 PM

Yom Tov Ends..... 7:27 PM

YOM KIPPUR:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Mincha Service..... 6:15 PM

Light candles at\*..... 6:17 PM

Kol Nidrei..... 7:00 PM

\*Candles may be lit at the synagogue for your convenience.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Shacharit Service..... 9:00 AM

Yizkor..... 11:30 AM

Mincha Service..... 5:00 PM


Neilah..... 6:00 PM

Yom Kippur Ends..... 7:14 PM

Break Fast at Synagogue

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17 · 5:30PM

Annual Sushi in the Sukkah



REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM

Schedule of High Holiday & Festival Services, 2019 (5780)

**Joint Selichot Program & Service**  
(Official start of the Holidays)  
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2019  
Time: 8:30 pm

**Rosh Hashanah**  
Erev Rosh Hashanah  
Date: Sunday, September 29, 2019  
Time: 8:00 pm, Oneg to follow

Daytime Services  
Date: Monday, September 30, 2019

- Morning Service at 10:00 am
- Family Service\* at 4:00 pm
- Tashlich Service at 5:30 pm at Reading Public Museum

**Annual Cemetery Service**  
Date: Sunday, October 6, 2019  
Time: 1:00 pm at Mt. Sinai Cemetery

**Yom Kippur**  
Kol Nidre Service  
Date: Tuesday, October 8, 2019  
Time: 8:00 pm

Daytime Services  
Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2019

- Morning Service at 9:30 am
- Family Service\* at 1:30 pm
- Afternoon Service at 3:00 pm
- Yizkor/Memorial Service at 4:30 pm
- Closing Service at 5:00 pm

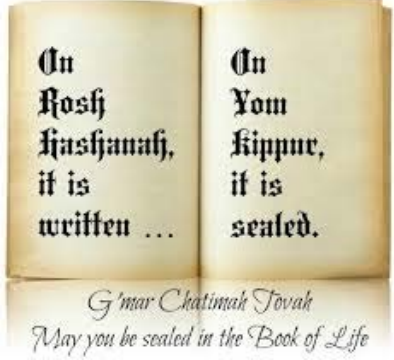
\*Family services are for children up to grade 2.  
Babysitting is available for other services.

**Sukkot**

- Sukkah Decorating & Dinner  
Date: Sunday, October 13, 2019  
Time: 6:00 pm
- Erev Sukkot Service  
Date: Sunday, October 13, 2019  
Time: 7:00 pm
- Shabbat in the Sukkah  
Date: Friday, October 18, 2019  
Time: 6:00 pm Service, Dinner in the Sukkah to follow
- Tot Shabbat on the Farm  
Date: Saturday, October 19, 2019  
Time: 10:00 am  
Location: Brecknock Orchard

**Shemini Atzeret – Simchat Torah & Consecration**

- Service and Consecration  
Date: Sunday, October 20, 2019



555 WARWICK DRIVE, WYOMISSING, PA 19610  
PHONE: 610.375.6034 FAX: 610.375.6036  
E-MAIL: [temple.office@ohebsholom.org](mailto:temple.office@ohebsholom.org) WEB SITE: [www.ohebsholom.org](http://www.ohebsholom.org)



# Jewish Family Service

Food Pantry  
 Friendship Circle  
 Counseling Services  
 Transportation  
 Financial Assistance  
 Hospital and  
 Home Visitations  
 Living with Loss  
 Information and  
 Referral  
 Case Management  
 Holiday Programs

## Get ready for some great adult education programs

**By Sari Incledon  
and Carole Robinson**

We are excited to announce our fall Adult Education Series. All programs will be held at 7 p.m. at the JCC. Programs are free and open to the public.

### **Understanding Your Social Security Benefits**

On Oct. 23, Stanley Fromuth, who worked for the Social Security Administration for 38 years, will present a detailed program. Topics will include how to file for and when to file for benefits; how benefits are computed; working while receiving Social Security; issues regarding spouses, widows/widowers, divorcees, and more.

### **Wills and POA**

On Oct. 30, Ben Leisawitz will speak on the importance of having an up-to-date will and Power of Attorney, and why this is a must for every age group. This is an opportunity to gather important information and ask questions. Ben is an attorney with Leisawitz Heller in Wyomissing.

