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OCTOBER 2014
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Relevant news for penitent Jews

Kosher OC is here to give the Orange County Jewish community news when it happens, here and around the world.

We combine the best of modern media and dedicated journalism to give you timely and interesting stories about the movers and shakers of the community and the great events they hold. We also talk about Jewish trends and trendmakers in Israel and throughout the globe with interesting ideas about celebrating holidays and celebrating each other.

Join us for a window into the world of Judaism, and let us have your insight and input.

It is our pleasure to serve this wonderful community.

Please send news releases, photos, videos, ideas and thoughts to:

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Enjoy the new year with home cooked treats that are sure to impress...



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Welcome to Orange County

Just another sunset, Catalina Island in view



A photograph of two young women standing side-by-side and smiling. The woman on the left has long, curly blonde hair and is wearing a dark blue t-shirt. The woman on the right has dark hair and is wearing a light grey t-shirt. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, containing the text 'Rabbi Joseph Telushkin' in white serif font.

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin

“Personalize a mitzvah, be optimistic, and focus on commonalities”, Rabbi Telushkin tells Orange County audience.

Just as the five-year project of writing *Rebbe: The Life and Teachings of Menachem M. Schneerson, the Most Influential Rabbi in Modern History* was transformative for him, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin – New York Times best-selling author and one of the most renowned think-



ers in the Jewish world – believes that the Rebbe’s teachings and practical wisdom can be transformative and incorporated “into our lives and the lives of people all over the world.”

Rabbi Telushkin spoke to an audience of more than 500 at the Myers Theater at Jewish Community Center of Orange County in Irvine. The event was sponsored by the Samson Advanced Institute of Jewish Studies at Tarbut V’Torah (TVT) and the Orange County Register.

The scholar, activist and rabbi encouraged people to “personalize a mitzvah, whether ritual or ethical, to define your Jewishness.” He added, “Be optimistic. Everything is possible.”

Famous for inspiring two U.S. Senators to develop a “Speak No Evil Day,” Rabbi Telushkin also said that people have to focus on commonalities, rather than defining people by the issues they support. He added that the “20th Century was a time of extraordinary advances in science and technology but not in moral questions.”

Advocating that people develop a “moral imagination,” which means “to think in advance about

the moral implications of what we’re saying,” Rabbi Telushkin, named by *Talk Magazine* (September, 1999) as one of the 50 best speakers in the United States, said, “We have to think of the moral implications of calling people names. There is a great deal of insensitivity about words. We don’t often think about that before they come out of our mouth.”

According to Telushkin, “Everybody is created in the image of God. When you remove that sanctity, there is dehumanization with words.”

Rabbi Telushkin’s speech launched the new Samson Advanced Institute of Jewish Studies, which promotes student-driven in-depth Jewish study among Tarbut V’Torah students grades K-12, fostering deep and creative Jewish thinkers and leaders who are skilled in independent learning, problem solving, group collaboration, public communication, and the interdisciplinary and real-world applications of the Torah and Judaism. The Samson Advanced Institute of Jewish Studies is one of three such institutes at TVT, the other two being the Advanced Institute of Arts & Writing, and the Advanced Institute

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As the premier Jewish Day School in Orange County, TVT's K-12 college preparatory program provides young minds with the tools and opportunities they need to thrive, flourish and succeed. Our warm, inclusive community is rooted in Jewish values, giving students from a variety of backgrounds an education and support system that will guide them throughout their formative years and beyond.

Save the date. TVT Open House. Thursday November 20, 2014 at 8:15AM



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of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Each institute provides K-12 students an opportunity to explore an area of interest to the fullest possible extent before, during, or after school. Advanced Institute students work alongside high-caliber faculty with expertise in a chosen field. The program is provided at no additional cost to TVT families.

Rabbi Telushkin's recently released book, a New York Times best seller, offers a captivating portrait of the late Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, a towering figure who saw beyond conventional boundaries to turn his movement, Chabad-Lubavitch, into one of the most dynamic and widespread organizations ever seen in the Jewish world. As Rabbi Telushkin explained, "It has been said that if Hitler wanted to hunt down every Jew in hate, the Rebbe wanted to hunt down every Jew in love. He taught that every act counts and could be a step toward renewed Jewish commitment."

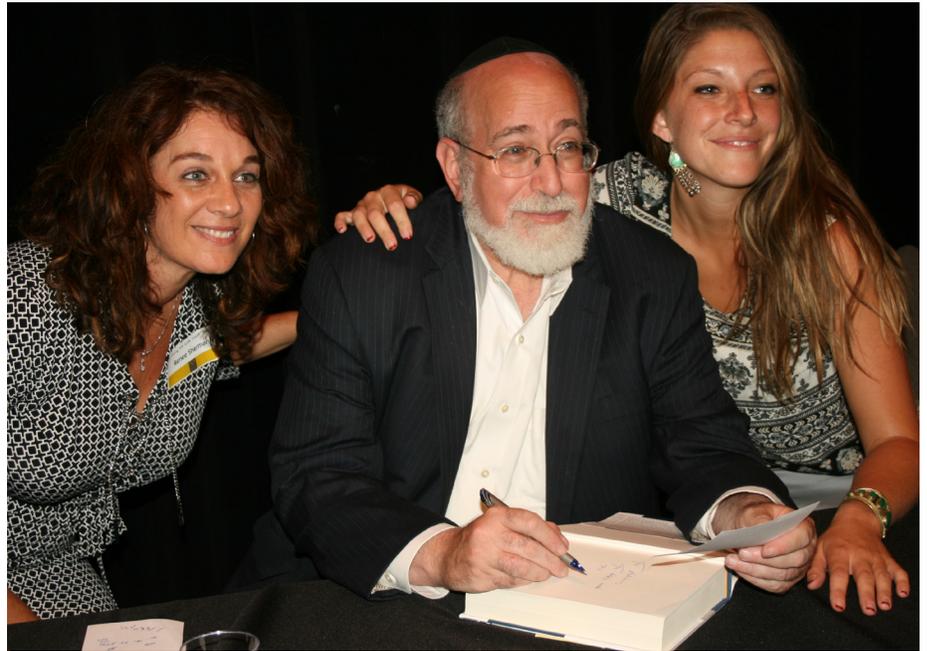
Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson was a true sage for our time. An inspirational leader, scholar, and teacher, he left a profound spiritual, ethical and moral legacy for Jews and non-Jews alike. Rabbi Telushkin's biography of the Rebbe examines the personal side of this revered public figure while also exploring in-depth his considerable achievements, core philosophy, and pioneering initiatives and analyzing his stories and speeches.

In 1951, when Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson assumed the leadership of Chabad, the then

small movement was headquartered in one neighborhood of one borough in New York City and not well-known beyond it. During his four decades at the helm, he transformed a small group of post-Holocaust immigrants into a global force, in the process shaping government policy, counseling some of our best

want to reconnect with their Jewish roots. Other movements in Judaism recognize its impact beyond its traditional circles and, in fact, beyond Judaism.

According to Rabbi Telushkin, there are many lessons we can learn from the Rebbe. He taught of a great love of others, a non-



minds, and spreading his message of righteousness.

A visionary thinker, the Rebbe advocated the love of every Jew and the broad love of humanity. His acceptance of others regardless of their observance of Jewish laws, particularly ritual ones, met with great opposition. This belief in the unity of all Jews led to a remarkable development: the Rebbe's willingness to send his followers out into the world in a revolutionary campaign to reach every Jew and every Jewish community.

