

Campaign 2024 opening event held on September 10

The weekend of September 9 was not an easy one for many in our community because of the storm that left behind damage and frayed nerves for people living in Clarks Summit and parts of Scranton. But in spite of the difficulties, a number

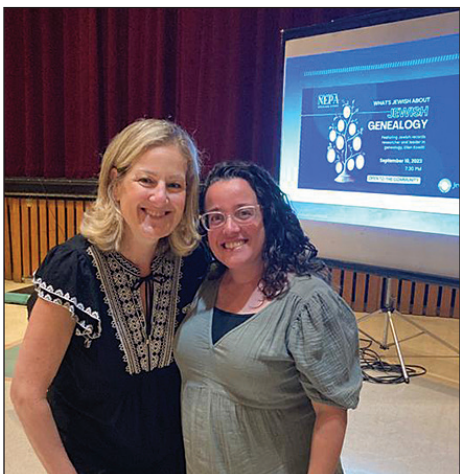
of people were able to attend our opening Campaign event at the JCC on Sunday, September 10.

The evening started with a dinner (by invitation) with “Pizza Biza” – that is, kosher pizza baked on site. Donors contributing a minimum

of \$1,200 to the 2024 Community Campaign were included in the invitation.

Following the dinner, we had a program open to the community with Ellen Kowitz from Jewish Gen, who made a presentation about Jewish genealogy. She shared with us tips on how to research family history, including the many difficulties we can expect to find along the road – especially when following Jewish sources that may have been lost or destroyed. She did that by sharing her own journey of discovery.

See “Campaign” on page 6



Beth Shalom Academy welcomed over 70 students on opening day

Beth Shalom Academy welcomed over 70 students on opening day, September 6. “But it really isn’t about numbers,” the principal, Dr. Leiter-Itzkowitz, opined. “It is about adhering to the academic, social and emotional needs of each and every student.” Increased numbers are significant only when those numbers are supported by the love and nurturing of the individual student by the incredible staff that has been assembled at Beth Shalom Academy.

Rabbi Eliyahu Edelman expressed his awe at the calm and excitement of parents at Meet the Parents night, which took place the night before classes started. “The night before school usually has

families stressed,” Rabbi Edelman, a seasoned teacher and new to the BSA staff was heard to say to another teacher, “but here at BSA the parents are so excited to see the year start off it’s refreshing and I’m happy to be a part of this experience.”

The increased enrollment is also significant because it affords the staff at BSA the special unique opportunity to educate *all* Jewish children. Those who wish to attend this wonderful institution have the opportunity to grow and thrive academically, socially and most importantly emotionally into well adjusted happy young adults. Happiness of their students is their number one goal.

The new school year at BSA is a rebirth of sorts. Although the 5784/2023-24 school year is actually BSA’s fifth year since its inception, this academic year has seen a 100 percent growth in and a transformation of untold proportions. The administration and staff have worked tirelessly through this past summer, as well as in the very beginning of the school year, to be cognizant and careful of such vast growth and to be sure that we at BSA do not lose sight of those core values that started our precious school in the first place. That core value is to give the love and embracing of every Jewish child who wishes to attend our school.

We would be remiss if we failed to mention the incredible effort on behalf of BSA by the stellar contracting company Madison Webster and its owner Alex Itzkowitz. Everything from building numerous new classrooms for the burgeoning student population to wiring new cameras and wifi all around the school, to ensuring the fire alarm is working properly, Alex is always there when needed to assist in providing a top-notch education to these special children. Thank you, Alex and company!

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Back to school

Local Jewish day schools announce the start of their new academic year.

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Camp memories

Reflections on the myriad activities held at the Scranton JCC’s Camp Daleville this summer.

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Israel’s jackals

A look at fisher jackals in Tel Aviv; Israeli researchers find evidence jackals may become domesticated.

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CANDLE LIGHTING

October 6.....	6:18 pm
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October 13.....	6:07 pm
October 20.....	5:56 pm
October 27.....	5:46 pm
November 3.....	5:37 pm

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Scranton Hebrew Day School kicks off 76th year with back to school BBQ

The Scranton Hebrew Day School began its 76th year on August 31. The school is proud to welcome several new families to its roster and is especially proud of the 15 percent increase in enrollment. Both

students and faculty are enjoying a number of upgrades to the building and its surroundings, including new lighting, new computers, new plumbing fixtures and new tile flooring in the second and third grades,

amongst other improvements.

The opening event of the school year is the annual Back to School BBQ which was held on September 5, sponsored by the school's PTA under the leadership of Mrs.

Fraidel Tzucker. It was a chance for parents and students to greet old and new friends in a calm and relaxed atmosphere. Everyone is looking forward to a healthy, productive year of growth.



A dose of prevention is worth a pound of cure – staying healthy starts with vaccination

BY ELAN SKILLED NURSING AND REHAB CENTER

Fall is time for beautiful foliage – football – festivals and...the flu!

The Reporter

Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

"The Reporter" (USPS #1550) is published monthly by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania, 601 Jefferson Ave., Scranton, PA 18510.

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OPINIONS The views expressed in editorials and opinion pieces are those of each author and not necessarily the views of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

LETTERS *The Reporter* welcomes letters on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. All letters must be signed and include a phone number. The editor may withhold the name upon request.

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DEADLINE Regular deadline is two weeks prior to the publication date.

FEDERATION WEBSITE:

www.jewishnepa.org

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HOW TO REACH THE ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE:

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Yes, flu season is almost upon us! Just as we schedule time for other wellness screenings, it is important to schedule your vaccines. When planning for your annual flu vaccine, consider other vaccinations that may be beneficial to preventing common illness. As we age, our immune system weakens making seniors more susceptible to diseases and infections. Vaccinations can strengthen our immune system to prevent illness and also reduce the risk of complications and hospitalizations.

INFLUENZA A/K/A "THE FLU"

Also referred to as influenza, this illness is caused by an infection in our respiratory system, mainly the nose, throat and lungs. While influenza is commonly called the flu, it is different from the stomach "flu," a viral infection that causes diarrhea and vomiting. Most people with influenza get better on their own; however, the flu can result in serious or life-threatening illness. The CDC estimates that between 2010 and 2020, the flu has resulted in nine-41 million illnesses, between 140,000-710,000 hospitalizations and 12,000-52,000 deaths annually.

The best way to reduce the risk of flu and its potentially serious complications is by getting vaccinated each year. Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine every season with rare exceptions. Vaccination is particularly important for people who are at higher risk of serious complications from influenza. Seniors are in a higher risk group of developing complications from the flu.