### **ABC's of Medicare**

On Nov. 6, Phyllis Dessel, retired from the Berks County Office of Aging and now a community volunteer, will explain the ABC's of Medicare. It is important for prospective retirees to understand the health care choices and options that they will have.

### **Friendship Circle**

Everyone in our community is welcome to attend diverse and stimulating programs on Thursdays at 2 pm. Programs are free. Optional lunch (\$7) is served at 1 p.m. Reservations for lunch are required.

Participants enjoy camaraderie and entertainment. Recent programs included "Local Treasures: Art at the Reading Museum" presented by Sara Louise Howells, adjunct professor of art history at West Chester University, Boom Box Bingo, and Rebecca Robinson's "Japanese Adventure."

Upcoming programs not to be missed!

### **Sept. 5 – "Senior Scam Prevention."**

David Shallcross, Senior Community Liaison and Coordinator of the Elder Abuse Unit of the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, is a specialist on fraud against older adults. He will educate and warn people about common fraud, scams, and safety concerns.

**Oct. 3 – "Similarities between Eastern-European Jewry and Pennsylvania Dutch Culture."** Erica Cohen Hamilton, Kutztown University anthropology graduate and associate at the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center, will discuss local Pennsylvania Dutch folk art and fitting art into the context of culture. This presentation will highlight the cross-cultural similarities and historic/contemporary relationship between the Pennsylvania Dutch and Eastern-European Jewish populations in America. Materials will be provided for attendees to create their own unique culturally inspired designs to take home.

**Oct. 10 – "It's Wash Day!"** Bob and Susie Lee will share their extensive antique laundry day collection and knowledge of Wash Day from the 1700's to 1940. This informative and entertaining program will take folks of all ages back to the old fashioned laundry days. Soaps, machines, and all kinds of other tools are on display and explained with humor and history.

**Oct. 17 – "The Voice and Vocal Hygiene."** When you reach your 60s, your voice starts to show its age. Retired speech therapist Betsy Katz will offer techniques and suggestions to keep your speaking and singing voice sounding younger and

more vibrant.

### **Rosh Hashanah Service and Holiday Lunch**

**Thursday, Sept. 26, 10:45 a.m.:**  
Jewish Family Service invites seniors to

a short Rosh Hashanah service followed by a festive holiday lunch at the Manor at Market Square in Reading. All are welcome. Reservations required. Call JFS at 610-921-0624.



Recent Friendship Circle activities, from top, Boom Box Bingo; Rebecca Robinson, with her mom, Carole, at a program on Rebecca's Japanese adventure; Sara Louise Howells on "Local Treasures: Art at the Reading Public Museum."





## Jewish Family Service: Meeting Ongoing Community Needs

You provide, through Federation’s Community Campaign, programs and services people rely upon every day.  
Your contributions fund critical ongoing needs. Without you, we could not accomplish all that we do.

Thank you.

This month we’re highlighting some of the Jewish Family Service programs you make possible.

### Income and Financial Support

Support in 2019: \$48,500

Federation, assisted by annual grants from the Irvin G. and Beatrice M. Shaffer Fund, the Rubin Fund and the Cohen Fund, helps families and individuals with basic everyday needs. We place a priority on food, health and shelter by helping to close gaps in utility bills, monthly rent and medical expenses.

### Food Pantry

Distributing 10,000 pounds of food each month

Federation purchases groceries through Healthy Harvest (formerly Greater Berks Food Bank) to help feed more than 165 families each month at no cost to them. Federation supplements these groceries with donated items like children's books and school supplies. The Pantry is “staffed” by 20 to 40 different volunteers, and new volunteers are always welcome.

### Senior Services

30 seniors attend weekly Friendship Circle programs

Our senior population is expected to continue increasing, and more of them want to age in place. Your support enables JFS to provide services that monitor their well-being and helps them remain healthy and safe while continuing to be engaged with the Jewish community.

### Case Management

Support in 2019: \$88,800

JFS works with both families and individuals struggling with issues of health, aging, family relationships, transportation or finances.

We help people who are aging live as independently as possible, ensuring our Jewish neighbors and friends do not become isolated. We also offer help to caregivers with aging spouses or aging parents, and to caregivers who have adult children with disabilities.