Today Chabad is in 49 states and 80 countries, providing kosher food, education and other amenities to travelers and people who

judgmental love. He espoused a focus on the individual in spite of macro issues.

The Rebbe had a number of characteristics that have helped Chabad succeed and can be used by everyone, Rabbi Telushkin said. They include creating leaders by empowering people, using optimistic language, expressing disagreement without being disagreeable and criticizing approaches but not criticizing people. "Most importantly, anything that is worth doing is worth doing now," he said.

Rabbi Telushkin was ordained at Yeshiva University in New York, and pursued graduate studies in Jewish history at Columbia Uni-

versity. He resides in New York City with his wife, Dvora Me-nashe Telushkin, and their four children. He lectures throughout the United States, serves as a Senior Associate of CLAL, on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Book Council, and as spiritual leader of the Synagogue for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles. ■

New Year, New School

Irvine Hebrew Day School Opens Its Doors

By Clyde Cohen

Amid shofar blowing and other symbolism of the start of a New Year, the Irvine Hebrew Day School held a parent/student reception on Tuesday, September 2, and then welcomed its first class of kindergartners on Wednesday, September 3.

Established earlier this year, the independent Jewish day school with its roots in modern Orthodox Judaism meets at the Olam Jewish Montessori preschool at Beth Jacob Congregation of Irvine. Its administrators hope to add at least one grade each year. Currently,

the school is building a special playground.

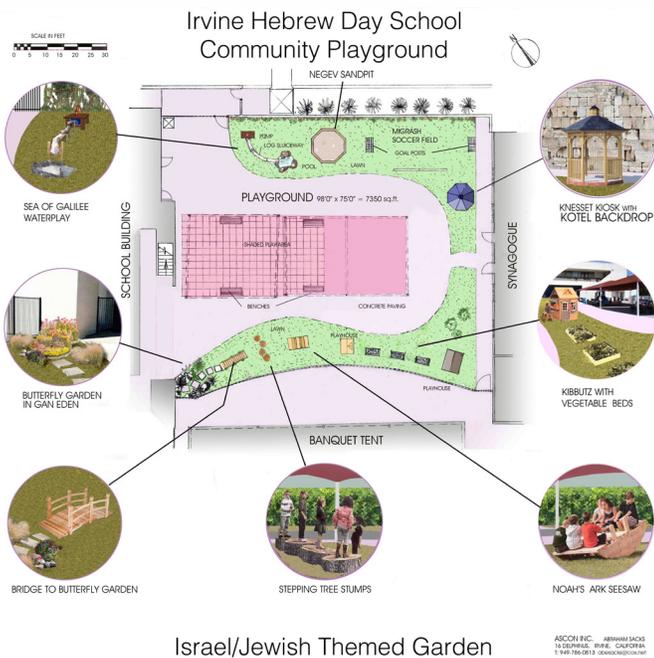
Tammy Keces, the principal of the school, holds a B.A. in psychology from UCLA, an M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University, in curriculum and instruction and a Clear California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. Keces has taught elementary school at various private and public schools including the JCC, Tarbut V'Torah and New Horizon in Irvine. Born and raised in Orange County, Keces has done extensive academic research

and assessment on motivating children to learn. Tammy Keces, the principal of the school, holds a B.A. in psychology from UCLA, an M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University, in curriculum and instruction and a Clear California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. Keces has taught elementary school at various private and public schools including the JCC, Tarbut V'Torah and New Horizon in Irvine. Born and raised in Orange County, Keces has done extensive academic research

and assessment on motivating children to learn. On Sunday, October 5, from 1 to 3 p.m., the Irvine Hebrew Day School will launch its tzedakah project supporting Simchat Shabbat, which provides Shabbat meals for Jewish families in need in Orange County. School families and other interested parties are invited to enjoy kosher pizza and Mexican food at the school or to take it home and take a tzedakah box to fill for Simchat Shabbat to teach the children that tzedakah is fundamental to the Jewish way of Life! ■

and assessment on motivating children to learn.

Rabbi Aaron Parry, Jewish studies director and educator, earned his master's degree from Touro College (SUNY) in Jewish studies and education. He taught religious studies over ten years at both Val-



Israel/Jewish Themed Garden





Sunday with a Scholar

A Smash Hit for BJE and the Community

By Ilene Schneider

On September 14, the Bureau of Jewish Education of Orange County held its signature summer fundraising event, Sunday With a Scholar. The event was filled with musical enrichment, phenomenal entertainment, and community.

More than 180 guests enjoyed champagne and hors d'oeuvres in the breathtaking home of Nevona

and Itzhak Shabtai in Newport Beach. After a fun and leisurely social hour, guests made their way alongside the stunning poolside for the performance – an up close and personal experience with the Pacific Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Carl St.Clair.

Prior to the guests' arrival, the Bureau held an exclusive meet



and greet reception with Maestro Carl St. Clair and members of the Bureau of Jewish Education's Carob Tree Society. Members of the Carob Tree Society are individuals or families that have committed to remembering the Bureau in their estate plan.

Before the performance began, the Bureau honored its past board chairs and past CEOs in celebration of the Bureau's 36th "Double Chai" anniversary. The chairs and CEOs were recognized for their decades of hard work and dedication to Orange County's Jewish teens and youth. The Bureau's vice chair and philanthropic partnership chair Seth Siegel announced the new ongoing philanthropic partnership relationship being built with the Pacific Symphony Orchestra.

The most important message of all, however, came from the Bureau's student leadership president, Sam Kole. Sam explained the importance of the Bureau's programs in our Jewish community. Often the only Jewish programming in which high schoolers participate, these programs instill strong Jewish identities that last throughout adulthood. Unfortunately, BJE receives more than \$70,000 in scholarship requests and can only fulfill \$45,000 of that total.

In anticipation of getting more than \$100,000 in scholarship requests this year, BJE is creating a Sunday with a Scholar Celebration album to commemorate the September 14 event and raise money for the TALIT Nation Scholarship Fund.

Ad sponsorship levels are as follows:

- \$250 – Business card
- \$1000 – ¼ Page
- \$2500 – ½ Page
- \$5000 – Full Page
- \$10,000 – Silver Full Page
- \$25,000 – Gold Full Page

Digital copies of the album will be sent to every guest of the event. Hard copies will be available for purchase and will be given to album sponsors as a thank you for their impacting support. There will be a raffle with prizes. ■

For more information, contact the Bureau of Jewish Education at www.bjeoc.org



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New Beginning, Living Legacy

By Ilene Schneider

Photo: PRO DIGITAL MEDIA

Temple Beth Sholom begins rebuilding process with groundbreaking.

With music, food, fanfare and anticipation, more than 500 people shared in the Temple Beth Sholom (TBS) groundbreaking ceremony and celebration on Sunday, September 7. After sustaining major damage from a fire in February, Orange County's first congregation, which is located in Santa Ana, took the first symbolic steps toward rebuilding.

Citing the intense energy of breaking ground, Rabbi Heidi Cohen said, "When we received the Torah, the first words we said as a people were 'n'aseh, we will do.' Being Jewish is not only about what we believe, but first it is about what we do. What are our actions? How do we live? It is not about being carried away by the enthusiasm of a moment but being Jewish is about what we do in the midst of this excitement, our tangible deeds."