Most people who get flu will recover in a few days to less than two weeks, but some people will develop complications (such as pneumonia) because of flu, some of which can be life-threatening and result in death. Sinus and ear infections are examples of moderate complications from flu, while pneumonia is a more serious flu complication. Other possible serious complications often triggered by the flu can include inflammation of the heart, brain or muscle issues, along with multi-organ failure (for example, respiratory and kidney failure). Flu virus infection can trigger an extreme inflammatory response in the body and can lead to sepsis, the body's life-threatening response to infection. Flu can also make chronic medical problems worse. For example, people with asthma may experience asthma attacks while they have flu, and people with chronic heart disease may experience a worsening of this condition triggered by flu. The flu vaccine can help prevent these complications and reduce the severity of the symptoms.

PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE AND PNEUMONIA

According to the CDC, pneumonia is a lung infection usually caused by bacteria, viruses or fungi. Pneumococcal disease is common in young children, but older adults are at greatest risk of serious illness and death. Vaccines help protect against complications such as pneumonia sinusitis, meningitis, and otitis media.

CDC recommends pneumococcal vaccination for all children younger than 5 years old and all adults 65 years or older. There are several different types of pneumococcal vaccines and we recommend you talk to your doctor about what is best for your specific situation.

SHINGLES

Shingles (herpes zoster) is a painful rash caused by Varicella zoster, the same virus that causes chicken pox. If you're one of the 99 percent of adults over 50 years old who have had chickenpox, the virus that causes shingles is inside your body and can reactivate at any time. One in every three people in the U.S. will get shingles in their lifetime. No matter how healthy you feel, your immune system declines as you age and that puts you at an increased risk for shingles.

CDC recommends two doses of the recombinant zoster vaccine {Shingrix} to prevent shingles and related complication in adults 50 years and older. Adults 50 years and older should get two doses of Shingrix, separated by two to six months. Research shows that Shingrix is more than 90 percent effective at preventing shingles and, according to the CDC, immunity lasts for at least seven years. There is no maximum age for getting vaccinated. Shingrix is available in doctor's offices and pharmacies.

COVID-19

We are all familiar with COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) is a disease caused by a virus See "Healthy" on page 8

COMMUNITY NEWS

And the summer ends

September has been an unusually busy month compared with September of any other year. Yes, we had the High Holidays, but a lot more.

The ongoing (as the time I am writing this column) conflict in Israel over the Judicial reform and the Haredi recruitment bill continues to tear apart Israeli society: People in favor and against the government coalition legislative initiatives are staging massive demonstrations and counterdemonstrations, but a dialogue between the sides is still lacking.

Elon Musk is talking about initiating a demand for defamation against the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), blaming the Jewish organization for his loss of revenue from advertising on “X” (former Twitter). While it might be just one more publicity stunt from Musk, it did give rise to numerous hashtags supporting him and attacking the ADL, and not all of them honest. In fact, a number of them are promoted by Neo-Nazi groups.



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

Our local *Times Tribune* paper was bought by the Global News corporation, and that will greatly affect our access to local news, as well as our access to a platform to express our views. While it is not yet fully clear what the consequences will be, the track record of Global News in other markets where they bought newspapers indicates we should expect layoffs at the paper, an increase in national and international content provided by them, and a reduction of local content.

We also marked the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Twenty-two years after the attacks, people are already forgetting. Maybe we should remember more – if nothing else, as a show of

respect for the victims and the rescuers who lost their lives.

And on September 9 in the evening, a very unusually strong storm hit our area, devastating parts of Clarks Summit and West Scranton, and leaving one woman dead. We reached out to the community with an offer of help because that is who we are.

And as I write this column, we are coming upon Rosh Hashanah. In the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, it is said that God writes the destiny of each of us in the Book of Life, and our fate gets sealed in Yom Kippur. It is a time to take stock of what we did over the past year and make ourselves a promise to do better. Considering the crazy world in which we are living, we can only hope that the Almighty will give us the strength to deal with our reality, which seems increasingly difficult.

I can only wish each and every member of our community a heathy and sweet New Year. And may this be the year when we learn the lessons of Jewish history and make an extra effort to work together.

Shanah tovah umetukah!

DEADLINES

The following are deadlines for all articles and photos for upcoming *Reporter* issues.

DEADLINE	ISSUE
Monday, October 16.....	November
Friday, November 10.....	December
Monday, December 11.....	January
Monday, January 15.....	February

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Legislators push boost in federal funds to harden at-risk nonprofits

The Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) suffered a drop this year with \$18 million less as part of an across-the-board decrease in Homeland Security projects, causing an already underfunded and much-in-demand service to fulfill 43 percent of requests. Now, Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT), who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee’s Subcommittee on Homeland Security, has pushed back,

insisting on an increase to the program that provides security grants to nonprofits at threat of terrorist attacks. Murphy said he wanted to “deliver another big, meaningful increase in the not-for-profit security grant program.” The congressman also described how the “threat to Jewish communities is different and we should treat it as different.” Rep. Kathy Manning (D-NC) also called for a funding boost because of rising antisemitism, saying, “I joined 135 of my House colleagues to call for an increase to \$360 million of funding in fiscal year 2024.” This year’s budget was \$305 million.

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The Weinberg Judaic Studies Institute of the University of Scranton presents a lecture by Dr. Zev Eleff of Gratz College, “Dyed in Crimson – Football, Faith, Antisemitism, and the American Dream”
 October 31, 2023, at 7:30 pm
 PNC Auditorium, Loyola Science Center 133

Eleff received his Ph.D. from Brandeis University and M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University. At Yeshiva University, Eleff graduated from Yeshiva College and received ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He is a past Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar, a prestigious program for Jewish leaders and professionals.

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United Hatzalah opens medical clinics in Atlas Mountains to aid quake victims

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – United Hatzalah’s disaster-relief mission has been operating in Morocco since September 10, two days after the nearly 6.9 magnitude earthquake devastated parts of the country, particularly in the west in and around Marrakesh, killing nearly 3,000 people.

The team’s first goal was to assess the needs of the Moroccan people and coordinate efforts with the government and community leaders to determine how best to assist affected citizens. The decision was made to open medical clinics in villages in the Atlas Mountains that have not

yet been able to receive medical care or other assistance.

The afternoon of September 14, the team had set up two medical clinics in different villages in the Atlas Mountains to treat injured and ill people. There are still many villages deep in the mountains that have not yet received any medical or humanitarian aid, although in many places, search-and-rescue crews are busy trying to find survivors in the rubble.