Jewish Family Service assists the many people in our community who have few or no extended family members living close-by. JFS outreach services and advocacy ensures they will remain engaged with the Jewish community and receive appropriate needed services.

### Taxi Transportation & Emergency Assistance

Support in 2019: \$23,600

Providing an average of 200 monthly rides, this program allows qualified recipients (older adults and people with disabilities) to remain independent and active. The program, a model for other communities, helps people get to medical appointments, grocery shopping and Jewish community events.

### Camp Scholarships

Support in 2019: \$6,000

Jewish summer camp is one of the most important experiences a child can have. Federation camp scholarships help Berks County families send their child to camp. Demand for camp scholarships is expected to grow as more families require assistance to meet the increasing costs of Jewish summer camp.

## Jewish Family Service thanks

***Dr. Eric Bluestone and the staff of Bluestone Dental**  
for providing services to a client for much needed dental work. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.*

\*\*\*

***A big thank you to  
the RCOS Rummage Sale Committee  
for allowing JFS clients to select items at the  
congregation’s annual rummage sale. Our clients  
were appreciative of the generosity and kindness  
shown to them.***

\*\*\*

***Special thanks to Bill Blumer and Ben Leisawitz  
of the law firm Leisawitz Heller  
for providing pro bono services.***

## Volunteers wanted

**Jewish Family Service is seeking volunteers  
for its monthly food pantry  
on the following Wednesdays:**

**Sept. 11  
Oct. 2  
Nov. 6  
Dec. 4**

***This summer we served a total of 10,000 pounds of  
food to more than 170 households each month at the  
Olivet Clubhouse at 330 S. 19th St., Reading,  
from 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.***

***For information about how you can be a part of this  
meaningful program, call JFS at 610-921-0624.***



# IDF vets volunteer in distressed villages across the globe

Israel21c.com

Israelis call it the “big trip” — an extended trek to exotic destinations between completing military or national service and continuing with life. At any given time, thousands of young Israelis are traveling in remote locations, often in poor countries. So why not volunteer while there? That was the concept that motivated three Israeli army officer veterans, fresh from a trip to Thailand, to establish Heroes for Life (in Hebrew, Fighters without Borders) in 2013 as a vehicle “to show the world the compassionate face of former IDF soldiers.”

When we first wrote about this unique organization in September 2016, its English name was Fighters for Life and it operated two-week volunteering gigs in Gondar, Ethiopia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Mumbai, India.

Less than three years later, the renamed Heroes for Life is sending about 5,000 volunteers each year on missions that have so far assisted some 4,100 children. In addition to the original locations, Heroes for Life has started two-week volunteering programs in Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Vietnam, South Africa and Uganda.

“Our 14th site will be Colombia next year, and I will head the delegation,”

said Heroes for Life Vice President of Development and Education Ben Markovitch. “Every year we open five more destinations because when you have a lot of people who want to be part of your delegations you have to keep up with demand. In 2021 we’ll be in 20 countries and will be one of the biggest organizations of its kind in the world.”

Markovitch volunteered with HFL for two weeks in Ethiopia in the spring of 2017 and later joined the management team thereafter.

Those chosen to be HFL volunteers pay for their airfare; the cost of the rest of the program is covered by donations. Each delegation includes 20 to 30 members, including at least a few fluent in the native language of their destination. Medical professionals, such as dentists, join the group if requested by the local community.

“Our volunteers spend half of their day working in the schools teaching whatever subjects the head of the school wants,” Markovitch explained.

The other half of the day is dedicated to projects such as painting and fixing schools and homes. “All the places we work are underprivileged and need our support and help,” Markovitch said.

HFL returns to work with the population in each place every year to assure continuity and a greater impact.

For example, in Gondar, Ethiopia,

the Israeli volunteers have been teaching blind and mute kids since 2016. They also renovated a shelter-residence and brought a dentist to treat children living in the shelter and provide training for local health care professionals.

Guy Suskin went to Guatemala last summer with HFL. “It was one of the best things I’ve done in my life,” he said.