She added, "Today we are in fact

doing, but we don't do this alone. Every single person here is a partner in this moment."

Joining the rabbi as speakers in the ceremony were Lynn Mattassin, Temple Beth Sholom president; Jeff Winston, project chair, Living Legacy; Susie Amster, director, Living Legacy; and Carlos Rojas, chief of the Santa Ana Police Department. Major donors were invited to place a shovel in the earth and move it into a wheelbarrow. Rabbi Cohen, Cantor David Reinwald and Cantor Shannon McGrady Bane led spirited prayers and songs.

After the ceremony, Parties by Panache provided a barbecue lunch. Participants engaged in activities including construction projects for the kids sponsored by Home Depot and Legoland, picture taking on a huge fire truck provided by the fire fighters that saved the building, writing messages on the walls

of the social hall and for a time capsule and putting a shovel in the ground to celebrate the day.

The ceremony and celebration kicked off a year of ongoing fundraising and construction. The sanctuary was endowed by Sandy and Allan Fainbarg, and the new chapel was endowed by Bernie and Brad Horwitz. The congregation is seeking people to endow the community pavilion, the religious school building and the administrative offices.

Since the February 15 fire, which caused no injuries and appeared to be confined to the kitchen until the extent of smoke damage was discovered, the attitude of the staff and the congregants has been optimistic. The motto has been, "Together, TBS will remain strong and will be whole. Chazak chazak v'nitchazek – be strong, be strong and we will be strengthened. ■"



COSTCO

Kosher Corner

By Robin Silver-Zwiren



Costco in the District is well stocked with kosher items for the upcoming Yom Tov season. From Kedem Grape Juice to Meal Mart items the store's shelves are stocked.

If you don't feel like cooking, or need strictly kosher food for guests who will be joining you, don't despair.

You can start with Meal Mart Gefilte Fish and/or Chopped Liver. Chicken Soup with Matzah Balls can be the second traditional course. There is also stuffed Cabbage if someone wants a different option. Plus main meal alternatives like Pot Roast, Beef Brisket and Rib Eye Roast. In case that is not enough to chose from Costco also has Mon Cuisine Chicken Breasts stuffed with Wild Rice and Mushrooms and Turkey Breasts with Quinoa Pine Nuts and Carrots in Mushroom Gravy. Already cooked just pop in the oven to heat and sit down and enjoy.

Wishing you and your guests a very Happy New Year. ■

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Meet Hebrew Academy's New Assistant Principal

Rachel Schneider

By Ilene Schneider



Rachel Schneider, who has been working in an educational consultant capacity with the Hebrew Academy teachers for more than a year and one half, has joined the administrative team at the Hebrew Academy as upper school assistant principal.

Schneider brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the school and her position. Most recently, as an educational consultant to various private and public schools in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, she has helped to infuse high-caliber curriculum and instruction into the academic fabric of Southern California. Additionally, she continued working as an online high school history instructor for more than 70 students.

While at Tamalpais High School, which is located in Marin County, Schneider began as a mentor teacher and quickly earned a variety of administrative responsibilities in staff development, WASC accreditation and student activities. Her principal commented, "Rachel has the traits I look for in an outstanding professional educator: intelligence, creativity, compassion and leadership."

As Hebrew Academy begins its

path of enhanced academic opportunities and instructional excellence, Schneider will be helping the students, parents and teachers to successfully navigate this program and its outstanding educational tenets. Schneider's main roles are slated to be developing curriculum, implementing the Middle School Specialized Learning Communities, coaching teachers, supporting parents and establishing systems for communication of student performance, success and happiness.

As a veteran high school teacher, Schneider understands the needs and aspirations of the unique student body. She is working hard to establish multiple academic pathways for the high school girls so that they are well prepared for whatever post secondary plans they may have.

Schneider, by virtue of her skills and role, will also have a large presence in the middle school. She will be the lead teacher, helping coordinate teachers' planning and implementation of internship opportunities for students, as well as project-based learning situations with each of the three houses within the Middle School Specialized Learning Communities (Houses). ■

Sparking Toddler Creativity at Hebrew Academy

Mommy & Me

By Robin Silver-Zwiren

Chani's cherished children become like her own at a very young age. Mommy & Me Classes for toddlers under age 3 are an excellent way to introduce them to a specialized Jewish learning environment. On September 18 they came together to see Morah Chani in live action with integrative story telling and song. There is certainly a reason why Hebrew Academy's Preschool Director Chani Perelmutter is an award winning Teacher of the Year.

"Sammy the Spider" became an interactive experience when the toddlers placed cut-out character shapes on a board when they were introduced in the story. Holding a shofar gave these precious children a better understanding of the Rosh Hashanah holiday. After hearing a Rosh Hashanah Birthday-of-the-World story the group got up to sing "Happy Birthday" and dance in a circle. It may not be easy to get toddlers moving in an organized circle, but Chani and the Moms managed to make a success of it.

The art project that followed allowed each individual child's creative side to flow as the children painted their own honey pot holders. Yes, one little guy decided to taste the paint and model his brightly colored lips, but no worries as it was non-toxic



and he was involved in the project in his own manner. Of course, no Rosh Hashanah session would be complete without a snack of multi-colored varieties of apples. Nothing is more delightful than seeing a group of content toddlers and satisfied, relaxed Moms sitting together in a classroom in the preschool area

of the Hebrew Academy campus.

We wish everyone Shanah Tovah and many more "Mommy & Me" moments with Morah Chani. ■



Mitzvah Campaign

By Kosher OC Staff

The Hebrew Academy has launched a mitzvah campaign in support of Israel.

The Hebrew Academy has launched a mitzvah campaign in support of Israel. It does not involve a request for funds or any monetary donations. The only request is for individuals to pledge mitzvahs in support of Israel and the men and women of the IDF.

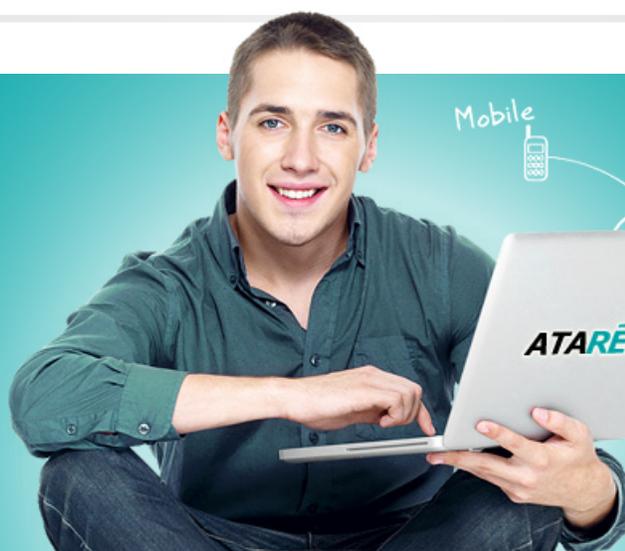
A mitzvah, a G-dly deed, has the power to reach deep into the core

of our being—where we are all one. Every positive deed we perform can help transmit and inspire peace and goodness to our fellow man in this troubled world. Our mitzvahs, no matter how small, perpetuate the legacies of those who have fallen, and ensure the continued safety of our brothers and sisters under attack.