“We chose the specific villages in coordination with local leaders who told us that they have yet to receive medical care in their vil-

lages,” said Linor Attias, deputy director of emergency operations. “We are coming to be a force multiplier for local services and assist where we people have not yet received aid.”

The team, which will now focus on operating the medical clinics, is comprised of both Muslim and Jewish volunteers, and includes two doctors, as well as a dozen EMTs and paramedics. Several of are Arabic and French speakers. Three of the volunteers are part of the organization’s Psychotrauma and Crisis Response Unit, and can

provide psychological first aid and stabilization where needed. Three other volunteers have expertise in search-and-rescue operations, including one firefighter, and one member of Israel’s search-and-rescue teams.

“We chose a diverse team with expertise in many areas to be able to respond to any situation that developed,” said mission commander Yossi Amar. “We are utilizing that diversity to best help the Moroccan people and speak to them in their own language while respecting their culture and traditions.”



United Hatzalah’s disaster-relief mission has been operating to assist earthquake victims in Morocco since September 10. (Photo by United Hatzalah)



The team, which plans to focus on operating the medical clinics, is comprised of both Muslim and Jewish volunteers, several of whom are Arabic and French speakers. (Photo by Hatzalah)



Three of the volunteers are part of the organization’s Psychotrauma and Crisis Response Unit and can provide psychological first aid and stabilization where needed. (Photo by United Hatzalah)

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

U.S. Treasury sanctions Hezbollah supporters in South America

A charcoal export business has now been exposed as one cog in a terrorism funding machine crossing continents to support Iran’s efforts to expunge the Jewish state. The U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (or OFAC) and the Drug Enforcement Administration named numerous individuals and businesses it designated as supporters of Hezbollah. “I applaud the decision of U.S. Treasury to sanction Amer Mohamed Akil Rada, one of the operational members of Hezbollah who carried out the terrorist attack against the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA) in Argentina in 1994 that killed 85 people,” said Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, U.S. special envoy to monitor and combat antisemitism. Brian E. Nelson, the under secretary of the treasury for terrorism and financial intelligence, said that “today’s action underscores the U.S. government’s commitment to pursuing Hezbollah operatives and financiers, no matter their location.” He added that “we will continue to root out those who seek to abuse the U.S. and international financial system to fund and engage in terrorism.”

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The Reporter

Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

Scranton Jewish Community Center Camp Daleville Summer 2023

Camp Daleville 2023 was one of its best summers yet. Our hard-working staff spent eight weeks providing lifelong memories for 200 children. Over the course of the eight weeks, our campers had a blast participating in art, sports, swimming, boating, STEM classes, cooking classes, music classes, Jewish culture classes and so much more. As the summer came to an end our oldest group, the CITs (Counselors in Training), put together a carnival for the entire camp to participate in. Not only do the campers get to spend the entire summer soaking up the sun, but they also get to develop lifelong skills while having a blast with their friends. Camp Daleville is a place where kids come to make friends, and leave with a family.

◆ **Stem Activities:** Campers in each age group participated in a different project each week led by our STEM instructor, Katherine Scheller. The campers made their own lava lamps, had egg drop competitions and learned about many



other interesting topics.

◆ **Art Classes:** Art teacher Vivian Russel led various art projects for the campers throughout the summer, providing each age group with a different project that the campers could take home with them each week.

◆ **Jewish Culture:** Our Jewish Culture Program was led by Chana Harkavy. Each week, the campers learned about a different Jewish holiday and made a delicious kosher snack. Every



Friday, we were joined by Rabbi Schwartz for *oneg*, where the campers helped him with the blessings and we shared challah.

◆ **Aquatics Program:** Every summer, our life guards teach hundreds of campers how to swim on their own. While the kids have a blast in our swimming pool, they also get to experience boating on our lake. The youngest groups have a counselor in the boats with them, while the older groups get to take out the boats with their friends and even use the kayaks individually.

◆ **Cooking Classes:** Nutritionist Katie Gallagher and Leslie from ShopRite met with our campers once a week to teach them basic cooking skills and introduce them to healthy recipes. Each week they brought something fun and exciting to the table for the kids to make themselves and enjoy.



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For more information contact Daniel Chejfec at
Daniel.Chejfec@jewishnepa.org or call 570-961-2300, ext. 1.)

➡ Check out the Federation's new, updated website at www.jewishnepa.org or find it on Facebook

Inspired by Hebrew, scholar helps revive dying aboriginal Australian languages

BY AVI KUMAR

(JNS) – Amid the COVID pandemic in 2020, Ghil’ad Zuckermann drove to Cardabia Station in a remote part of Western Australia. The coast reminded the Tel Aviv-born scholar of the shorelines of Eilat.

Chair of linguistics and endangered languages, and a tenured professor at the University of Adelaide in Australia, Zuckermann approached representatives of the indigenous Bayoongoo tribe with a unique offer: reviving their endangered language. “I was inspired by Israel’s linguistic revival, which is Zionism’s greatest achievement,” he told JNS.

In an interview from the Outback, the 52-year-old graduate of Oxford and Cambridge universities in England told JNS that the modern revival of Hebrew is the best example of bringing a “dead” language back to life. This example can inspire other cultures, including Australian aboriginal ones, he said.

According to the 2021 Australian census, 3.2 percent of the population is indigenous. More than 250 indigenous Australian languages were spoken on the continent in 1788, per the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. In 2016, 120 were spoken with 90 percent considered endangered by 2019, per AIATSIS.

Zuckermann, who speaks 13 languages fluently, told JNS that many indigenous Australian languages were erased during the “stolen generation” of the 1910s to 1970s, when many aboriginal children, particularly those of visibly mixed heritage, were forcibly removed from their families and placed in foster homes to assimilate them.

“These children missed out on the opportunity to acquire their mother tongues at a crucial age and were often forced to speak only in English at their new homes or missions,” he said.

The language shift to English via linguistic, intermarriage and assimilation has been “grave,” added Zuckermann.

When Eliezer Ben-Yehuda helped revive Hebrew at the end of the 19th century, he had at his disposal centuries of voluminous Hebrew writings, both sacred and secular. Australian aboriginal languages, however, lack written records.



Professor Ghil’ad Zuckermann and Hazel Cooyou Walgar, one of apparently two people who speak the Bayoongoo language. (Photo courtesy of JNS)

In 2011, Zuckermann launched a revival of the South Australian Barngarla language, using a dictionary penned by Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann, a German Lutheran missionary, in 1844. Schürmann wrote the book “to Christianize and thereby ‘Westernize’ the Barngarla people,” Zuckermann told JNS. “Ironically, 175 years later, a secular Jew turned to it to help them reconnect with their heritage in an effort to fix the wrongs of the past.”