Suskin is 26 and had already taken his “big trip,” but he wanted to do something meaningful in the summers between his studies toward a degree in sports psychology. He and his cohort worked in the section of Guatemala City where all the city’s garbage is carted. “The smells took a while to get used to and it was hard at first,” he admitted. “And my Spanish isn’t so good.” However, he quickly learned that kicking around a soccer ball with teens in the school where he was teaching English and history enabled them to connect through the universal language of sports. He bonded not only with the kids but with his group.

Ofir Shalgy, 22, went with HFL to Khayelitsha, South Africa, last February. In the mornings she taught 11-year-olds math, English and geography, and in the afternoons her group did repairs around the distressed neighborhood. “We looked a like little aliens; I’m blond with blue

eyes,” she recalls with a laugh. “For the children, it didn’t matter what color we are; they were just happy we were there. For the adults it was harder, but they were grateful. They were in shock that people from Israel came to volunteer in their neighborhood.”

She traveled around South Africa for two months afterward. “Israelis travel all over the world after their service and this lets us do good for two weeks of our Big Trip,” Shalgy explained

Wherever possible, HFL delegations devote Sundays to the local Jewish community. Depending on the community, they may assist with Maccabi sports clubs or teach subjects such as Hebrew and Jewish culture. Contacts are made through local partners such as a Chabad House, Israeli embassy or Israeli consulate. “I don’t think there is any other place in the world where people so young thought of something so noble,” said HFL’s president, Maj. Gen. Eliezer Shkedi.

Many former HFL volunteers don’t want to stop giving back to the community, so the organization has started working with underprivileged populations in Israel.

“Last year we established an alumni organization which does volunteer projects all over the country,” Markovitch said.



**Monday, September 9, 2019 at 7 p.m. JCC and Exeter Community Library**  
**Literatour Berks Preview Night**

Come learn more about the 18 authors visiting Berks this year!



**Monday, October 7, 2019 at 7 p.m. Exeter Community Library**  
**E.R. Ramzipoor**  
**The Ventriloquists**

*Presented in partnership with the LGBT Center of Greater Reading.*



**Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 7 p.m. Location Provided Upon Registration**  
**Angela Himsel**  
**A River be a Tree**

*A program of Women's Philanthropy of Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks.*



**Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. Wachovia Theatre, Albright College**  
**Thomas Wolf**  
**The Nightingale's Sonata:**  
**The Musical Odyssey of Lea Luboshutz**  
**40th Annual Leo Camp Memorial Lecture**

Program includes Curtis Institute musicians performing César Franck's "Sonata for Violin and Piano".

*Presented in partnership with the Camp family and Albright College.*



**Monday, December 2, 2019 at 7 p.m. Exeter Community Library**  
**Tiffany Shlain**  
**24/6: The Power of Unplugging One Day a Week**



**Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 7 p.m. Location Provided Upon Registration**  
**Dawn Raffel**  
**The Strange Case of Dr. Couney:**  
**How a Mysterious European Showman Saved Thousands of American Babies**

*A program of Maimonides Society of Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks.*



**Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 4 p.m. Exeter Community Library**  
**Joni Klein-Higger and Barbara Sharf**  
**Barnyard Bubbe's Hanukkah**

*Presented by PJ Library of Reading with support from the Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund of Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks.*



**Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 4 p.m. Exeter Community Library**  
**Erica Perl**  
**All Three Stooges**

*Presented by PJ Our Way of Reading with support from the Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund of Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks.*



**Monday, January 27, 2020 at 7 p.m. Exeter Community Library**  
**Barbara J. Ostfeld**  
**Catbird: The Ballad of Barbi Prim**



**Monday, February 3, 2020 at 7 p.m. Exeter Community Library**  
**Saul Austerlitz**  
**Generation Friends:**  
**An Inside Look at the Show that Defined a Television Era**



**Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 4 p.m. at JCC**  
**Liel Leibovitz and Mark Oppenheimer**  
**The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia:**  
**From Abraham to Zabar's and Everything in Between**



**Sunday, March 1 at 10 a.m. Location Pending**  
**Jamie Bernstein**  
**Famous Father Girl: A Memoir of Growing Up Bernstein**

*\$36 per person includes brunch, lecture and music.*



**Monday, March 2 at 7 p.m. Sinking Spring Public Library**  
**Jenna Blum**  
**The Lost Family**



**Thursday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. Albright College**  
**Michael Dobbs**  
**The Unwanted: America, Auschwitz and a Village Caught in Between**  
**16th Annual Richard J. Yashek Memorial Lecture**

