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MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2015
CHESHVAN/KISLEV 5776



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*Source: 2015 Niche Rankings



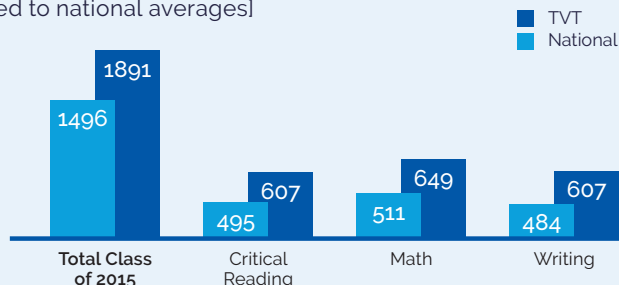
UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCE RATE

	TVT RATE ¹	NATIONAL RATE
Cornell University	44.4%	14.2%
Northwestern University	36%	13.1%
Stanford University	18%	5.1%
Tufts University	43%	17.3%
UC Berkeley	41%	16%
UCLA	32%	18.6%
University of Michigan	48%	32.2%
USC	57%	18%

¹TVT acceptance rate 2006 – 2015

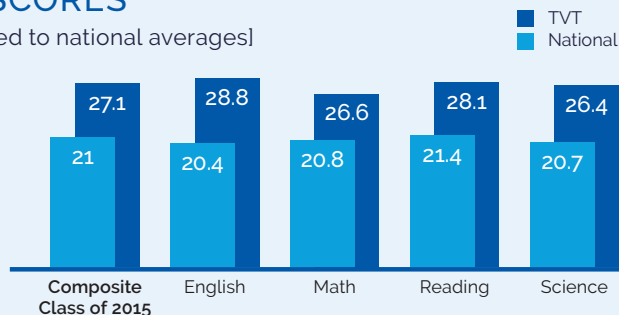
SAT SCORES

[compared to national averages]



ACT SCORES

[compared to national averages]



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TVT students have been recognized with prestigious AP scholar awards, with four students earning the National AP Scholar award, the highest level awarded to only 0.008% of students who qualify.



AP Scholars



AP Scholars with Honors



AP Scholars with Distinction



National AP Scholars

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9:30 am

Please RSVP at TARBUT.com/OpenHouse
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Advertising

Reaching the Readers

Kosher OC Magazine is a combined website, digital publication, and Facebook page designed to cover Jewish news as it occurs in Orange County, Israel, and all over the world. We combine modern technology with dedicated reporting to be timely, accurate, and responsive to global and local happenings.

Kosher OC Magazine previews and reviews the key events in the community and profiles the people who make them possible. We provide and share the opinions of people about Jewish news, Jewish customs and observance, and features on food, fashion, literature, music, and sports.

With daily postings of news and insight and periodic listings of special events, we keep the community informed about where to worship, where to learn, where to buy, where to socialize, and where to make a difference. We reach all ages and stages of Jewish people living in Orange County.

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KOSHER OC STAFF

Hello Readers

Welcome to Jewish Orange County

Kosher OC Magazine 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.

ZACH MILLER





Collective Energy

OC Mega Challah Bake brings 1,600 women together in unity.

By Ilene Schneider

Sixteen hundred Orange County women and girls did more than don pink aprons, reach into big bowls of ingredients and learn the basics of baking challah. They reached into the core of their Jewish souls to do a mitzvah and achieve a spiritual high.

The OC Mega Challah Bake drew participants from every corner of the county, from every organization and flavor of Judaism. Grandmothers, mothers and daughters dug their hands into the dough while bonding with friends and meeting new ones.

“This function belongs to all of us,” said Shana Segall, one of the coordinators. “Our collective energy has brought about many great things.”

Deborah Schechter described the participants as “a chain of tradition that stretches back over 3,000 years.” After relating a story about how Jewish children hidden in orphanages during World War II remembered what their mothers had taught them, she added, “Women are the keepers of the home and the keepers of the future. Women have power. Don’t be

afraid to use it.”

Everyone – those who bake challah every week, those who had never done it before and those simply eager to share a happy occasion – felt welcome and thoroughly engaged. There was something for all ages – a flash mob of dancers, some original songs, more traditional songs by female cantors and a film describing the meaning the event had for some of the participants.

While singing, dancing, learning and socializing, the participants knew that they were part of something much bigger. Their “sisters” all over the world were baking challah at the same time – five thousand of them in Jerusalem and significant numbers in every Jewish population center in the world. In fact, the Challah Bake, which was prologue to the Shabbat Project, became food for social media as well as the dinner table.

At the end of the Shabbat Project, the hash-tagged pictures started appearing on the event’s website and social media around the world,

showing hundreds of thousands of wildly enthusiastic people preparing for the coming of the Jewish Sabbath in a variety of innovative ways. With 924 cities engaged in 75 countries around the world, 2015’s Shabbat Project mobilized more than one million Jews worldwide.

For Orange County residents, the Shabbat Project culminated in a Havdalah ceremony followed by singing and dancing. It was a powerful ending to 48 hours of immersion, connection and unity, leaving participants elated, wanting more and wondering what they could do for an encore next year. ■





Larger than Life

Organization's mission is helping families to cope with cancer.

By Robin Silver-Zwiren

Larger than Life is a non-profit organization founded in 2000 by a group of parents of children with cancer. With their personal knowledge of the disease and how it affects not only the affected child but the entire family, these parents chose to help others. The organization has grown immensely and strives to aid those in need no matter their faith, race or gender. It is an organization that treats all Israelis, whether Jews, Christians, Druze, Bedouins or Muslims, with equal warmth and dedication.

In Israel a support system of trustees and volunteers travels to homes, or hospitals, to give extra care to sick children and their families. These people plan special events like music, art and computer programs and the Smile Train for Purim. Medication Funding Foundation, Fun Days for Mothers, summer camp and Dream Trips are all ways to bring a smile to the faces of those who are suffering. Their wish “is to create a substantial change in each and every aspect of the lives of these children and their families.”