There are different challenges with the Bayoongoo language—the one that Zuckermann set out in 2020 to work on, seeing Israeli coastlines on Western Australian shores.

Some community members can recognize some Bayoongoo words and phrases, Zuckermann told JNS, but these people, whom linguists call “rememberers,” cannot hold fluent conversations.

The same phenomenon can be seen among grandchildren of those who spoke Yiddish, Ladino or other Jewish Diaspora languages who may retain elements, such as lullabies, names of

foods and key terms for family members, like zeidy or bubbly.

Per some estimates, none of the 200 or so Bayoongoo people are native speakers of the language. Zuckermann told JNS that there are two people who can speak the language: Hazel Cooyou Walgar and her sister, Gwen Peck. (The people and the language are sometimes spelled Baiyungu, and also called Burduna.)

With support from the nonprofit First Languages Australia, Zuckermann commissioned Walgar to write new poems in her ancestral language. The Israeli-born composer Yitzhak Yedid, who lives in Perth, helped transcribe them. The first is called “ngathala ngarrari,” which means “my country.”

“We have only just begun,” Yedid told JNS. “Over time, more people will be able to learn the language.”

Zuckermann told JNS that knowing one’s ancestral language is associated with benefits, such as reducing rates of depression, suicide and other health issues: “Knowing the language of your ancestors instills a sense of pride and identity.”

So what do aboriginal Australians think of Israel, given the role that Hebrew may play in reviving their languages? Some are pro-Palestinian, Zuckermann told JNS. But many have become Christian in recent years, which means that they read the Bible.

“Many of them see Jews as being ‘aboriginal’ to the land of Israel and having successfully reclaimed their country, language and identity,” he said.

Reached over the phone from Australia, Walgar – one of the two Bayoongoo speakers – told JNS that she appreciates all the efforts to revive her people’s language. “This is a dream come true,” she said. “Our ancestors will be proud.”

Campaign..... Continued from page 1

She also highlighted the positive role that genealogy and sharing family history can have in building community and in kindling interest in Jewish history among the youngest in our community. She emphasized the importance of family story telling and the power it can have to strengthen Jewish identity and Jewish community.

Thank you to Asher and Mindy Grossman, 2024 Campaign chairs; to Rhonda Falk, who volunteered to support the event; to Dassy Ganz, our Campaign director; and to all those who attended. For those who were not able to attend, we hope to see you at our next event!



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The Reporter
Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania



BBYO offers local chapter membership to teens from military families

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – A new joint program of BBYO and the JCC Association of North America offers membership in local BBYO chapters to teens, in grades eight to 12, with at least one parent in the U.S. military or diplomatic corps.

“Teens will maintain their membership status in BBYO, even if the family moves to a new duty station, and will be eligible for discounts and scholarships for BBYO regional, national and international events,” stated the nonprofit Jewish teen movement.

At right: BBYO offers activities year-round for students in grades eight through 12. (Photo by BBYO/Max Correa)



Membership typically costs \$249 – a one-time fee when teens join.

“By becoming a member, teens can attend exclusive member-only events like regional conventions and international programs like

International Convention,” Jen Appel, marketing communications manager of events and experiences, told JNS. “In addition, teens that are members are eligible to run for a leadership role within

their home region or at the international level.”

Gary Levin, senior vice president of community impact at BBYO, told JNS that the partnership “extends BBYO’s reach to teens from military families and communities that don’t typically have access to a robust Jewish infrastructure or programming.”

“As a diverse and expanding global movement, it’s opportunities like this that truly enhance our mission of ‘more Jewish teens, more meaningful Jewish experiences,’” he said.

Autonomous helicopter taxi makes first test flight over Jerusalem

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – An autonomous helicopter taxi made its first 30-minute test flight over Jerusalem as part of an Israeli-government-led initiative to reduce traffic jams on the country’s roads, the Israel Innovation Authority announced on September 13.

The Chinese-made eVTOL autonomous electric two-seater took off from the capital’s Hadassah-Ein Kerem Medical Center and flew over the city’s hills before landing back at the hospital grounds. The EH216 aircraft can fly approximately 18 miles (30 kilometers) while carrying a payload of up to 551 pounds (250 kilograms). The test flight was closely monitored by control centers and emergency-response teams on the ground.

The trial was made possible by a 60 million shekel (\$15.7 million) project known as the Israel National Drone Initiative, a public-private partnership led by the Ministry of Transport, National Infrastructure and Road Safety; the Israel Innovation Authority; Ayalon Highways Ltd.; and the Civil Aviation Authority.

“What we’re looking at here is how Israel’s National Drone Initiative is expanding its scope to move beyond transporting packages to



Ehang’s EH216-S, a Chinese-made drone, one of several tested as part fo the Israel National Drone Initiative, June 5, 2023. (Photo by Mark Nomdar/B.Y. Creative & Productions)

transporting human beings,” said Daniella Partem, senior director at the Israel Innovation Authority. “We are looking to improve the economic viability of this model and advance connectivity in urban areas and further afield around the world.”


Under the auspices of the National Drone Initiative, 11 private technology companies have been involved in tests and experimental flights throughout the Jewish state. In the past three years, some 19,000 sorties have been conducted in rural and urban areas, the initiative announced in June.

“What we’re actually doing is a concept of operation that makes

taxi drones or delivery drones – big ones – to bring them to the hospital with all the utilities that you need, and also to take it from here to the houses around Jerusalem,” Cando

CEO Yoeli Or told Reuters. “This is a new concept that actually brings us innovation, saves time, saves money, and it’s green,” he added.

The Jewish Federation of NEPA is excited to offer local, community organizations the opportunity to post events to our Community Calendar. Published events will be included in our weekly Ma Nishma NEPA email.



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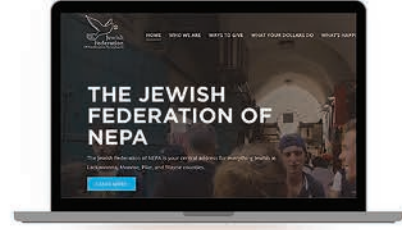
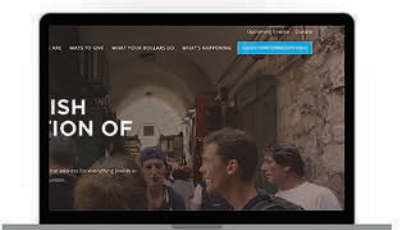


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Israel's oldest gate offers glimpse into ancient urbanization

BY PESACH BENSON

(JNS) – Israeli archaeologists excavating near Kiryat Gat's industrial zone prior to the laying of a water pipe have uncovered a city gate dating back more than five millennia, the oldest such structure ever found in Israel, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced recently.