We ask that you take a minute and pledge a mitzvah today. Please report the mitzvah on Mitzvah for Israel's website mitzvahforisrael.weebly.com. The website even has some mitzvah suggestions and some great mitzvah fun pages for kids. ■

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The Zionist Movement

By Zach Miller

What are the goals of the Zionist Movement?

There are many goals to the Zionist movement. They include the creation of a Jewish state of Israel, establishing the security of the Jewish people, a state of Jewish self governance, and the rights for Jews to determine their own fate.

The first goal of the Zionist movement was to establish a Jewish state, which was set in motion by Theodor Herzl in Basel, Switzerland in 1897 as a response to the growing anti-Semitic movement sweeping the world. The location of the to-be Jewish state was selected to be in current Israel due to the biblical ties of the Jewish people to the land of Eretz Israel.

The urgent need for a Jewish state was further fueled by the Dreyfus Affair and pogroms; setting in motion the next goal, establishing the security of the Jewish people.

The third main goal is self-determination, an idea unheard of to Jews since the destruction of the second temple. By securing this idea of freewill and independence, Jews could now feel safe and secure from anti-Semitism. ■



TVT Cares

Repairing the World

TVT Cares Fights Hunger in Haiti

More than 925 million people -- one of every eight people in the world -- do not have enough to eat or safe water to drink. While there is potentially enough food to go around, some people lack the land to grow it and some lack the funds to buy it. Hunger is even more prevalent in areas where there are natural disasters.

Tarbut V'Torah (TVT) Community Day School, in partnership with Friends and Family Community Connection, packaged and sent 40,000 meals to Haiti, at an all-school tikkun olam (repairing the world) program. The event, which is part of the "TVT Cares" program, brought about 450 volunteers of all ages together on Sunday, September 7 at the school in Irvine.

Friends and Family Community Connection, which began in San Diego in 1996, has helped people in the South rebuild after Hurricane Katrina and then helped bring food and medical care to Africa, the Philippines and Haiti. The organization works with groups to package Fight against Hunger meals, which contain

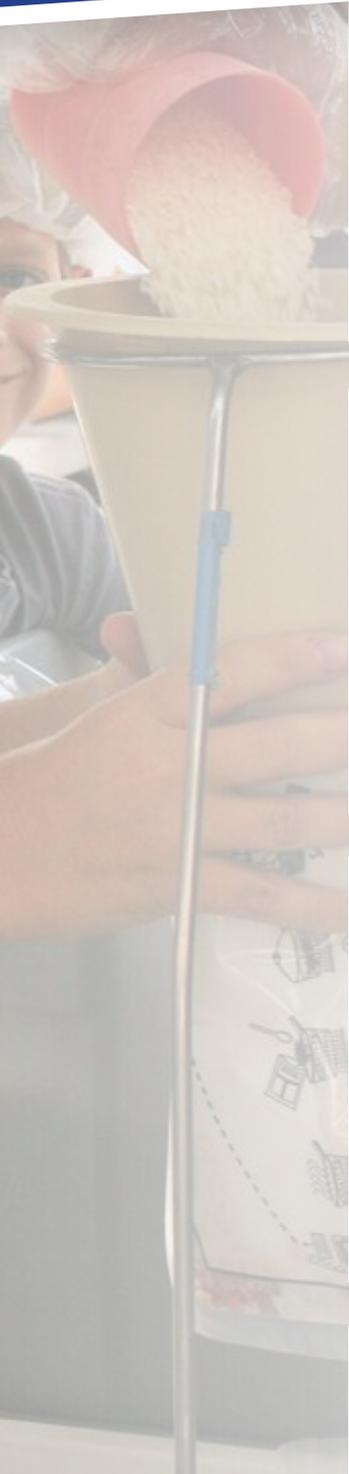
vitamins, vegetables, protein and rice and cost \$0.25 each. TVT purchased this food, and the TVT community came out to prepare it.

"It's our way of showing how we can make a difference in people's lives," said Dr. Jeffrey Davis, TVT's head of school.

TVT is a pluralistic Jewish day school with more than 500 students. Its mission is to challenge students to think critically and creatively to achieve their fullest potential in an inclusive, pluralistic environment; to prepare students to be leaders, active learners and responsible citizens; and to succeed at the finest colleges and universities. TVT also strives to strengthen its students' Jewish identities and inspire them to lead meaningful lives, steeped in Jewish values.

es

By Ilene Schneider





The Sukkah

By Zach Miller

Five days after fasting from Yom Kippur, arguably the holiest day of the year, Sukkot begins. However, immediately after the fast—like, take-a-drink-of-water-and-a-big-bite-of-bread-cuz-there-just-ain't-no-time kind of “immediately”—building the sukkah is a mitzvah. And I know how you're such a mitzvah boy or girl, aren't ya?

Here's the deal—building a sukkah is for the kiddies, it's just like camping, but it can be a bit of hard work. It's not just for show, though, so do remember that. In other words, it's not just to remember the historic forty year trek in the desert where Hashem sheltered the Jewish nation. Nope. I mean, it's a start, but really, it's a ceremony unto itself, because the Jewish nation must dwell in such a “booth” we call a sukkah for seven days.

Seven days camping? We live in southern California, not northern—we're not the campy type... or at least some of us.

No worries, eating your all your meals, at the very least your main ones—like Kiddush, for sure—is enough to technically count as “dwelling” in a sukkah. So, mission, er, mitzvah complete.

But you're such mitzvah boys and girls... spending as much time in the sukkah is asked of, if not all the time, whether permitted. Because we live in this oasis we call Orange County, make the effort to stay as long as possible in the sukkah. It's not really going to rain, now, is it?

Up for more? Sleeping in the sukkah is a huge mitzvah—so have fun with that... ■





Building a Sukkah

By Elad Cohen

So what is a sukkah, anyway?

The basics are that it's a booth with a roof. Simple enough.

The sukkah must have at least two and a half walls that are covered with material—material sturdy enough that it will not blow away from the wind (and we got Santa Ana winds over here, so be ready). Note that these walls don't actually have to be solid. So, a sheet or canvas tied down would work. Oh, and any size will do, so long as you can “dwell” in—eat, sleep, at least make Kiddush in it...

How about the roof? The sukkah's roof must actually be a plant that has been growing from

the ground. Talk about organic. So, tree branches, bamboo rods. Technically even slabs of wood—they are trees, after all. The most popularized and “traditional” is the branch from a palm tree. In any case, you must be able to see the stars through it, and let rain come in. Yet, gaps can only be ten inches at most... yeah there are even more fine detailed rules you might want to check your rabbi out for.

Technically it's not a must, but... it is highly traditional—and fun—to decorate your sukkah. Go old school with coloring some paper, and connecting them as rings. Fun stuff. ■

A Sermon For Troubled Times

It's often said the High Holy Days come either too late or too early, but never on time.



This year, they couldn't be better timed.

With all that's going on now in the Jewish world, there's an extraordinary opportunity to reach a vast audience during the solemn ten days we know as the Yamim Nora'im, or Days of Awe.

Two immediate messages need to be shared from the bima.

First, anti-Semitism is on the rise. Newsweek magazine devoted a cover story to a young Belgian Jewish woman carrying a suitcase, with the chilling title, "Exodus: Why Europe's Jews are fleeing once again."