A group of 40 children traveled through California, thanks to several sponsors from the Greater Los Angeles-Orange County area. The yearly Gala held in LA helps to support the numerous programs. The funds raised help to pay for hospital stays, medicine for those who cannot afford it, family support and special gifts. These beautiful, loving children certainly deserve the opportunity to experience travel and sunshine — something our children take for granted. They deserve not only a break from hospital treatments, but also from rocket fire, uncalled-for stabbings and the depressing Israeli news.

Lilach Vrobel was a new mother watching an Israeli TV station from her local home when she heard about Larger than Life and was so moved that she had to get involved. Lilach and husband Arik are teaching their own children the valuable lessons of tikkun olam (repairing the world) and bikur cholim (visiting the sick). The Vrobel family will soon celebrate not only Aiden's Bar Mitzvah but also

the family's years of being involved with Larger than Life. The Vrobels' dedication to the cause is great, but the only gratitude they desire is to see smiling faces surrounding them.

Meeting this group was truly amazing and humbling. There were children as young as 7 who are battling challenges no one should ever have to deal with and children suffering from their own form of cancer pushing a wheelchair of a friend. Some are helping someone get up from a chair. A staff member might volunteer for the organization that cared for him during his own cancer ordeals. In the Middle East moments like these are rare. They involve friendships that cross the lines between peoples. Only in Israel could people of different religions hold hands in peace.

A group of boys speaking Hebrew crowded around the pool table. Suddenly Arabic was heard. This group of boys could easily be fighting against each other, calling names and throwing stones. Instead the boys are arguing over who gets the next turn with the pool cue. Sharing tragic

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illness is not what should bond them, but it does; if only their healthy peers would get along so well.

Noa asked if she could write something in my notebook. That was the last I saw of it for most of the evening as Avishag, May and Peér wanted to write me too. Struggling with my less than adequate Hebrew, I do understand enough to see they wrote me saying how happy they are to meet me and wishing me luck on my future Aliyah to Israel. Like teenage girls everywhere, they sign off with hugs and kisses. All I want to

do is take them in my arms and wish their pain away.

Thanks to Benny Mor for opening his home to host yet another elaborate dinner. He spoke from his heart,

calling them all “stars,” and they certainly are. They are “stars” who gave everyone attending something to think about as we hug our healthy children and pray for their wellbeing. ■





Above and Beyond

JCC Arts Festival to feature film on unsung Jewish heroes.

By Sara Gold

From left, Lou Lenart, Gideon Lichtman and Modi Alon in the documentary "Above and Beyond."

As part of the OC Jewish Arts Festival, Nancy Spielberg, sister of the legendary *Schindler's List* producer, will present a screening of *Above and Beyond*, a documentary on the lesser-known heroes of Israel's 1948 War of Independence.



Nancy Spielberg

Spielberg, the film's producer, will lead a Q&A session after the 87-minute

film screening, which will take place November 12 at the Merage JCC in Irvine.

Above and Beyond centers on the Machal, a group of Jewish-American World War II veterans who smuggled aircraft and military supplies to Israel during the 1948 War of Independence, enabling Israel to defeat its enemies and establish itself as an independent nation. The documentary has won more than 20 awards at film festivals worldwide since its release in 2014.

"The film is about these brave men who had already risked their lives in World War II and survived; there was no reason they needed to jump into a plane and fly off to fight someone else's war," Spielberg said. "The fact that they left the comfort of their home and risked their lives and their citizenship to help Israel – to me, what else could be more admirable?"

The Machal pilots "hopscoched around the world," flying smuggled cargo planes to Panama, Italy and Czechoslovakia – all the while with the FBI on their tail – before finally

reaching Israel, where they also helped to fight in the war.

Spielberg says that one of her goals in producing the documentary was to properly honor the Machal, whose contributions went unrecognized for a long time, because the men were afraid of being caught by the FBI. The idea came to her in 2011, when she learned of the death of Al Schwimmer, founder of Israel Aerospace Industries and leader of the Machal.

Of the seven pilots featured in the film, all but one had the opportunity to watch the film before his death. Three of the men are still alive today. Spielberg says that she was overjoyed by the elated reactions of the men and their families.

"One of the guys turned to me and said, 'Do you know what you have done?'" Spielberg said. "He said this was the most important thing he had ever done, and nobody knew about it. He got a standing ovation in the theater, with his kids and grandkids in the audience, and was crying with joy."



Bar/Bat Mitzvah



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The filmmaker says she is excited to meet Orange County locals and share her work with the community at the OC Jewish Arts Festival.

“I love watching people get emotional and filled with Jewish, and also American, pride when they see the film,” she said. “People walk away with the message of helping a brother in need – the importance of going the extra mile for each other and taking care of each other.” ■

The screening and Q&A will take place Thursday, November 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Merage JCC. Tickets cost \$15 for JCC members and \$20 for non-members. Purchase tickets by calling Aliza Sable at (949) 435-3400 or visiting <http://www.jccoc.org/cultural-arts/oc-jewish-arts-festival/>



Cirque Always Delights

KURIOS – Cabinet of Curiosities from Cirque du Soleil’s new touring show comes to Costa Mesa.

By Ilene Schneider

Always engaging, Cirque du Soleil is presenting KURIOS – Cabinet of Curiosities™, its 35th production since 1984, at the OC Fair and Event Center in Costa Mesa through November 29. KURIOS brings a hidden, invisible world of curio cabinet objects to life in a whimsical and breathtaking production. The acrobatics and contortions leave the audience wanting more while saying, “How in the world did they do that?”

KURIOS – Cabinet of Curiosities premiered in Montréal in April 2014. Since its debut, the critics have been raving. The *Chicago Tribune* called it “a dazzling, hyper-detailed, potent, quixotic and generally fantastic show that reveals this extraordinary artistic company’s singular capacity for exploration and metamorphosis ... quite different from any other Cirque show — an exquisitely detailed affair, evocative of a Victorian carnival or a collection of sideshow entertainments with a steampunk vibe.” The *Chicago Sun Times* called it Cirque du Soleil’s “most extraordinary, exquisitely wrought show to date.” A reporter from The *Toronto Star* described

the production as “one of the most amazing things I’ve ever seen on a stage.”

Written and directed by Michel Laprise, KURIOS – Cabinet of Curiosities is a story that brings time to a complete stop, taking the audience inside a fantasy world where everything is possible. In this realm set in the latter half of the nineteenth century, reality is relative audience perception is transformed. The name of the show refers to the humble and strange characters that inhabit the Seeker’s Cabinet of Curiosities.