The discovery “adds another important piece ... to our archaeological knowledge,” said IAA Director-General Eli Eskosido. “Together with the cooperation of the Mekorot Water Company, it was decided to move the water pipe in order to preserve the ancient gate.”

The excavation at Tel Erani unveiled not only the gate, but also a portion of a fortification system dating to the Early Bronze Age. According to the IAA, the discovery provides valuable insights into the development of urban centers and their strategic defense in ancient times.



The 5,500-year-old gate at Tel Erani, near the Kiryat Gat industrial zone, on August 15. (Photo by Yoli Schwartz/ Israel Antiquities Authority)

“This is the first time that such a large gate dating to the Early Bronze Age has been uncovered,” said excavation director Emily Bischoff. “In order to construct the gate and the fortification See “Gate” on page 11

Healthy.....Continued from page 2

named SARS-CoV-2. It can be very contagious and spreads quickly. Since early 2020, more than one million people have died from COVID-19 in the United States.

COVID-19 infection most often causes respiratory symptoms that can feel much like a cold, the flu or pneumonia. It may attack more than your lungs and respiratory system. Other parts of your body can also be affected by the disease. Most people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms, but some people become severely ill. Some people including those with minor or no symptoms will develop post-COVID conditions – also called “Long COVID.” Seniors along with those who are immune compromised and have certain disabilities and underlying health conditions are more likely to suffer severe symptoms if infected. These are all good reasons to get vaccinated.

COVID-19 vaccines are readily available and effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized and dying. As with other vaccine-preventable diseases, you are best protected from COVID-19 when you stay up to date with the recommended vaccinations.

Additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for those seniors aged 65 years and older as well as those with moderate to severe immunocompromised states. Talk to your healthcare provider about additional update doses.

WHY SCHEDULE YOUR VACCINATION IN THE FALL?

According to the CDC, older adults should get their flu shots in September or October, but no later than the end of October. While influenza viruses spread year-round, activity peaks between December and February. Getting vaccinated in the fall allows your body time to build up its immunity to the height of the flu season. The

influenza vaccine is updated annually to reflect which strains will be seen in the upcoming year. The COVID-19 vaccines have been updated a few times since the initial vaccine development to address additional strains of the virus. It is expected that an updated vaccine to provide protection against the Omicron variant will be available in the fall of 2023. You can get shingles and pneumococcal disease year-round. These vaccines can be given at any time and typically, in conjunction with other vaccines.

GET VACCINATED TODAY!

As we age, our immune system's ability to fight off infections weakens, which makes seniors aged 65 years and older more vulnerable to diseases like influenza, covid, pneumonia and shingles. Vaccines are key for the well-being and health of our senior population. Call your doctor *today* and protect yourself from these preventable illnesses. By taking the time to prioritize your self-care, you can manage your health and *enjoy life!*

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Jewish online resources

BY REPORTER STAFF

◆ Melton will hold the virtual class “Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks *z”l*: A Spiritual Biography” on Wednesdays, October 11-November 1, from 1-2:30 pm. There is a sliding scale cost to attend. Rabbi Johnny Solomon will share a range of teachings of the late rabbi on themes relating to identity, self-esteem, failure and joy. For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=e3874390-c5ce-4094-82e1-b5354d6d17ee>.

◆ Jewish Women’s Archive will hold the virtual “Online History Course: Jewish Women in the Medieval World” on Thursdays, November 2-30 (except for November 23), at noon. The lectures include November 2, Sarah Ifft Decker, “Capable Wives and Working Widows: Jewish Women’s Lives in the Medieval World”; November 9, Elisha Baumgarten, “Men’s Instructions, Women’s Deeds: Gender and Religious Practice in Medieval Ashkenaz”; November 16, Sara Gardner, “Women’s Domestic Culture in Iberia”; and November 30, Renée Levine Melammed, “Women’s Voices as Reflected in the Cairo Geniza.” For more information or to register, visit <https://jwa.org/events>.

◆ Siegal Lifelong Learning will hold the virtual class “From Shtetl to Ellis Island: Discovering the Journey” on Tuesday, November 14, from 7-8:30 pm. The class will look at the early 20th century immigrants’ journeys from their hometowns to seaports and then across the ocean. It will also examine their treatment at Antwerp and Ellis Island. For more information or to register, visit <https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/lectures/shtetl-ellis-island-discovering-journey-remote>.

◆ Melton will hold the course “Shtetl Fabulous” on Thursdays, October 19-November 9, from 7-8:30 pm. There is a sliding scale cost to attend. The class will “explore literary representations of the shtetl ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous.” For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=52b1dd9d-38ba-4567-84e9-9f36bad3b469>.

◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary will hold the virtual course “The Forgotten Rituals of Eastern European Jewish Women” on Tuesdays, October 24 and 31, and November 7, 14, 21 and 28, from 1-2:15 pm. The cost to attend is \$180. For more information or to register, visit www.jtsa.edu/event/the-forgotten-rituals-of-eastern-european-jewish-women/.

◆ Hadassah will hold the virtual symposium “Inspire Zionism” on Wednesday, October 25, from noon-3:30 pm, and Thursday, October 26, from 4-8 pm. Panels include “Zionist Trailblazers Breaking Barriers,” “Israel in the Media: What No One Will Tell You,” “Styling Your Zionist Identity,” “Portraits of Zionist Women of Color,” “The Tattoo Taboo,” “Sounds of Zionism: A Musical Workshop” and “What Zionism Means to Me.” For more information or to register, visit www.hadassah.org/page/inspire-zionism-2023-symposium.

◆ The Museum of Jewish Heritage will hold several hybrid events: “Hamlet’s Children” with Richard Kluger and Julianna Margulies on Thursday, October 5, from 7-8:30 pm, a \$10 donation is requested (<https://mjhnyc.org/events/hamlets-children/>); and “Shakespeare’s Globe Presents: ‘The Merchant of Venice’” on Thursday, October 12, from 7-10 pm, a \$10 donation is requested (<https://mjhnyc.org/events/merchantofvenice/>).