The Wall Street Journal has published at least three recent major op-eds on rising anti-Semitism.

And three European leaders – the foreign ministers of France, Germany, and Italy – issued an unusual joint appeal against the surge in anti-Semitism.

We cannot remain indifferent or complacent.

We Jews are a people. We share a destiny. We have a collective

responsibility to one another.

Consider some recent occurrences:

Thousands of demonstrators marched through the streets of Paris, Berlin, and other European cities, many chanting: “Death to the Jews,” “Hitler was right,” “Jews to the gas chambers,” and “Reopen Auschwitz.”

A demonstration in Sweden against anti-Semitism had to be canceled because the organizers were physically afraid.

And let’s not forget the Paris synagogue that was targeted by a raging mob, while worshippers were inside. They were saved by the courage of security personnel, until the French police could arrive in larger numbers. It’s important to emphasize that for those threatening from the outside, it didn’t matter a whit what denomination the synagogue was, only that it was a Jewish site and there were Jews inside.

Sadly, this is far from a complete list of what’s been going on, primarily in Europe, but elsewhere as well, from South Africa to New Zealand, from South America to Australia.

Second, this is a time to reaffirm our enduring bonds with Israel.

Once again, we find so many who are either unwilling or incapable of understanding Israel’s profound security challenges.

Too often, wherever we look – in the media, diplomatic corridors, and elsewhere – we see distortion of reality, political expediency, and moral inversion.

Israel left Gaza in 2005, giving local residents their first chance in history to chart their own destiny.

Tragically, in elections, they chose Hamas, which, consistent with its blood-curdling charter, opted to pursue Israel’s destruction rather than Gaza’s construction.

How is Israel supposed to react, when missiles are being fired indiscriminately at millions of its citizens? What would any other country do in Israel’s place?

And what is Israel to do when it discovers more than 30 infiltration tunnels built from Gaza into its territory with the aim of sending jihadists to kill and kidnap as many Israelis as possible? Again, what would any other country do in Israel’s place?

Israel is fighting a ruthless, cynical foe, who uses civilians, especially women and children, as human shields, hoping to drive up the casualty count and draw the world’s sympathy and support.

And how else could Israel act in defending itself against an adversary that chooses schools, mosques, UN facilities, and hospitals to hide terrorists, store weapons, and fire missiles, while counting on the international community to express horror if any of these structures are hit by Israeli strikes?

How could so many fail to see the moral clarity of Israel’s struggle?

How could they fail to grasp that Israel is on the front line in the battle against jihadist forces, and that all of us – Western nations, as well as moderate Arab countries like Egypt, Jordan, and the UAE – have a stake in Israel’s success?

And how could they not understand that Hamas is part of the same family tree as ISIS, Hezbollah, Al-Qaeda, and Boko Haram – groups that despise America, target Christians, Yazidis, Baha’i,

We Jews are a people. We share a destiny. We have a collective responsibility to one another.

David Harris
Director of American Jewish
Committee (AJC)

and Muslims of other outlooks, and want to impose shari’a law wherever possible?

We need to remember and thank those that have stood by Israel, including the U.S., Canada, and Australia.

And we need to remember, as well, those that have assailed Israel—notably Turkey and, among others, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Peru, Uruguay, and, of course, Venezuela. Think twice before you make your next overseas vacation plans or business decisions.

But most of all, we need to tell Israelis that they are not alone, that we stand with them shoulder-to-shoulder, that we admire their courage, and that, individually and collectively, we will advocate their cause in the halls of power here and around the world.

Israel is a remarkable country in a thousand different ways. How fortunate we are to be able to say “This year in Jerusalem,” when, for countless generations, it was always the yearning for “Next year in Jerusalem”!

But for all its astonishing progress, Israel remains embattled, surrounded by Hamas, Hezbollah, Syria, and ISIS. And let's not forget Iran, which, like Iraq in 1991, is just a missile away.

Today, Israel faces challenges on three fronts.

First, the military front, where, time and again, the IDF has acted heroically.

Second, the civilian front. Israel's enemies have sought to hit cities and towns, only to be met by resilience and determination.

And third, the global front, where Israel's opponents have tried to penetrate the media, universities, unions, politicians, civic groups, the courts, etc., seeking Israel's isolation.

That third front is also our front.

Accordingly, in the spirit of our tradition, this is a time for each of us to say "Hineini!" "Here I am!" It's a time for all of us to say together, "Hineinu!" "Here we are"

It's a defining time. In life, we don't usually get to choose our moments. But the moment is here.

Do we respond to it? Do we show that we've learned the lessons of history, that we understand the core Jewish principle of collective

responsibility?

Do we identify with our Jewish sisters and brothers around the world, who today face a new level of danger and fear? Do we call on world leaders not only to denounce anti-Semitism, but also to take sustained action against it?

Do we stand with Israel, affirming our pride, solidarity, and support?

Or do we let the moment pass, using such excuses as it's not the right time in our lives, or the issues don't touch us directly, or we don't know what's going on, or maybe if we're just a bit nicer everyone will like us more, or everything will somehow turn out alright of its own accord?

We are a people who for thousands of years have yearned for one thing above all, shalom, peace.

We are all meant to be *rodophei shalom*, pursuers of peace.

We must never abandon that quest, that belief in its possibility.

Yet, at the same time, we cannot become so mesmerized by it that we lose all perspective on life as it actually is today.

Perhaps our situation is best summed up in the following anecdote:

Sherlock Holmes, joined by his

trusty aide Watson, left London by horse-drawn wagon for a case in the north. Darkness arrived, so they pitched a tent along the way. In the middle of the night, Holmes woke up, looked around, and elbowed Watson.

"Watson, my dear chap, what do you see?"

Watson rubbed his eyes before saying: "Why Holmes, I see the beauty of the stars, the transcendence of the universe, and the majesty of eternity."

To which Holmes replied: "Watson, you fool, someone has stolen our tent!"

We must never lose sight of the beauty of the stars.

But we must also never forget, as we gather in sacred communities for these Days of Awe, that someone is trying to steal our tent.

If we, each of us – indeed, all of us – don't protect the tent, who will? ■

A Jewish Week

Yom Kippur – thou shall not eat... right?



Sure, Yom Kippur is a day of fasting, and that's what most of us remember after the hazy torture. However, it's much, much more.

Known as the Day of Atonement, it is a time of reflection and forgiveness. Before asking Hashem for forgiveness, however, you must ask for forgiveness from those you have wronged, even passingly or mistakenly, because Hashem cannot do that for you, no matter how much you pray.

Ironically, this holiday comes after

Rosh Hashanah, or the Jewish New Year, a time full of sweets. A parallel is that between the sweet joys of Mount Sinai and the victory over the pharaoh to the harsh moment when the Golden Calf was built—um, sorry Hashem?

We all make mistakes; this is why we must focus on forgiveness, even giving up food to prove our resilience.

Other than that, do try to eat as much meat and protein before the fast, which will give you strength for the

next day, and cut down on cravings. Also, any foods or drinks with electrolytes won't hurt either—good luck! ■

Arba'at Ha-Minim

aka The Four Species

By Elad Cohen

So it's Sukkot... now what?

Build the sukkah. Now “dwell” in, whatever that means. Ok, it actually means to have your main meals in it (if not all your meals), hang out as much as you can in your sukkah, and maybe even sleep in it for bonus mitzvah points. That it?