According to the web page, “In an alternate yet familiar past, in a place where wonders abound for those who trust their imagination, a Seeker discovers that in order to glimpse the marvels that lie just below the surface, we must first learn to close our eyes. In his larger-than-life curio cabinet, the Seeker is convinced that there exists a hidden, invisible world – a place where the craziest ideas and the grandest dreams lie waiting. A collection of otherworldly characters suddenly steps into his makeshift

mechanical world. When the outlandish, benevolent characters turn his world upside down with a touch of poetry and humor in an attempt to ignite the Seeker’s imagination, his curios jump to life one by one before his very eyes.”

Cirque du Soleil has at least one Jewish connection too. *Jewish Business News* reported that Mitch Garber has been named the new chairman of Cirque du Soleil, a company that began as a collection of 20 street performers in Canada years ago. Cirque has grown into an entertainment powerhouse with 4,000 employees, including 1,300 artists from more than 50 countries. Its productions have main showroom status at most of MGM’s Las Vegas resorts, as well as traveling shows. Garber has served as CEO of Caesars Interactive, a subsidiary of Caesars Entertainment, and will hold both positions. ■

—
For tickets or other information, visit cirquedusoleil.com/kurios or call 1-877-9 CIRQUE (1-877-924-7783).



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School Scene

A compilation of events in October.

By Kosher OC Staff

Olam Montessori

Students from the Olam Montessori learned about bicycle safety, doing a mitzvah and helping sick children when they participated in the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital Trike-A-Thon on October 19.

One student, Jack Vidikan, raised \$1,800, thanks in part to a note written by his father, Danial Vidikan, who explained to friends and colleagues that the event was "designed to teach bike safety, while giving preschoolers the opportunity to have fun and raise money for children battling cancer and other life-threatening diseases." He explained that "Jack, along with his classmates, will be riding laps in the school's yard to raise money for this great cause – all proceeds go to St. Jude's Research Hospital... Jack has been training incessantly for the Trike-A-Thon – eating all his veggies, doing squats and pushups with me in the mornings, climbing on everything in sight and pretty much running round like a little maniac from morning to night, and studying the works of cycling hall-of-famers – to build up his physical endurance and mental fortitude to ride non-stop in support of the brave children at St. Jude's."

For more information about the program, visit the following link: <https://www.stjude.org/get-involved/at-school/trike.html>.

Irvine Hebrew Day School (IHDS)

Students from Irvine Hebrew Day School (IHDS) learned about Avraham as a role model with lessons by Rabbi Amittai Steindler about "the firm and kind tree, which is rooted but flexible," according to Tammy Keces, IHDS director. She added, "Kids are beautiful seedlings that we can take care of – water them, make sure the sun is out and help, nurture and grow them. When they misbehave, they might have been under the leaves and didn't get enough sunlight. We have the opportunity to help them by pruning away the leaves and allowing them to get the sunlight."

Tarbut V'Torah

Photographer Adi Nes was in Orange County late in October, co-sponsored by Tarbut V'Torah and the Community Scholar Program. He visited the school, speaking to students and spoke to a large audience in the evening, sharing his internationally known images. One well-known image is the "Last Supper" re-imagined with Israeli soldiers taking the places of those in the Leonardo DaVinci creation. That image appeared on the front page of the *New York Times* when it was first created. ■

Jewish Events in OC

November 2015

Plan your month with our November 2015 events calendar of the best activities, including free things to do, festivals and our favorite picks.

November 1

Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 2, 7 p.m.

JFFS presents its Laguna Woods Donor and Golden Giver Appreciation Event at Clubhouse 5, Gate 9. This event is open to all those who have made, or will make, a 2015 tax-deductible donation to Jewish Federation & Family Services, Orange County. RSVP to www.JewishOC.org/LWR or Chelle at (949) 435-3484.

November 3

Election Day

November 5, 6 p.m.

The Solomon Society invites men to bring their spouses or significant others for an wonderful evening with Trio Celeste, a dynamic chamber music ensemble, featuring works from Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky and Piazzolla. The evening includes dinner at Shady Canyon Golf Club. Cost is \$100 per person. For more details and to RSVP, contact Adrienne@jffs.org.

November 7, 6 p.m.

Join Olam Jewish Montessori, Rabbi Yisroel Ciner of Beth Jacob Congregation of Irvine and shalom Family for HAVDALAH LA-LA. There will be a Havdalah service, along with stories, crafts and snacks. The evening is open to the community. RSVP by contacting Dawn Kresiberg at (949) 786-5230 or director@ola.jewishmontessori.com.

November 8, 4 p.m.

Jennifer Siegal, M.Arch., presents a program about the Jewish American architects who designed many important buildings and communities at the Merage Jewish Community Center as part of the Great Jewish Americans 101 program. Included are Frank Gehry, Moshe Safdie and others who creatively influenced the culture of the world. For tickets — \$10 for JCC members, \$12 for guests and

\$14 at the door – contact Geri Dorman at (949) 435-3400, extension 303, or gerid@jccoc.org.

November 8, 7 p.m.

Women's Connection Presents, "An Evening with the Kellermans: A Writing Dynasty" at University Synagogue. Best-selling novelists Jonathan Kellerman, Faye Kellerman, and now their son, Jesse, have been fascinating readers with tales of mystery, passion, and Jewish family values for more than 30 years. A dessert reception and book signing will follow the program. Tickets can be purchased at www.universitiesynagogue.org/shop/kellerman-event/an-evening-with-the-kellermans-a-writing-dynasty.html for \$75. Each ticket includes a newly-released book of your choice: Faye Kellerman — *The Theory of Death* OR Jonathan/Jesse Kellerman — *The Golem of Paris*.

November 10, 10:30 a.m.

The Morasha, Pomegranate and Shomer philanthropic levels of giving of Women's Philanthropy will have a factory tour, bark-making and abundant appetizers at ChocXO Bean to Bar Chocolatier, 9462 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine. The couvert: is \$55. RSVP by November 4 to www.JewishOC.org/women.

November 11

Veteran's Day

November 12, 7 p.m.