◆ The American Jewish Historical Society will hold the hybrid program “Fighting Fascism:

A Symposium on Jewish Responses From the Interwar Period to the Present Day” on Friday, October 15, from 10 am-5 pm. The cost to attend is \$36. Panels include “This is the Way the World Ends”; “What is Fascism?; “The Empty Stomach of Germany”; “Fighting Fascism in Europe”; “Star Spangled Fascists”; “Fighting Fascism in the U.S.”; “The Language of the Good”; “Fighting Fascism in Culture”; and “In the Name of Humanity: Fighting Fascism in the Postwar World.” For more information or to register, visit <https://ajhs.org/events/fighting-fascism/>.

◆ Melton will hold the class “Family on Trial: Law and Gender in the Cairo Geniza” on Tuesday, October 31, from 1:30-2:30 pm. There is no cost to attend. The class will look at material found in the Cairo Geniza in order to explore what the documents can teach about the dynamics of communal justice in family disputes. For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=d-87c8a40-348f-45d1-a6ea-0a2a7bc1338b>.

◆ Hadassah will hold the virtual program “One Book, One Hadassah: ‘How to Love Your Daughter’” on Thursday, October 19, at 7 pm. Hadassah Magazine Executive Editor Lisa Hostein will interview Israeli author Hila Blum about her newly translated book, “How to Love Your Daughter.” For more information or to register, visit <https://events.blackthorn.io/en/8c4sgS87/g/tws32mT8YD/one-book-one-hadassah-how-to-love-your-daughter-5a3d8c11OYP/>.

◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary will hold the virtual course “The Afterlife: Classical Jewish Views” on Tuesdays, October 17, 24 and 31, and November 7, from 7-8:15 pm. The cost to attend is \$120. For more information or register, visit www.jtsa.edu/event/the-after-life-classical-jewish-views/.

◆ The Yiddish Book Center will hold the virtual course “Between Heaven and Earth: Yiddish Women’s Folklore, Rituals, & Magic” on Wednesdays, October 11, 18 and 25, and November 1, from 7-8:30 pm. The cost is \$75 for Yiddish Book Center members and \$100 for non-members. The course will “explore the ways that Yiddish-speaking women created rituals and customs such as making soul candles (*neshome likht*) and birthing amulets (*kimpet brivlekh*), becoming healers and curse removers (*opshprekherins*) and performing personal prayer practices (*tkhines*.” For more information or to register, visit www.yiddishbookcenter.org/educational-programs/adult-learners/between-heaven-and-earth-yiddish-womens-folklore-rituals-magic.

◆ The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute will hold a variety of hybrid and online events: “Torn Fabric: Loss, Gender and the Holocaust” on Wednesday,

October 11, at 7 pm; Sandra Seltzer Silberman HBI Conversations Series “Jewish Girls and Women in Forced Labor in the Holocaust” featuring Janine Holc and Joanna Michlic on Wednesday, October 18, at 12:30 pm; and Sandra Seltzer Silberman HBI Conversations Series featuring Lea Taragin-Zeller, author of “The State of Desire: Religion and Reproductive Politics in the Promised Land,” on Tuesday, November 28, at 11 am. For more information or to register, visit www.brandeis.edu/hbi/events/index.html.

◆ Literary Modiin will hold its October 2023 Author Event on Sunday, October 15, at 1 pm. The event will feature Tara Ison, author of “At the Hour Between Dog and Wolf”; Daniel Victor, author of “The Evil Inclination”; and Linda Kass, author of “Bessie.” For more information or to register, visit www.juliezuckerman.com/event-info/literary-modiin-october-2023-author-event.

◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary will hold the virtual course “Diaspora in Jewish Thought” on Wednesdays, October 25, November 1, 8, 15 and 29, and December 6, from 7-8:30 pm. The cost to attend is \$180. The course will “study some of the most compelling Jewish arguments in favor of Diaspora throughout history, from the Talmud to Chasidic masters, and ask how we, as Diaspora Jews, might relate to them.” For more information or to register, visit <https://www.jtsa.edu/event/diaspora-in-jewish-thought/>.

◆ SAPIR and the Park Avenue Synagogue will hold the hybrid event “What We Miss When We Misunderstand Antisemitism” on Tuesday, October 17, at 7 pm, with Bret Stephens, Roya Hakakian and Rabbi Elliot J. Cosgrove. For more information or to register, visit <https://pasyn.org/calendar/what-we-miss-when-we-misunderstand-antisemitism>.

◆ Jewish Book Month’s “Community One Read with Dani Shapiro” will take place on Wednesday, November 8, from 1-2 pm. Shapiro will discuss the parallels between her two National Jewish Book Award winning books, “Inheritance” and “Signal Fires.” For more information or to register, visit www.jewishbookcouncil.org/events/jewish-book-months-community-one-read-with-dani-shapiro-1.

◆ The Museum at Eldridge Street will hold several virtual classes and programs this fall, including “The Book of Job” on Thursdays, October 5, 12, 19 and 26, and November 2, 9 and 16, at 11 am; “Virtual Tour of the Jewish Lower East Side” on Tuesday, October 10, at 6 pm; “Not Tevia’s Shtetl: The Real Story Behind these Ancestral Towns” on Sunday, October 15, at 2 pm; and “How the Streets Got Their Names: From Colonial Executions to American Presidents” on Monday October 30, at 6 pm. For information on these and other events or to register, visit www.eldridgestreet.org/events.

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Proximity to humans could lead to jackal domestication

BY PESACH BENSON

(JNS) – Israeli researchers have found evidence that living in close proximity to humans may be leading to the domestication of jackals. Golden jackals, an overabundant species in urban habitats, have long been observed thriving near human populations. However, a Tel Aviv University study conducted on the Golan Heights suggests that the existing closeness between humans and jackals might be initiating the first stages of domestication, akin to the domestication of dogs from wolves.

The study conducted by Ayelet Barash, a doctoral student from Tel Aviv University's School of Zoology, was published in the peer-reviewed *Scientific Reports* in May, presenting findings that challenge the current understanding of jackal behavior.

Working in collaboration with Yaron Dekel from the Shamir Institute for Research and the University of Haifa, and Professor Tamar Dayan from the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History and Tel Aviv University, the researchers initially suspected that a jackal exhibiting traits of a domesticated animal was a hybrid of a jackal and a dog. However, through comprehensive genetic and morphological analyses, Barash's team confirmed that the animal was a wild jackal and not a hybrid.

This was the first documented case of an animal possessing characteristics resembling domestication without recent hybridization.