Nope, now come the blessings, which we do through the four species akak Arba Minim, while holding the etrog.

The etrog is... a lemon. Well, no, but it's similar, and most importantly it's native to Israel, the promised land where we trekked through the desert from slavery in Egypt thanks to the mighty hand of Hashem while being sheltered by Hashem in what we now represent with the sukkah. See how it's all connected?

The four species themselves are bundled together in a specific manner—ask the rabbi for an order, is all I can say. The species themselves are the palm branch (lulav). Two willow branches (aravot), and three myrtle branches (hadassim). What, no turtle dove? Well, that's my Christmas joke for the year—wait, what about Chanukkah?

While holding the etrog in one hand, the four species in the other, you bring them together to say the blessing while wav-

ing in all six directions. It's not a 4d matrix thing, but east, south, west, north, up and down, which symbolizes the omnipresence of Hashem.

Ok, so why these specific plants, exactly?

One explanation is that each plant symbolizes a different part of the body. The long palm branch represents the spine; the small myrtle leaf, the eye; the oval willow leaf as the mouth; and the etrog is, last but not least, the heart. All these body parts are parts that together can wither cause great sin, or great mitzvot. It's a “choose your own adventure” kind of story... life, that is.

Another explanation is that each plant represents different types of Jews. The etrog is not sour like a lemon, but pleasant in both taste and aroma—just don't scratch it until the end of Sukkot, because if the flesh is pierced or the stem and/or pointy part is bruised, yeah it's no longer kosher for the blessings, and they're a bit hard to come by, so be careful. So, the etrgo represents both knowledge of Torah and action of mitvah.

The willow has neither taste nor scent symbolizes a Jew without knowledge of torah and does not perform mitzvot. In other words, just because you see a Jew who

you personally condemn because he/she does/doesn't do or know something that you work extra hard to perform—like eating pizza, okay okay maybe not strictly kosher pizza, but at least pizza without any meats on it, or at least not the pork types—doesn't mean that person is not a Jew. Hitler would have considered this person a Jew—why should our enemies be so inclusive of our people while we are not? Food for thought...

The myrtle leaf does have a strong scent, but it doesn't actually have taste. So, this plant represents a Jew who performs mitzvot, but doesn't have too much knowledge of the Torah. If you're playing along at home, smell showcases action, while taste represents torah knowledge. You'd think smell, a quality that reaches outward, would represent action, whereas taste would represent knowledge of the Torah, as it's a more of an inner quality. Who knows

Last but not least—the palm branch. The palm branch goes on to produce a tasty fruit, but it has no scent. So, this plant represents Jews who have knowledge but lack in acting out a mitzvah. Simple, right?

Now, we all bring these types of Jews together, and unite them in prayer. ■





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2014 **WEEK**
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Israel Wins Silver

AMIT SCHUSSEL

Israeli rhythmic gymnastics team wins silver medal in Turkey

By JNS.org

Israel's rhythmic gymnastics team won the country's first silver medal at the World Championships in Izmir, Turkey, on Sunday.

The Israeli team's winning routine earned a score of 16.983. Spain won the gold medal with a score of 17.433, and Belarus placed third at 16.60.

The Israeli team, with an average age of 16, included Alona Kushewtzki, Ida Meirin, Yuval Pilo, Katerina Levina, Karina Lichber, and Lihi Shuchtowitz, and was coached by Ira Vigdorichik.

This is the second time that Israel's rhythmic gymnastics team has earned a place on the podium at the World Championships, after winning the bronze medal in 2011 for its hoop and ribbons routine. The team also took home the bronze medal at

the last European Championships.

After the winning performance, the team scored 16.850 in the balls and ribbons routine, placing sixth.

If Israel garners a repeat win at next year's World Championships, it will qualify for the 2016 Olympic Games.

"This is an amazing accomplishment for our team," Israeli Culture and Sport Minister Limor Livnat said. "The team's and the gymnasts' recent streak of success proves that they are among the top in the world in their sport and that gives us high hopes for [the Olympic Games in] Rio in 2016. This is so exciting and it makes our nation proud to make history, in Turkey of all places." ■

"This is so exciting and it makes our nation proud to make history."

Netanyahu at the U.N.

By JNS.org

Netanyahu to U.N.: Hamas and Islamic State from 'same poisonous tree'

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that the Hamas and Islamic State terror groups are “branches from the same poisonous tree” in his address at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Monday.

Netanyahu said that Arab nations are beginning to realize the benefit of aligning with Israel against Iran, which he said is not willing to give up the prospect of obtaining nuclear weapons.

The prime minister also took time to respond to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who on Saturday at the U.N. said Israel committed “absolute war crimes carried out before the eyes and ears of the entire world” during this summer’s war with Hamas in Gaza. Abbas called on the U.N. to pass a resolution setting a deadline for Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders.

Israel “has faced a propaganda war because in an attempt to gain sympathy, Hamas used human shields, homes, and hospitals to fire rockets at Israel, while Israel surgically struck military targets,” Netanyahu told the U.N. on Monday. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) did its best to minimize civilian casualties, and while Palestinians “were tragically and unintentionally killed,” the IDF was not targeting Gazan civilians, said Netanyahu.

Regarding the long-term prospects for peace, Netanyahu said Israel “is prepared to make painful compromises” with the Palestinians.

“We believe that the Palestinians should be neither the citizens of Israel nor its subjects,” he said. “They should live in a free state of their own. But they should be ready, like us, for compromise. And we will know that they’re ready for compromise and for peace when they start taking Israel’s security requirements seriously and when they stop denying our historical connection to our ancient homeland.” ■



About Atoning

Why We Have to Forgive



By Ilene Schneider

**He said. She said.
He did. She did.
Yes, you did.
No, I did not.
Did. Did not.**

From the time we are small children, petty arguments like these play over and over in our heads. Whether it is a matter of a young sibling who supposedly caused another young sibling to make a parent angry, a mature executive whose actions or words had a negative impact on someone else or two colleagues, friends, spouses or other adults who disagree on each other's course of action, it is that time of the year when every Jew needs to learn the hardest words in the English language.

The first word is empathy. Put yourself in the other person's place. Pretend you are in his or her shoes.

Imagine being in that person's circumstances. Think about what may have caused that person to do the perceived misdeed. What is perfectly justifiable in one person's mind may be just the opposite in the mind of the other. Talk about it. See how the same situation can be avoided in the future.

The second word is forgiveness. It is not easy. The transgression feels very real, whether deliberate, misguided or inadvertent. The damage is done. The consequences, whether big or small, hurt. They may hurt a great deal and for a long time. The damage may seem irreparable. Could it have been prevented, and

is it really the fault of the person who is the object of our anger?

Sadly, the anger takes on a life of its own, making a bad situation worse and impacting the lives of the two parties and people connected with both of them. It colors our interactions and removes the focus from the positive actions we could be taking, not to mention the discomfort it causes to perfectly innocent people

who are caught in the middle.

Additionally, there is an eternal plan for each of our lives. What may seem like irreparable damage may be a temporary setback. In fact, the end result may be a better outcome than it would have been without the intervention, which may or may not seem to be divine at the time. The obstacles are there for a reason. It is up to us to overcome them with divine help,

just as it is up to us to learn how to empathize, forgive and try to make the world a better place.