The Merage Jewish Community Center's OC Arts Festival presents *Above and Beyond*, a documentary about Jewish American pilots who answered the call for help during Israel's War of Independence in 1948. Producer Nancy Spielberg will be on hand for a Q&A after the film. For the complete schedule and tickets, visit the 2015 OC Jewish Arts Festival at www.JCCOC.org.

November 13, 6 p.m.

Rabbi Michael Klein-Katz, Shabbat Scholar and contributor and editor of a number of scholarly works, including *The Encyclopedia of Judaism* (Macmillan), *The Dictionary of Jewish Biography* (Simon and Schuster), and *Recent Reform Liturgical Developments*, (The

Encyclopedia Judaica Yearbook), as well as the editor-in-chief of *Diversity in Unity: Sources for the Modern Jew* (World Union for Progressive Judaism), an introduction to liberal Judaism in Russian translation for Israel's largest immigrant community, will give a sermon on "What Is a Reform Jew?" at Temple Bat Yahm. RSVP whether you are bringing or buying dinner to bswift@tby.org , (949) 644-1999.

November 14, 9 a.m.

Torah Study with Rabbi Michael Klein-Katz at Temple Bat Yahm (see November 13) will feature a discussion on what this Torah portion brings up regarding human relationships.

November 14, 7 p.m.

The Merage Jewish Community Center's OC Arts Festival presents "An Evening with Lainie Kazan." The singer and actress is an entertainer who has reached the peak in virtually every area of performance. Her extensive work includes *My Big Fat Greek Wedding and Beaches*. For the complete schedule and tickets, visit the 2015 OC Jewish Arts Festival at www.JCCOC.org.

November 14, 7 p.m.

The acclaimed show, *Jonna's Body, Please Hold*, comes to Temple Bat Yahm for one night. The outrageously funny chronicle of Jonna Tamases' real-life bouts with cancer takes a masterful journey inside Jonna's body, where a sassy receptionist fields calls from a parade of quirky body parts. When two nasty killers invade, it's a fight for Jonna's life. Tickets — \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door — are available by phone (949-644-1999) or by mail (to ATTN: WTBY at Temple Bat Yahm, 1011 Camelback St., Newport Beach 92660).

November 15, 10 a.m.

Congregation B'nai Tzedek's Book Discussion Group presents *The Laws of Gravity* by Liz Rosenberg. With complex and sympathetic characters and heartbreaking honesty, humor and suspense, *The Laws of Gravity* is an unforgettable story of complicated family ties, love and justice. Meeting is free of charge to the community. RSVP to Jon Zinner (714) 964-6004. 9699 Talbert Avenue, Fountain Valley.

November 15, 2 p.m.

NextGen OC, a department of Jewish Federation & Family Services, will present the OC Event, an afternoon cocktail party in beautiful Pelican Hill at a private residence.

While overlooking beautiful beaches and pristine views, participants will learn about the programs, grants and services of JFFS. For more information, contact NextGen@jffs.org or call (949) 435.3484.

November 16, 12 p.m.

The Merage Jewish Community Center's OC Arts Festival presents lunch with author and journalist Christopher Noxon discussing his new novel, *Plus One*. Noxon shares his funny story about an interfaith family, set in contemporary Los Angeles. When wife Figgy's fourteenth television pilot becomes a huge, Emmy-winning hit, husband Alex Sherman-Zicklin is sucked into a mad show business vortex and quits his job to become the family's "domestic first responder." For the complete schedule and tickets, visit the 2015 OC Jewish Arts Festival at www.JCCOC.org.

November 17, 7 p.m.

The Merage Jewish Community Center's OC Arts Festival presents Dan Ephron, who will discuss *Killing a King: The Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the Remaking of Israel*. The murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by Yigal Amir remains the single most consequential event in Israel's recent history. Dan Ephron served as Jerusalem bureau chief of Newsweek and covered both the rally where Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated and the subsequent murder trial. His book is based upon documents and interviews with all of the key players including members of the assassin's family. For the complete schedule and tickets, visit the 2015 OC Jewish Arts Festival at www.JCCOC.org.

November 18, 10 a.m.

Olam Jewish Montessori will hold an open house for toddlers to five-year-olds and their parents. Participants are invited to come and harvest some vegetables from the school's Bracha Garden, as well as meeting the staff and taking a tour. Space is limited. RSVP to Dawn Kreisberg at director@olamjewishmontessori.com or (949) 786-5230.

November 19, 9:30 a.m.

Tarbut V'Torah will hold its TK-12 admissions open house. TVT's signature programs in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), Jewish Studies, Arts & Humanities are designed to inspire a lifelong passion for learning. The WASC-accredited, blue ribbon school always has students who are accepted into top-notch institutions of higher learning. RSVP at admissions@tarbut.com or (949) 333-2779.

November 21, 7 p.m.

JewGlue presents Spark, a chance for the JewGlue community to dress up for a classy and fun social evening while making philanthropy entertaining and easy. Pick out your fanciest outfit and join JewGlue at an upscale, luxury high-rise for an elegant night out filled with wine, beer, gourmet hors d'oeuvres and decadent desserts. Spend the evening with other JewGlue members who value community and who are eager to "do the extraordinary" by supporting the work of Jewish Federation & Family Services, Orange County (JFFS) here, in Israel and around the world. The event is free with the commitment of a meaningful donation, which is left up to the donor. RSVP at JewGlue@JFFS.org.

November 22, 9:30 a.m.

Temple Beth Sholom's Chanukah Boutique is back and bigger than ever with numerous vendors (both old and new) for everyone's shopping pleasure.. Held in the congregation's social hall and living room, the boutique will offer Chanukah items, jewelry, clothing, dipping oils, glass, linens and more. The new gift shop will be open. Sponsored by the Special Needs Network, there will be food trucks and hot drinks. The event is open to the public. Temple Beth Sholom is at 2625 N. Tustin Ave., Santa Ana.

November 22, 10 a.m.

Irvine Hebrew Day School will hold an open house at 3880 Michelson Dr., Irvine. The school, whose motto is "Planting Jewish Roots, Cultivating Heritage, Growing Jewish Future Leaders," will offer a look at its program and a chance to meet its staff. For more information, please call

(949) 478-6818 or visit www.irvinehebrewday.org.