One indicator of domestication is a change in fur color, Barash explained. During a camera



A long-furred jackal on the Golan Heights (Photo by Shlomo Preiss-Bloom/Scientific Reports via TPS)

survey on the Golan Heights, the researchers discovered five unusual jackals with long fur, white patches and upright tails. One of these jackals, nicknamed "Jackie," became the focal point of the study.

Genetic and skull examinations confirmed that Jackie was 100 percent jackal, ruling out any dog hybridization or known coat color mutations.

The discovery of Jackie raises the possibility that this might be an incipient stage of self-domestication, a phenomenon that has not been witnessed in the thousands of years since the domestication of the last wild mammal. Israel, particularly the Golan region, holds historical significance as the birthplace of plant and mammal domestication.

The observation of Jackie's domestication-like traits offers researchers a unique opportunity to explore this ongoing evolutionary

process. Dekel described the findings as a scientific breakthrough, emphasizing the importance of ongoing research in genetics, evolution and ecology to gain a deeper understanding of this remarkable phenomenon.

Dayan said the study highlighted significant insights into the evolution of human-animal interactions and the processes behind animal domestication. The study's comparative research, using collections from the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History in Tel Aviv, helped to confirm the identity of Jackie as a wild jackal.

According to the researchers, the population of jackals on the Golan Heights continues to increase each year, mirroring the conditions during the early stages of dog domestication more than 15,000 years ago. Similar to the past, the availability of food waste around human environments attracts jackals that are gradually becoming less fearful of humans. Over time, these individuals may undergo physical and behavioral changes, ultimately leading to self-domestication.

As researchers embark on this fascinating journey, further investigations will shed light on the evolutionary implications of jackal domestication and the potential for the emergence of a new domesticated species. The study not only enhances scientific knowledge but also emphasizes the importance of preserving natural history collections for future research.

With jackals becoming a regular sight in urban areas, it remains crucial for wildlife and municipal authorities to educate the public about the risks of approaching or feeding these animals.

Tel Aviv's fisher jackals

BY AVI KUMAR

(JNS) – As one enters Tel Aviv's Yarkon Park, a haven for nature lovers in the heart of a bustling city, flocks of parrots swarm into the sky. Ducks and other aquatic birds swim in a pond across the viewing platform. During a recent visit by JNS, however, another animal also put in an appearance. Suddenly, a jackal appeared out of the bushes, plunged into the cold water and scooped up a fish.

"They are opportunistic feeders – they can eat anything," according to Yaron Dekel, scientific director of the Shamir Research Institute. "This is why they do so well."

The golden jackal (*canis aureus*) is a very widespread animal, with a range spanning across much of the Middle East, South Asia and parts of southern Europe, including the Balkans.

Local wildlife enthusiast Dorcas Aharon told JNS that she has seen jackals not only hunting



Jackal pups in Tel Aviv's Yarkon Park. (Photo by Bar Aharon)

fish, but also chasing water birds in the park. She also noted that they chew on the bamboo that grows in the pond's vicinity.

Other packs in the same park, which survive more off of garbage, "look less healthy," she said.

Jackals are highly territorial, said Dekel. "One

pack has the area with the water and the other doesn't approach it." He noted that the swimming behavior was probably "handed down from experience." Jackal pups learn from adults, he said, adding, "If they succeeded in getting food by doing this, it [the learned behavior] stays in the family."

Dekel pointed out that the artificial Yarkon pond may be more feasible as a fishing site than a natural pond, as its fish have been "introduced" in high numbers and the water is relatively shallow compared to a more natural setting.

However, he noted that jackals have also been seen catching fish and other aquatic prey in the Golan Heights in northern Israel. The jackal diet comprises a myriad of prey animals, including frogs, rodents, freshwater crabs and birds. They also consume fruit, berries and vegetable matter.

Dekel suggested that the jackal's ability to live off garbage has worked in its favour. "The jackal population is exploding because they are not afraid to stay near human settlement," he said.

A similar "rapid habitat expansion" phenomenon is also currently occurring in Europe, he said.

Israel once had brown bears, lions, leopards and wolves – all of which are mentioned in the Bible. Of these apex predators, only the wolf still exists in the wild, but its range is greatly reduced nowadays.

The jackal, too, is mentioned in the Bible. In Jeremiah 9:11, God says, "I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, a haunt of jackals; and I will lay waste the towns of Judah so no one can live

See "Jackals" on page 11



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The Reporter
Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

The songs that the world needs now

BY ELANA SHAP

(ISRAELI21c)—It’s no longer a novelty for Israeli performers, especially those with family roots in Arab countries, to switch between Hebrew and Arabic in what is predominantly Mizrahi-style music. Eytan Peled is distinctly different.

The 26-year-old singer-songwriter transitions flawlessly between English, Arabic and Hebrew, in genres that range from indie to R&B, rock and hip-hop. Not quite mainstream, but still appealing to a large audience.

Peled’s 2020 debut single, “Where Are the Days,” reached the top of the Israeli charts and was the most streamed song on Spotify in Israel. He also received the accolade of Breakout Artist of the Year from popular Israeli radio station Galgalatz.

“This song is just what the world needs. Eytan keeps breaking borders and connecting people with his music and energy,” summed up one fan on Peled’s YouTube channel.

Born to an Israeli father and an American mother, the 26-year-old lived in Boston until the age of 8, after which the family commuted between Israel and the United States until settling in Ra’anana when he reached high school.

“My dad always tried to instill Israeli culture into us and we would listen to IDF bands and Yoram Gaon. It gave me a strong connection,”

Jackals. . . . Continued from page 10 there.” In this verse, they are associated with death and calamity.

In some European translations, the Hebrew word for “jackal” was translated as “fox” – a more familiar canine to some Europeans. Outside of Jewish lore, the jackal is renowned as a trickster figure across many cultures, including in the Jataka Tales of India. In North America, the coyote fills a similar niche – both as a garbage scavenger and the trickster in Native American mythology.

In 2015, a DNA study concluded that the African golden jackal subspecies was actually a wolf. It was subsequently reclassified. Eli Geffen, an Israeli behavioral ecologist at Tel Aviv University, was involved in the research.

The jackal’s incredible adaptability has been well documented throughout history, from ancient texts to modern science.

There are signs dotting the Yarkon park warning visitors of the wily predator’s presence.

Dekel believes that jackals are now adapting to life in close proximity to humans. “We are witnessing a process of self-domestication,” he said.

Peled tells ISRAEL21c.