*Presented in partnership with the Yashek family and Albright College.*



**Monday, April 20, 2020 at 7 p.m. Alvernia University**  
**Ariel Burger**  
**Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel's Classroom**

*Presented in partnership with Alvernia University.*



**Monday, May 4, 2020 at 7 p.m. Sinking Spring Public Library**  
**Elyssa Friedland**  
**The Floating Feldmans**



**Monday, June 15, 2020 at 7 p.m. Exeter Community Library**  
**Joy Ladin**  
**The Soul of the Stranger:**  
**Reading God and Torah from a Transgender Perspective**

*Presented in partnership with the LGBT Center of Greater Reading.*



For More Information - 610-921-0624

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# Jordan closes Aaron’s Tomb after Jews seen praying there

From online news sources

Aaron’s Tomb in Jordan was closed by the nation’s Ministry of Awqaf Islamic Affairs and Antiquities on Thursday after the “illegal entry” of Jews to site without the knowledge of the ministry, according to Arab media.

The decision to close the site was made after Israeli tourists were filmed performing Jewish rituals at the site, according to the Turkish Anadolu Agency.

It was also decided all visitors would have to obtain approval from the Awqaf in the Ma’an Governorate before entering.

A video circulated in local news websites purportedly showed about 500 Israeli tourists performing the rituals in the area.

The site, located on a mountain in the area of Petra, is believed to be the grave of the biblical High Priest Aaron, Moses’s brother.

Aug. 1 was the first day of the Hebrew month of Av, which is the anniversary of Aaron’s death.

In an interview with Ynet, tour guide Roni Ayalon, who was with the group of tourists, described being subjected to humiliating treatment by Jordanian authorities.

“They just stripped down all of us,” he said. “They took off the women’s head scarves. All the boys’ yarmulkes were taken off. They took off everyone’s shirts to see if they had tzitzit (religious fringes) under their clothes and took [the tzitzit] off them. They confiscated any religious symbols they found on us.

”If there was this kind of humiliation of an Arab on our side who wanted to enter Jerusalem and they would dare to tell him to take off his shirt or confiscate his Koran, there would be a world war. All the Arabs would jump up. But they can do whatever they want to us.

At the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, where the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the

Dome of the Rock are located, visits by religious Jews are monitored by Waqf guards and Israeli police, and all Jewish prayer, including silent prayer, is forbidden, according to the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.

The Waqf is an arm of the Jordanian Ministry of Sacred Properties and administers the site. No sacred Jewish objects, such as prayer books or a prayer shawl, may be brought onto the mount, according to Tourist Israel.

“None of us came to make a mess,” the tour guide said. “There was one boy who had a Bar Mitzvah, and at Aaron’s Tomb we made a little celebration for him. When the police saw that we were singing, he quieted us and say that it’s forbidden for us to sing.”

Purported photos of Jewish tourists at the site which circulated through Jordanian media showed them praying with a Torah scroll.

“I don’t know who read from a Torah scroll,” said Ayalon, according to Ynet. “Our groups acted according to the book. We tried to act in a subdued manner and without opposition, but their behavior was awful.”According to Ayalon, the group was forbidden from praying while traveling in Jordan, even in their hotel room.

The Awqaf ministry strongly condemned the entry of the tourists and added that an investigation will be opened to find out what happened and who was responsible for allowing them into the site, according to the official Jordan News Agency.

Former Jordanian tourism minister Maha al-Khatib stated that the Israeli ambassador in Jordan filed a complaint against measures taken to limit the actions of Israeli tourists, including the requirement for a guide during tours and a prohibition against wearing religious clothing, according to Al Mayadeen.

Khatib also accused tourists of attempting to smuggle in religious



Aaron’s Tomb in Jordan

clothing.

The former tourism minister also accused visitors from Israel, whom she called “the most miserable tourists who make trouble,” of attempting to bury items at various sites in Jordan to confirm their claims of their history in the area.

”There is a Zionist scheme to claim ownership of any part of our Arab homeland, especially in archaeological sites,” Khatib said, according to the Shebab news agency. “They want to convince the world that any place they went through even for two nights in the old days is their right, but we are not allowed to mention the history of our existence.”