November 22, 4 p.m.

The Meraage Jewish Community Center's OC Arts Festival presents Ambassador Dennis Ross, a scholar and diplomat who has served in several U.S. administrations and who has been instrumental in shaping Middle East policy. For the complete schedule and tickets, visit the 2015 OC Jewish Arts Festival at www.JCCOC.org.

November 26

Thanksgiving

November 26, 8 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.

Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School will hold its 1st Annual TVT Turkey Trot, featuring a 5K run/walk and a 1K Fun Run across a beautiful Shady Canyon course. All proceeds from the TVT Turkey Trot will be donated to TVT Cares, which is raising money to package 50,000 meals to feed the hungry at a community-wide event Sunday, February 7, 2016. Supported in part by the Argyros Family Foundation, both races begin and end on the TVT campus, 5 Federation Way, Irvine, CA 92603. Registrants receive free t-shirts and post-race refreshments. Cost is \$25 per race. To register for or make a donation to the Turkey Trot, please visit tarbut.com/turkey.



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One People, One Heart

Lev Echad coordinates and empowers volunteers during crises in Israel.

By Ilene Schneider

Sharon Haber, a former president and former executive director of Congregation B'nai Tzedek in Fountain Valley, had been to Israel six times with Rabbi Stephen Einstein and his wife, Robin. On three of those occasions, she and Robin went there for volunteer service.

The two women were especially motivated by Operation Protective Edge last year to go to Israel and do

something meaningful. While on a solidarity mission, they met someone from an organization called Lev Echad on a bus, and the rest is history. They went to the south of Israel and met the mayor of Orange County's sister city, Kiryat Malachi, and learned how Lev Echad coordinates volunteers to take care of the many civilian needs in Israel during a crisis. It is the only volunteer organization in Israel whose sole purpose is to mobilize volunteers

during emergencies.

"Whether there is a bombing, a fire or a snowstorm, kids have to be fed, cared for, entertained and comforted," Haber explained. "Everything is shut down, well-meaning volunteers are trying to help without central coordination, there is no funding unless there is a crisis and there was no contact with an 'American Friends' group."

All of that changed when the two women met Hemi Banner, the founder of Lev Echad, and another man who had grown up in Fountain Valley. From then on, the Americans and the Israelis worked on creating a non-profit organization that would be ready to navigate the next crisis.

"Lev Echad is the biggest volunteer organization dedicated to crisis management in Israel, and the volunteers' involvement is vital to survival," Banner said during an interview in Orange County. "In times of national crisis – war, manmade or natural disaster – there has been a rise in requests for help. These requests



are not always coming from people known to social service workers. For instance, during Operation Protective Edge, a blind man was stuck in his house, because his service dog didn't know what to do when he heard sirens."

Banner explained that social workers with two or three other positions try to manage the volunteers during a crisis, and there is not enough time to meet all of the needs. People want to help but may be putting themselves in danger.

"Lev Echad is designed to connect the need for help to the goodwill of the people," Banner said. "We build local volunteer centers to help local authorities to mesh or synchronize the demands with the volunteers, so that we prioritize the needs and empower those who want to serve."

According to the organization's literature, "Lev Echad was founded on the understanding that recruiting civilian volunteers during emergency situations has the power to transform passive victims into socially active, resilient citizens. Moreover, during emergency situations civilian volunteers provide a significant increase in the local authorities' workforce, provided that the volunteers are organized and operated by an effective management team."

Banner added that an important element of community resilience is to let the community know that help is on the way. People will be more patient, giving the army or the volunteers time to act. There is much more to Lev Echad, he said: "If you can help someone else, you feel empowered. Lev Echad gives both the volunteer and the people being helped a sense of self-worth."

Starting in 2005 with the disengagement from Gaza, Lev Echad has operated in three military operations, the Carmel fire, the Jerusalem snowstorm and the flood in the Negev. It has deployed 26,000 volunteers during those situations, with 8,000 working during Operation Protective Edge alone. Banner believes that it saves money, saves lives and brings order out of chaos in a crisis.

Volunteers are mostly 16- to 19-year-olds who engage in activities with children, visits to elderly or disabled citizens and a variety of other projects. "People forget that the younger ones can help," Banner said. "They feel as if they are doing something meaningful being in action, they have great energy and they develop camaraderie."

Banner emphasized that Lev Echad is "non-religious, non-political and non-sectarian." It is "the civilian army of the local authority."

According to Banner, there is an average of 14 months between crises in Israel, making it important to be prepared. Lev Echad works daily at preparation through training and leadership groups. "Every member of the community has the power to change reality, but there never seems to be enough manpower to answer all the needs," Banner said.

He added, "The other problem is that there is a 'chaos of goodwill' when there is no system to manage it. Lev Echad channels goodwill.

Each operations center recruits its own volunteers and identifies opportunities for partnerships."

Speaking of partnerships, there is now a non-profit organization called Friends of Lev Echad. With the help of people like Sharon Haber and Robin Einstein and others in the U.S. who are eager to help when Israel has a crisis, Lev Echad – which is running a "lean and mean" organization – can raise funds to support its operation,



which, as Banner said, is "part of making a better future for our kids."

"There is a Jewish genome for helping others," Banner concluded. "A crisis brings out the best and worst and people. You can decide whether you are the hero or the victim. It's a win-win situation." ■



Grammy Nomination

TVT faculty member in running for GRAMMY .

By Kosher OC Staff

Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School announces that Kevin Bachelder, Director of TVT's Advanced Institute in Arts & Writing, Chair of the Arts Department, and Music Teacher, along with drummer, Jason Lee Bruns, is being considered in the first round of the 58th GRAMMY Nominations for Best Jazz Vocal Album.

"Kevin's professional experiences and accomplishments lend a unique and inspirational viewpoint to his curriculum," said Jill Quigley, Principal of the Middle and Upper Schools. "We are thrilled to have someone of his caliber as a teacher and mentor at TVT."