Gmar chatima tovah! May you be inscribed in the Book of Life! ■

Advice for the Independent

Ezra Center Offers Monthly Medical Programs and More

By Rivkah Benson



Getting acquainted at the Ezra Center are Penny Byram, founder and president of Professional Health Care Services, Inc.; Eva Silverman, Ezra Center program chair; Nick Mannering, RN, representative of the Down with Falls Coalition of Orange County; and Jerry Silverman, Ezra Center president

The Ezra Center is many things to many people, but its primary mission is to give seniors the activities and the tools to enjoy life. Whether they want to eat lunch with friends, learn more about Judaism, get medical advice, play games or just get out of the house, the Ezra Center has been there for them for 19 years. Margalit Moskowitz is the program director.

The organization's mission is to offer daytime programming, socializing and nutrition to active seniors. Meet-

ing at Temple Beth Emet in Anaheim on Mondays and Thursdays and at Temple Beth Tikvah in Fullerton on alternate Wednesdays, the Ezra Center offers a variety of activities as well as a multi-course kosher lunch for \$5 on Mondays and Thursdays. Every month features a health-related program, and there are speakers who talk about overcoming challenges.

"Living at Home as a Senior" was the topic of a July lecture given by John Menzies Clark on behalf of Profes-

sional Health Care Services, Inc. (PHCSI), a family-owned caregiving registry, placement and referral agency. He talked about how seniors can get help in order to remain in their homes, such as the live-in or hourly care provided by PHCSI.

In August Nick Mannering, RN, presented "Take Charge, Prevent Falls" on behalf of the Down with Falls Coalition of Orange County. He talked about the categories of people who are likely to fall, risk factors for falling, causes of falls and ways to prevent falls.

"Most of the programs are interesting, informative and varied," said Eva Silverman, program chair. "Our best attendance was for a program on turtles."

In addition to a modest membership fee, the Ezra Center is supported by Jewish Federation & Family Services, grants and private donations. ■

To learn more, call (714) 776-1103

A Reflection of Our



rselves and Times

By Robin Silver-Zwiren

This week I had the pleasure of attending several events in our Jewish community. From an Anti Defamation League (ADL) meeting where Board Members had the opportunity to review what has been happening in our community, Israel and the rest of the World. Later on Sunday I attended an NCSY @60 reunion. The National Conference of Synagogue Youth is an arm of the Orthodox Union (OU). I first became involved as a teenager over 40 years ago and am very proud that my own children's lives have been modeled by the same organization.

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin is one of the most influential speakers of this century. His words resonated to a group of TVT students and then to larger group a short time later. When I sat and listened to Chanie Perlmutter as she engaged a group of toddlers through story telling, dance and song it brought back the moments she did the same with my own children.

These people, these leaders are not doing their jobs for financial gain. They are doing it to better our world, for tikkun olam. If only we had more opportunities to hear such people, to be part of a better, less selfish world.

It is time for us all to reflect on the year gone by. What have we accomplished? What would we like to accomplish in the coming New Year? If I now took a show

of hands how many would see their accomplishments as purely financial?

Instead think for a moment and ask yourself what have you done for someone else this year? What have you done for someone other than your spouse or child? If you saw a person being attacked would you step forward and get involved? If you saw a child being verbally, or physically, abused would you get involved? Would you use your cell phone to call authorities, or wait for someone else to take a stance?

In the days our ancestors lived in Eastern European Shtetels everyone knew everyone else's business. Yenta the matchmaker could do her job because she knew every person she had to make a shidduch for as well as their parents, siblings and extended family. Maybe that was a bit too close for comfort but how far from that have we come and is it all good?

In the European Shtetels knowing each other's business was sometimes a good thing. If a neighbour was sick the bowls of chicken soup delivered were abundant. If someone saw a neighbour's child fall down they ran to pick him/her up they did not wait for someone else to step in. If a mother was too ill to nurse her own child the infant had another's care and affection.

Maybe that is the true essence of

what Hashem's words "Love thy neighbour as thyself" (Lev 19.18) meant. It was commanded of us to care for others but do we?

Maybe this coming year we can take it in our hearts to bridge the gap of generations a bit: from Shtetel life to our community. To "Do unto others as you want done to you." Repairing the world, tikkun olam, may seem to be too large a proposal for any one person but if we each take on one small personal project then together the pieces of the puzzle could fall into place. ■

Mazel Tov!



Rabbi Shuey and Blumi Eliezrie announce the birth of their daughter, Devorah, on Rosh Hashanah, Thursday, September 25. The baby, who weighed 6 pounds at birth, is also the granddaughter of Rabbi David and Stella Eliezrie.

On May 18, 2014 (Lag B'Omer) Heather Hoopes (daughter of Laura and Michael Hoopes) married Samuel Seid (son of Wendy and Charles Lupul and Nanci and Mitchell Seid). Heather is a student at the Cantorial School of the Academy for Jewish Religion, and Sammy is attending at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. Following the wedding ceremony, in commemoration of Lag B'Omer, the celebration included games, with a soft-ball game during which the bride in her wedding gown pitched to the groom still in his suit.





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From the Kitchen Home cooked treats

Custard Pie

Ingredients

PIE DOUGH

- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 2 tbsp superfine sugar
- 4 oz butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 tbsp water

FILLING

- 3 eggs
- 1/3 cup superfine sugar
- 2/3 cup light cream
- 2/3 cup milk
- Freshly grated nutmeg
- Whipped cream (optional), to serve

How to Prepare

PIE DOUGH

Place the flour and sugar in a mixing bowl. Rub in the butter with fingertips until the mixture resembles fine bread crumbs. Add the water and mix together until a soft dough has formed. Wrap the dough and let chill in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.

Roll out the dough to a circle slightly larger than a 9 1/2 inch (24 cm) loose-bottom tart pan.

Line the pan with the dough, trimming off the edge. Prick all over the base with a fork and let chill in the refrigerator for about 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Line the pastry shell with parchment paper and fill with dried beans. Bake in the oven for 15 minutes. Remove the paper and beans and bake the pastry shell for an additional 15 minutes.

FILLING

Whisk the eggs, sugar, cream, milk, and nutmeg together. Pour the filling into the prepared pastry shell.

Return the pie to the oven and cook for an additional 25-30 minutes, or until the filling is just set.

Serve with whipped cream, if you like, and enjoy!

Serves 8

Cider Sauce

Apple Strudel

Ingredients

- 8 apples
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 2/3 cup golden raisin
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp grated nutmeg
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 6 sheets phyllo pastry, thawed if frozen
- vegetable oil spray
- confectioners' sugar, to serve
- SAUCE
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 2 cups hard cider

How to Prepare

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Peel and core the apples and chop them into 1/2 inch. Toss the apples in a bowl with the lemon juice, golden raisins, cinnamon, nutmeg, and brown sugar.

Lay out a sheet of phyllo pastry, spray with vegetable oil, and lay a second sheet on top. Repeat with a third sheet. Spread over half the apple mixture and roll up lengthwise, tucking in the ends to enclose the filling. Repeat to make a second strudel. Slide onto the baking sheet, spray with oil, and bake for 15-20 minutes.

SAUCE

Blend the cornstarch in a pan with a little hard cider until smooth. Add the remaining cider and heat gently, stirring, until the mixture boils and thickens.