Khatib also rejected normalization with Israel and warned against “the continuation of the Zionist plan which aims to gnaw at our homeland,” according to Al Mayadeen.

She pointed out that Israelis “forcibly took the right to visit Jordanian territory

in the peace treaty, while we are deprived of visiting Palestine.”

Last year in July, Jordanian police reportedly confiscated prayer shawls and tefillin from a group of some 20 haredi men who traveled to the country to visit Aaron’s grave.

Members of the group told Walla News that Jordanian police arrived at the hotel they were staying near Petra and searched their rooms for religious items, confiscating several sets of tefillin and prayer shawls from some members of the group.

Rabbi Menashe Zlikah, a member of the group, told the Kol Hai radio station that Jordanian police had forbidden them from praying anywhere in Jordan, including the hotel and told them that anyone who prayed would be arrested.

The men were advised by the Foreign Ministry and Israeli consul in Jordan to keep a low profile and return to Israel as quickly as possible.

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# Device developed in Israel relieves pain without pills

**Israel21c.com**

More and more people are seeking pain relief that doesn't involve taking pills. Now there's a new topical device available: Alfa Plus by Solio, invented and manufactured in Israel.

Alfa Plus is the world's first radio frequency (RF) device for home use to receive regulatory approval for pain relief, says founder Shahak "Chuck" Cohen.

Cohen said that he was not satisfied with pain-relief devices that use light or electrical nerve stimulation. "For two years I ran around to medical companies until I found the right thing," says Cohen. That "right thing" is a combination of bipolar RF to increase blood circulation, dual-wavelength infrared technology to heat and ease skin pain and stiffness, and low-level laser therapy to relieve the skin. All of these are contained within the unit used externally by the consumer.

Meant to give long-lasting relief of chronic pain and to eliminate pain from trauma, sports injury or menstruation, Alfa Plus is placed on the part of the body that hurts. Four RF diodes noninvasively penetrate the skin with deep heating to increase blood circulation, accelerate tissue regeneration and reduce inflammation, muscle aches, stiffness

and pain. Cohen says the effect is comparable to trigger-point therapy and stimulates the body's natural healing mechanisms, increasing the blood circulation and drawing oxygen and nutrients to the affected area.

A clinical study in Israel, to be published soon, used Alfa Plus together with a trigger-point treatment on over 100 patients, of whom 90 reported reduced lower-back pain. A second trial will test how well the device performs on its own.

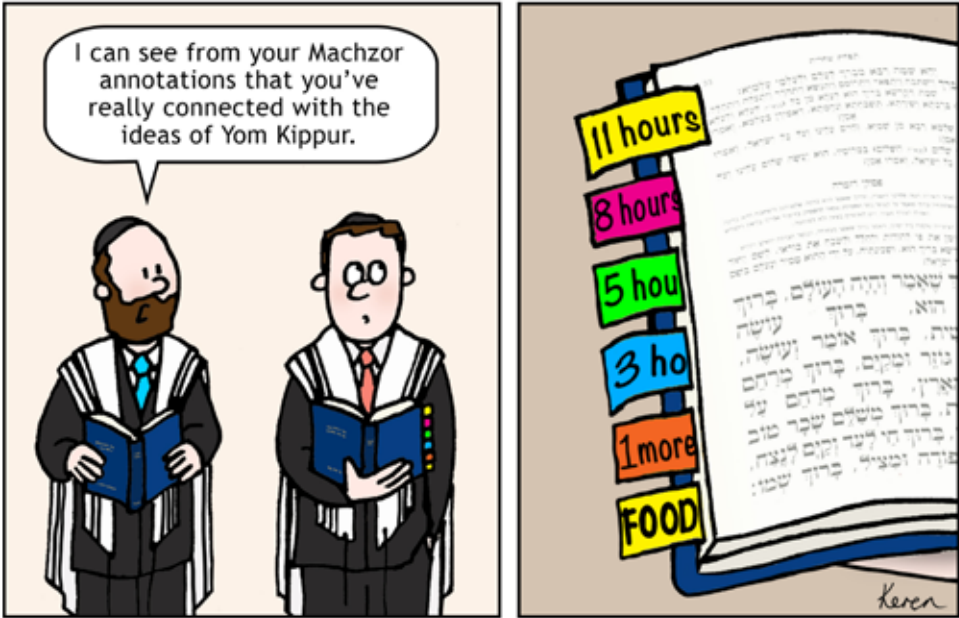
How long and how often you use Alfa Plus depends on the type of pain you have. For period pain, Alfa Plus claims one 15- to 20-minute treatment session is all you need. For chronic pain, the device is recommended to be used twice a day for the first few days and then once a day for two to three months, and then no more than four times a week after that to avoid overstimulation. "Chronic pain will probably never go away but our device can reduce the amount of pain and the intervals between the highest levels of pain," Cohen says. "We noticed that people who were taking lots of pain medication for chronic lower-back pain were able to reduce their meds by half when using Alfa Plus."