The album, entitled Cherry Avenue and released by Panout Music Group, features an all-star lineup of supporting musicians including Daniel Szabo (piano), Angelo Metz (guitars), Ron Blake (trumpet and flugelhorn), Kim Richmond (woodwinds), Jacques Voyemant (trombone), Edwin Livingston (upright bass), and Brandon Fields (tenor sax [#10]). Bachelder, of

Corona Del Mar, CA, lends his vocals and trumpet prowess to Cherry Avenue, which was #3 on the CMJ (College Music Journal) "Top Jazz Adds", the CMJ "Top 40 Jazz Charts", and the Roots Music Report "Top 50 Jazz Albums". Offering a variety of jazz standards and original blues, Cherry Avenue also features compelling, re-imagined pop classics.

■

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To request a hard copy (CD or Vinyl), for a download link, or to learn more, visit <http://cherryfyc.com>. Cherry Avenue may also be heard on jazz stations across the country via Pandora Internet Radio.





Partner for Peace?

A century of Palestinian hatred of Jews.

By Daniel Pipes



Amin al-Husseini remained at the heights of power for decades. He represented "Palestine" at the Bandung Conference in April 1955, praying (bottom) along with the future King Faisal of Saudi Arabia (top, in head covering), President Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt (middle, facing camera), and Imam Ahmad of Yemen (sunglasses).

Palestinians are on the wrong track and will not get off it until the outside world demands better of them.

News comes every year or two of

a campaign of violence spurred by Palestinian political and religious leaders spreading wild-eyed conspiracy theories (the favorite: al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem is under threat). A spasm of unprovoked violence against Israelis then follows: rocket attacks from Gaza, car-rammings in Israel proper, stone-throwing in the West Bank, street stabbings in Jerusalem. Eventually, the paroxysm peters out, only to start up again not too much later.

True, these bouts of violence bring some gains to the Palestinians; in the United Nations, in faculty lounges, and on the streets of Western cities they win support against Israel. Each round ends, however, with the Palestinians in a worse place in terms of dead and wounded, buildings destroyed and an economy in tatters. Further, their immoral and barbaric actions harden Israeli opinion, making the prospect of concessions and compromise that much less likely. The cheery Israeli hopes of two decades ago for a "partner for peace" and a "New Middle East" long ago gave way to a despair of finding

acceptance. As a result, security fences are going up all over, even in Jerusalem, to protect Israelis who increasingly believe that separation, not cooperation, is the way forward.

It may be exhilarating for Palestinians to watch UNESCO condemn Israel for this and that, as it just did, but its actions serve more as theater than as practical steps toward conflict resolution.

Whence comes this insistence on self-defeating tactics?

It dates back nearly a century, to the seminal years 1920-21. In April 1920, as a gesture to the Zionists, the British government created a region called "Palestine" designed to be the eventual "national home for the Jewish people." Then in May 1921, it appointed Amin al-Husseini (1895-1974) as mufti of Jerusalem, a dreadful decision whose repercussions still reverberate today.

Husseini harbored a monstrous hostility toward Jews; as Klaus Gensicke puts it in his important 2007 study, "The Mufti of Jerusalem



Dome of the Rock pre-mufti, about 1875. Note the general abandonment and disrepair.

The and the Nazis,” Husseini’s “hatred of Jews knew no mercy, and he always intervened with particular zeal whenever he feared that some of the Jews could escape annihilation.” Toward this end, he initiated an uncompromising campaign of rejectionism — the intent to eliminate every vestige of Jewish presence in Palestine — and used any and all tactics toward this foul end.

For example, he can be largely held responsible for the Middle East’s endemic anti-Semitism, having spread the anti-Semitic forgery “Protocols of the Elders of Zion,” the blood libel and Holocaust denial throughout the region. His other legacies include making Jerusalem into the flash point it remains today, spreading many of the anti-Zionist conspiracy theories that afflict the Middle East, and being one of the first Islamists to call for jihad.

He encouraged and organized unprovoked violence against the British and the Jews, including a three-year long intifada in 1936-39. Then he worked with the Nazis, living in Germany during the war years, 1941-45, proving so useful



that he earned an audience with Hitler. Nor was this a courtesy visit; as Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu correctly pointed out on Oct. 20, Husseini had a central role in formulating the Final Solution that led eventually to the murder of 6 million Jews.

Husseini tutored his young relative, the future Yasser Arafat, and Arafat faithfully carried out the mufti’s program for 35 years, after which his apparatchik Mahmoud Abbas keeps the legacy alive. In other words, Husseini’s rejectionism still dominates

the Palestinian Authority. In addition, he spent the postwar years in Egypt, where he influenced the Muslim Brotherhood, whose Hamas spin-off also bears his hallmark rejectionism. Thus do both principal Palestinian movements pursue his murderous and self-defeating methods.

Only when the Palestinians emerge from the cloud of Husseini’s dark legacy can they begin to work with Israel rather than fight it; build their own polity, society, economy and culture rather than try to destroy Israel’s; and become a positive influence rather than the nihilistic force of today.

And how will that happen? If the outside world, as symbolized by UNESCO, stops encouraging the Palestinians’ execrable behavior and impeding Israeli defenses against it. Only when Palestinians realize they will not be rewarded for homicidal conduct will they stop their campaign of violence and start to come to terms with the Jewish state. ■





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Kosher Food at Disneyland?

Welcome to the Happiest Place on Earth—unless you're hungry ('till now).

By Zach Miller

When trying to bring in your own food, for diet reasons or just so you don't overspend on sugar water, Disneyland can be worse than the airport. It's impossible to hide anything. So, you have to get a locker, which is inconvenient to say the least. Or...?

Disneyland may have killed off LucasArts, but it's getting better at keeping their visitors happy. Nowadays you can go to almost any food vender and simply ask—what's kosher? Not only do they know what you're talking about, but they won't turn you away—Disneyland's (sorta) kosher!

One of the most iconic foods at Disneyland is the Mickey Mouse ice cream—a basic vanilla ice cream coated in chocolate in the shape of three circles, one on the base and two for those iconic ears. It's great not feeling left out at the happiest place on earth. Plus, with all that sugar, you've regained your energy back.

For real food, you can now request kosher meals. However, there are

rules—you must do so at least 24 hours before arriving, and note that not all restaurant locations play ball, but it's easy enough to find out when sending your kosher meal request.

Call (714) 781-DINE (3463) to request Kosher meals at the Disneyland Resort.