Serve the strudel warm or cold, dredged with confectioners' sugar, and accompanied by the cider sauce.

Serves 2-4



Do you have what it takes to become a brainiac?
Wake up your brain and give these a try.

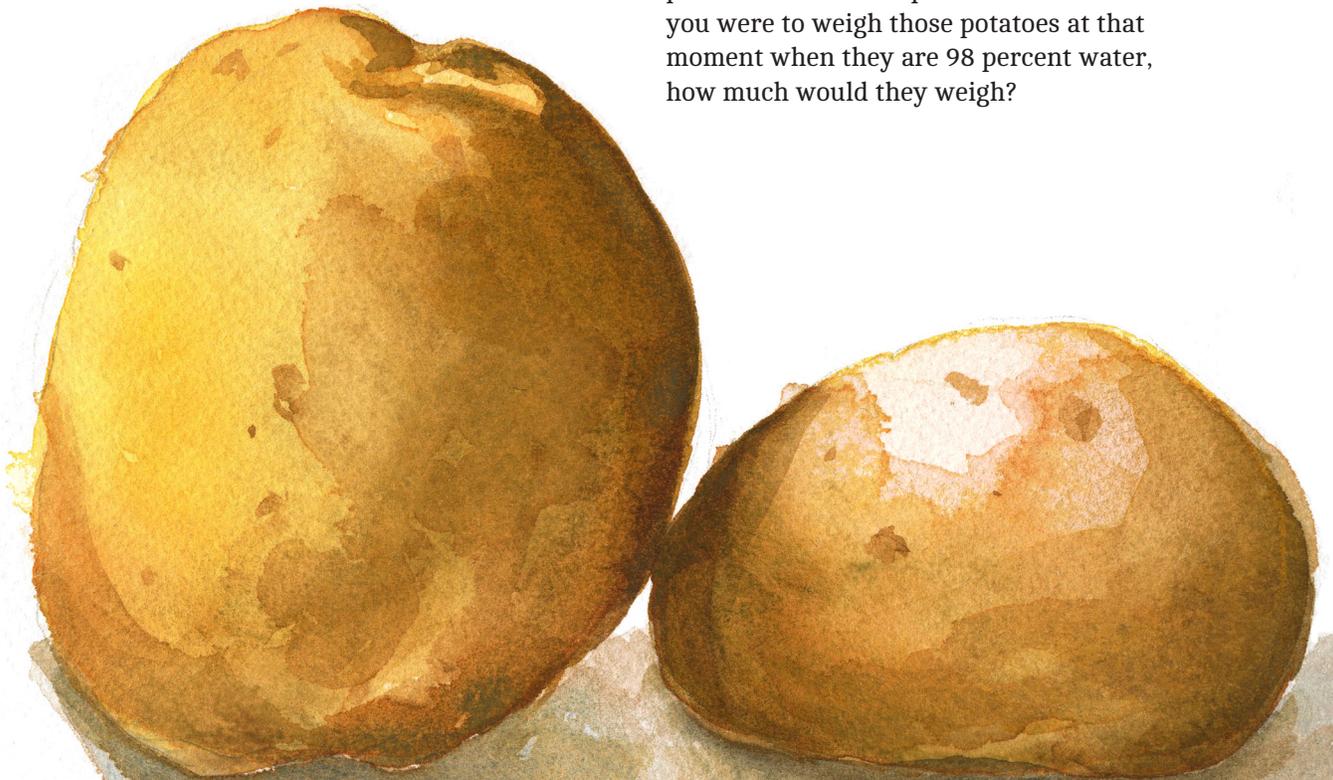
If you think you know the answer and can't wait for the next issue for the solutions, e-mail us from our web site at <http://kosheroc.com/brainiac>
Winners will have a chance to be inscribed in the glorious hall of brainiacs.

Problem

Potatoes of Water

It is said that potatoes are 99 percent water and 1 percent potato. So, say you take a bunch of potatoes, like 100 pounds of potatoes, and you set them

out on your back porch to dry out. As they begin to dry out, the water starts to evaporate. And after awhile enough water has evaporated so that the potatoes are now 98 percent water. If you were to weigh those potatoes at that moment when they are 98 percent water, how much would they weigh?



Solutions

Chicken & Eggs

Q A chicken and a half can lay an egg and a half in a day and a half. How long will it take for two chickens to lay 32 eggs?

A If a chicken and a half can lay an egg and a half in a day and a half, let's double the number of chickens, to three chickens.

Because one and a half chickens laid one and a half eggs, three chickens laid three eggs in how long? In a day and a half.

So if we have three chickens laying three eggs in a day and a half, then clearly one chicken lays one egg in a day and a half. How about two chickens, what do they do? Two chickens lay two eggs.

And two chickens will lay four eggs in three days. So, if two chickens can lay four eggs in three days, then two chickens can lay 32 eggs in 24 days.



Community Calendar

October 2014



Wed, Oct. 1

Branding Yourself and Your Business ^{10:30AM}
Merage JCC

Thu, Oct. 2

Be and Informed Voter ^{10:30AM}
Ezra Center - Temple Beth Emet

Fri, Oct. 3

Erev Yom Kippur

Sat, Oct. 4

Yom Kippur

Mon, Oct. 6

News and Views ^{10:00AM / EACH MON}
Merage JCC

What's Up? ^{11:00AM}

Ezra Center - Temple Beth Emet

Tue, Oct. 7

Lifelong Jewish Learning:
Chosen Food ^{11:00AM / EACH TUE}
Merage JCC

Wed, Oct. 8

Erev Sukkot

Thu, Oct. 9

Sukkot

Fri, Oct. 10

Sukkot - Second Day

Sun, Oct. 12

Sunday Morning Story Time in
the Sukkah ^{10:00AM}
Merage JCC

Mitzvahs & More Expo ^{NOON}
Merage JCC

Festival of Jewish Learning ^{1:30PM}
Congregation B'nai Israel

Meet the Artist: Miriam Baker
Renowned Sculptor ^{4:00PM}
Atid Hadassah - Artist's Home

Mon, Oct. 13

Sleeping Disorder ^{11:00AM}
Ezra Center - Temple Beth Emet

Wed, Oct. 15

Hoshanah Rabah

Thu, Oct. 16

Shemini Atzeret

Fri, Oct. 17

Simchat Torah

Sat, Oct. 18

Jewbilation by TALIT ^{8:00PM}
Bureau of Jewish Education

Sun, Oct. 19

Boutique ^{11:00AM}
Reform Congregation of Laguna
Woods

Mon, Oct. 20

Events Changed History ^{11:00AM}
Ezra Center - Temple Beth Emet

Tue, Oct. 21

Trendsetters Luncheon ^{11:30AM}
Center Club

Wed, Oct. 22

Merage JCC Annual Golf
Tournament ^{7:00AM}
Oak Creek Golf Club

Thu, Oct. 23

Mega Challah Bake ^{7:00PM}
Merage JCC

Fri, Oct. 24

The Shabbos Project
Various Congregations

Sat, Oct. 25

TBE's Got Talent ^{7:00PM}
Temple Beth Emet

Tue, Oct. 28

Books and Bagels ^{10:00AM}
Merage JCC

Thu, Oct. 30

Laughter & Yoga: Seniors ^{10:30AM}
Ezra Center - Temple Beth Emet



Sukkot
Feast of Tabernacles

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