Dermatologist Dr. Judith Hellman of New York's Mount Sinai Medical

Center said many of her patients prefer to avoid oral pain medications due to potential side effects. The combination of technologies in the Alfa Plus device, Hellman says, "is able to treat pain from the level of the skin all the way down to the level of the muscles. It's very easy to

use, it's very safe, and I think it's good for a lot of people by itself or in combination with pain medication, if needed."

Manufactured in northern Israel, Alfa Plus by Solio is sold for about \$500 on the company's website as well as on Amazon and eBay.



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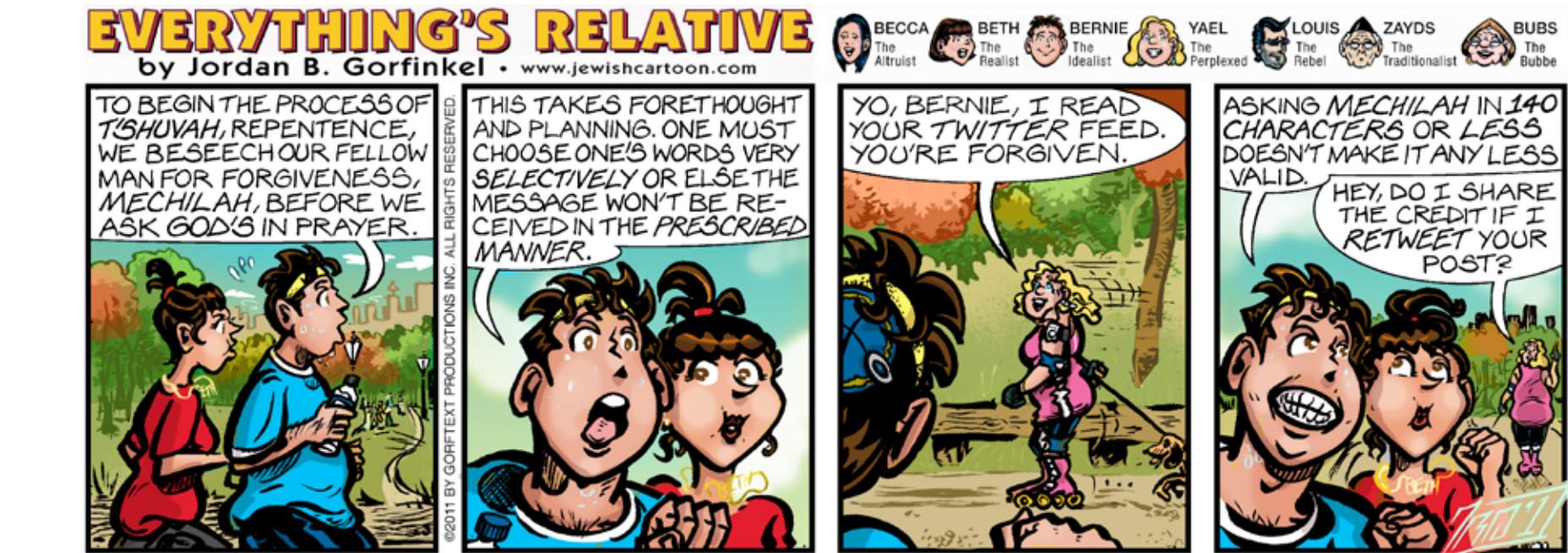
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