There are exceptions to the 24 hour rule at select quick-service locations at both Disneyland Park and Disney California Adventure Park, including:

Plaza Inn
Tomorrowland Terrace
Rancho del Zocalo
Smokejumpers Grill

Available Kosher foods may include: hamburger, hot dog, chicken, beef brisket, pizza, lasagna, mushroom crepe, vegetable pea soup, matzo ball soup, apple streusel dessert

Some Character Breakfast Locations offer a bundled Breakfast Entrée that includes a cheese omelet, fruit, breakfast Danish roll and a beverage.

Kosher food is also available for delivery to Disney Hotels from OC Kosher Market & Deli. ■

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For more information on special dietary requests at Disneyland, visit disneyland.com

The Pause That Refreshes

Shabbat is about gratitude.

By Ilene Schneider

The road from Irvine to Laguna Beach is beautiful. The sky is usually a vibrant blue. For as many miles as the eye can see, there is greenery – trees, bushes, shrubs and cacti. Then there are the dramatic rock formations where the mountains meet the coast.

On a sunny day with the convertible top down, the ride is the epitome of perfection. One feels the magic of G-d's creations.

That same road is fraught with danger when one's car is having issues. At that moment the miles of open road are downright scary. Whether we have appreciated the good things or not, we tend to do a lot of praying when we become afraid of or worried about something.

Just like the old adage about not having atheists in foxholes, many people tend to think more about G-d when they have a need. They pray for things they want or for protection against impending disaster. (Please get me off of this road safely or out of this foxhole alive.)

Actually, prayer is supposed to be more meaningful than simply asking for what we need or think we need. We are supposed to appreciate things – from the greenery and the rock formations that we can see to the way our bodies work exactly as they should. We are even supposed to appreciate that G-d has reasons for doing things, even when we might not like the outcome.

Take the time to smell the flowers, show gratitude for them and express that appreciation. If you were one of the many people who participated in the Shabbat Project, you know that Shabbat is a gift that lets you live in the moment for 25 hours a week.



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Even if your schedule gives you little time to think about how much you appreciate the world around you, you owe it to yourself to take a break and express your thanks for it. It will leave you feeling more in touch with G-d, the Jewish people and yourself. ■

What Is Israel to Do?

People treat Israel as though it should just lay down and die.

By Zach Miller

Serious question for people that oppose Israel instituting check points and a future possibility of going to war: what are they supposed to do at this point?

The problem is that most of the world doesn't believe Israel has any right to defend itself. People treat Israel as though it should just lay down and die.

A lot of people love to go around declaring that "Israel has the right to defend itself", but that's nonsense. That statement is used as a mere figure of speech. People don't actually support that. The second Israel actually tries to exercise this right, the

whole world goes ape over it.

World: "Israel has the right to defend itself against terrorism."

Yosi: "Can it launch a ground invasion to capture or kill terrorists?"
World: "No."

Yosi: "Can it bomb terrorist strongholds from above?"
World: "No."

Yosi: "Can it engage in a policy of targeted assassinations aimed at terrorist leaders?"
World: "No."

Yosi: "Can it build a fence to separate

itself from those who want to see the country destroyed?"
World: "No."

Yosi: "Can it enforce checkpoints to protect itself?"
World: "No."

Yosi: "Can it put in place a naval blockade to prevent rockets from being smuggled in?"
World: "No."

Yosi: "Can it maintain military bases in the territories for security?"
World: "No."

World: "But I strongly support Israel's right to defend itself!" ■

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Dream On

When will the terror end?

By Robin Silver-Zwiren

Someone posted on FB asking if the world is asleep. Actually, the world is very much awake, but people seem to have woken up on the wrong side of the bed yet again. Once again Jewish Israel is being blamed for inciting hate, for instigating riots. Looking at the world news, even from the liberal press, the proof is clear. So isn't it about time the majority woke from the dream and saw the truth?

In Darfur, Sudan, the infant mortality rate is high, and women and young girls are raped. Some teenage girls are not only raped, but kidnapped to be enslaved as prostitutes. Ironically, the most stringent Muslims see no harm in conducting such horrid offenses. There is ethnic violence where warlords from primitive tribes want power. Of course, the Arab League supports al-Bashir, who has been charged with war crimes.

The UN estimates the genocide of 300,000 Sudanese people since February 2003, and millions have been displaced. Some still live in refugee camps without running water and proper medical care. In Israel

even the so called refugee camps have all the conveniences that city dwellers have. The infant mortality rate in places like Sudan, Iraq and Afghanistan is certainly higher than Gaza and the West Bank. In fact, life in general is so much better within the borders of the Jewish state. Maybe that is why refugees from Syria and Jordan want to live there!

Syria today is in the hands of IS terrorists — people with little concern for human life other than their own. Strapping a bomb on their chest means paradise, so it is seen as ideal martyrdom. The Druze, a peaceful people, are being attacked daily. Their families on the Israeli side of the border watch the villages burn in Syria and can't do much. It is the one time the fence between Israel and Syria is saddening, because if it were not there, many Druze would be rushing into the Israeli calm. Yet it is the same fence that keeps IS out of Israel. If only the Hamas in Gaza could be kept out too. Meanwhile roadside bombs and attacks kill off Druze people while the young men are conscripted to fight in an army

they don't like.

The Druze in Lebanon have been fighting similar issues for decades. If not IS, it is Al Qaeda forces who attack, burn villages and kill those who do not support them. Whether it is two people or twenty, the numbers add up. Even the most biased news agency can't blame these horrific acts on Israel. How about Al Qaeda, the same fundamentalists who knocked the World Trade Center to the ground, flew into the Pentagon and took several thousand US lives? Have people forgotten the tragedy of Ground Zero because the horrors are on the other side of the globe? Surely those in uniform remember, the widows remember, the children who are named for one of those thousands are taught to remember. Yet, world leaders and the news agencies seem to talk about 9-11 differently from Arab extremism today until Israel is part of the discussion.

Not one Israeli Jew is part of the gangs conducting these horrific acts of violence around the world. In fact, Israel, and Jews worldwide are quick

to offer funds in order to help out the innocents. Jewish doctors are amongst the groups that go to the Sudan to operate on victims. Neither Gaza nor the West Bank looks anything like Sudanese refugee camps. Arab Israelis get the same medical care, education and other rights Jewish Israelis do. In fact even attackers get brought to Israeli hospitals for care.

Arab Israelis lead a better life than their family members in other Arab lands. Yet, Israel is to blame for their rotten lives, for trying to pray at a holy site...for just being Jews. Walk in Israel where parks are filled with Muslim families, where malls are packed with Muslim women spending lots of money in fancy boutiques and enjoying coffee with their friends. Israelis are not even permitted to enter Arab villages for fear of mistreatment.

Look at the map of the Middle-East: see the size of Israel compared to the rest of the Arab world? See how small Israel is in comparison? How is Israel expected to take in refugees from these war-torn nations? In fact, Israel should not have any refugee problem except for Jews from countries within Arab rule, the once Communist Soviet Union or where they are discriminated against because of their religion.

Israel should not have a population

of Arab Muslim “refugees,” because these people chose to remain in the country after 1948. If only world leaders followed the UN Resolutions of 1948 that gave Jews the Land of Israel and Arabs the land of TransJordan. If only the Arabs accepted that, and subsequent two state solutions. If so, they could be living in what is now Jordan except for those who chose to become Israeli citizens.

Look at an ancient map of Israel when Judea and Samaria (Shomron) were all the same border. Gaza and the West Bank areas were also within the borders. There was no Palestinian people until it became the land of Palestine for Jews, Muslims and Christians. Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount, were in Israel. In maps when the Temple existed, the Temple Mount was controlled by Jews. There were no Arabs on the Temple Mount and no mosaic designed mosques, because it was Hebrew territory. In fact, there was no Islam, because it was before Muhammad — who prayed at Mecca and Medina and never traveled to Jerusalem, unless you consider the stories of his midnight ride once dead. Maybe he met Paul Revere!



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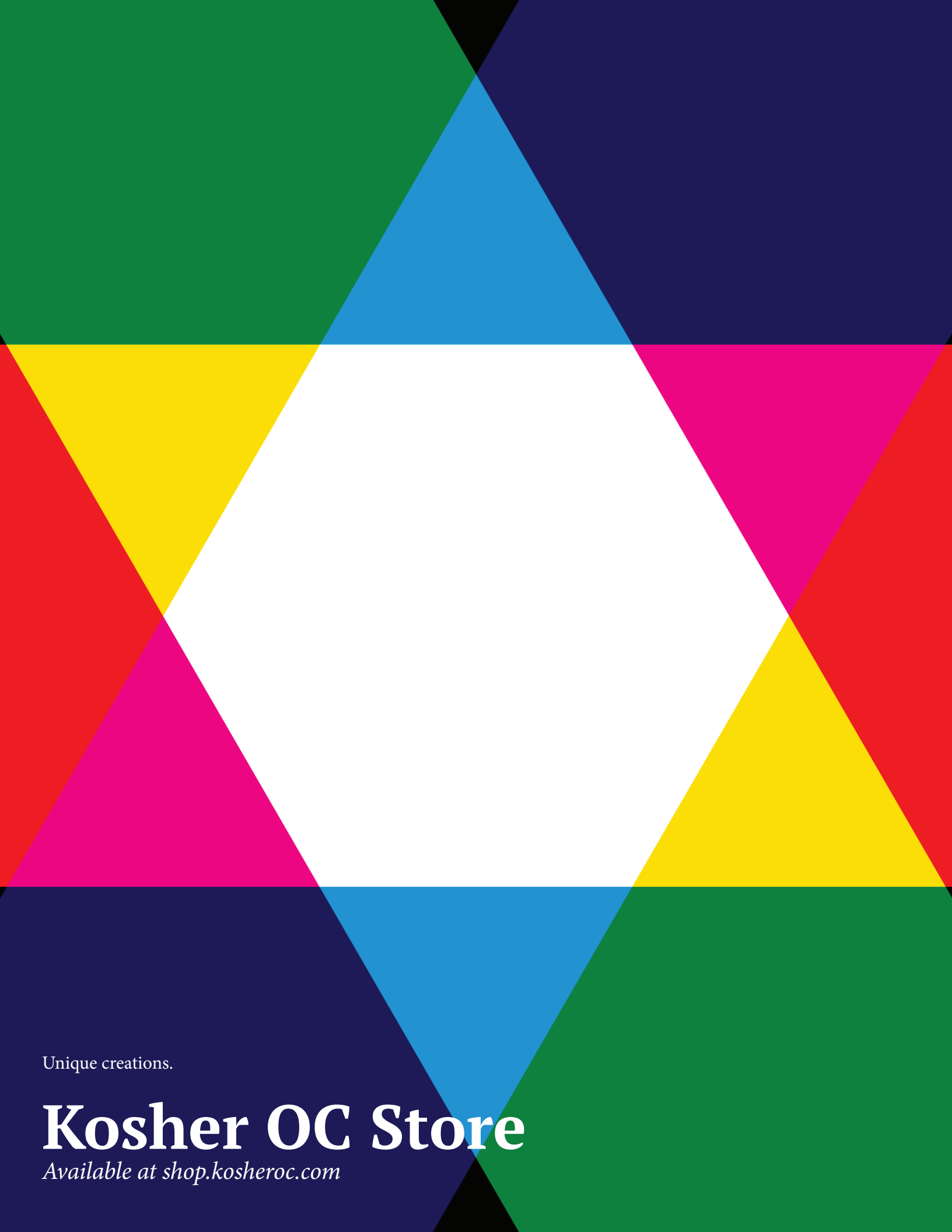
Are they asleep? Even the United Nations, a group formed to chair world peace, has gone back on its word. It has given a seat to “Palestine,” even though it is not a country. In fact, British Mandate Palestine ended the moment the UN gave the Jewish people, Israel, a state — a State that is proud to fly a blue and white flag with the emblem of the Jewish star in the center.

It seems the world is asleep. It is asleep to the noise of Arab slaughter. It is asleep during the screams of innocent Israelis being attacked with knives. It is asleep while young children cry because they no longer have parents to hold them.

When will our so called leaders wake from their slumber so the rest of us can live with our dreams again? When will the nightmares end? ■



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