In high school, Peled chose to major in Arabic due to a love of languages and the culture that comes with it. This led him to serve in elite intelligence unit 8200, where he “spent from morning till late at night immersed in studying the Arabic language.”

Real cultural immersion only came after he completed his service and moved to Julis, a Druze village in the Western Galilee, to work with Druze and Jewish 18-year-olds on a joint pre-army program (*Mechina*).

“Actually living inside an Arabic-speaking village helped my language ability and made speaking it very natural for me,” says Peled.

Another discovery was learning more about the Koran and Islam, and this led to his formulating the messages that underlie his music: “Our religions share 70 percent of the same story. We think we are so different, but we are not. I believe that through language we can create an emotional bridge to connect our cultures and break stereotypes that exist in Israeli society and other parts of the world.”

How to keep traditions alive while living in a modern culture is a subject he examines in his most recent single, “Sakatna” (“Falling”). “Sakatna” was produced by Stav Berger, who works with top Israeli performers such as Omer Adam, Muki and Idan Raichel, and was behind “Toy,” Netta Barzilai’s winning song at the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest.

“It was a dream to work with Stav. He believed in me and I think we created special music together,” Peled says.

The “Sakatna” clip opens with a figure bowing down on a prayer mat and then dancing with headphones, dressed in a Bedouin-style galabia

with a non-customary bright turquoise pattern. This leads to a desert scene where he dances hip-hop style as three other more dancers do the debka, a traditional Arab dance.

“We were so lucky that after putting out the ad for an actor for the clip, the first person to answer was a 21-year-old Bedouin hip-hop dancer. I was very inspired by him because he epitomizes the meaning of the song. It really touched a lot of people, even in Egypt, Yemen and Tunisia.”

Peled was speaking to ISRAEL21c while in Los Angeles, his third LA visit in the last few months. “The opportunities here are crazy,” he says in our Zoom interview, which takes place partly in his car between meetings. He is here to collaborate with LA-based Indie singer and songwriter NO/ME and his agent has also set up a pitch for a video game soundtrack.

Back in Israel, the last three years since his debut have been just as hectic. Peled is in demand as an English songwriter by major local artists who want to penetrate the international music scene.

He wrote the song for Mergui’s debut abroad and works with Noa Kirel, who has signed with Atlantic Records and represented Israel at this year’s Eurovision, where she came in third place. Then there are collaborations with Skazi, one of the leading names in the electronic dance and trance music scene, and with DJ WhiteNoise.

Despite the variety of projects he is involved in there is one common thread, Peled maintains. “Music is a therapeutic process. There are real emotions and what I want is that my music is always real.”

Gate. Continued from page 8

walls, stones had to be brought from a distance, mud bricks had to be manufactured and the fortification walls had to be constructed. This was not achieved by one or a few individuals. The fortification system is evidence of social organization that represents the beginning of urbanization.”

Tel Erani is a 150 dunam (37 acre) site whose origins are associated with the ancient Philistines. The city, located on the present day outskirts of Kiryat Gat, was destroyed in the sixth century B.C.E., presumably by the Babylonians.

“The tel site was part of a large and important settlement system in the southwestern area of

the country in this period,” explained Yitzhak Paz, a IAA specialist in the Early Bronze Age. “Within this system we can identify the first signs of the urbanization process, including settlement planning, social stratification, and public building. The newly uncovered gate is an important discovery that affects the dating of the beginning of the urbanization process in the country.”

Paz said that previous excavations suggested urbanization began at the end of the fourth millennium B.C.E., “but the excavations carried out at Tel Erani have now shown that this process began even earlier, in the last third of the fourth millennium B.C.E.”

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Israeli computational model promises gene-based breast cancer screening

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Tel Aviv University researchers recently announced the development of a computational model to predict increased genetic risk for breast cancer. The model will enable, for the first time in Israel, the determination of a personal genetic risk score for breast cancer based on an individual’s genetic profile.

The technique, which could form the basis for the implementation of a personalized early detection policy, may save lives and enable a more efficient use of the health system’s resources, the university said in a press release.

The research, which was published in the Journal of Medical Genetics., was based on a large-scale international study that included the

genomic data of about a quarter of a million women with and without breast cancer, and applied its findings to about 2,000 Israeli women.

“Our method will allow the health system to move to a personalized early detection policy... those who are identified as being at high risk will be tested from a younger age and more frequently,” said professor Rani Elkouf of the Department

of Human Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry at TAU’s School of Medicine.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women around the world, after lung cancer. While steadily on the decline over the last several decades, the chances are that one in 39 women, or 2.5 percent, will succumb to the disease.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Vatican beatifies Polish family killed for protecting Jews during the Holocaust

On Sept. 13, 1995, Yad Vashem recognized Józef and Wiktoria Ulma – a Polish couple who hid eight Jews during the Holocaust – as among the Righteous Among the Nations. Now, the Vatican has beatified the Ulmas, as well as their six children and unborn child. In the Roman Catholic Church, the canonization process by which someone is deemed a saint involves three steps. After beatification – the second step – the person is called “blessed.” To be canonized, someone must have performed a verified miracle. Marcello Cardinal Semeraro, a papal envoy, said the Polish family performed a “gesture of hospitality and care, of mercy” and “paid the highest price of martyrdom,” the Associated Press reported. The Ulmas “represented a ray of light in the darkness,” Pope Francis said in a public address. “On the night of March 23-24, 1944, German police came to Markowa from Lancut. They found the Jews on the Ulma farm and shot them to death,” Yad Vashem states. “Afterwards, they murdered the entire Ulma family – Józef, Wiktoria, who was nine months pregnant,

and their six small children, Stanisława, Barbara, Władysława, Franciszka, Maria and Antoni.” Polish President Andrzej Duda and Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki attended the beatification ceremony, as did Chabad Rabbi Michael Schudrich, chief rabbi of Poland.

Israel predicts 1.3 million electric vehicles by ‘30

Israel’s Energy and Infrastructure Ministry said on Sept. 12 that there will be 1.3 million electric vehicles on the country’s roads by 2030. This would represent an increase of more than 1.2 million in just seven years; there are 70,000 electric vehicles in the country today, representing less than 2 percent of all cars on the road. By 2050, the government wants all six million private vehicles in Israel to be electric. According to the forecast, by 2030 the number of battery-powered buses is expected to increase to around 8,000, representing about 35 percent of the entire bus fleet. By 2050, the entire fleet is to be converted to electric or hydrogen. The announcement comes ahead of November’s U.N. climate conference in Dubai, Nov. 30-Dec. 12 which will see the largest ever Israeli delegation to the annual event. The 1,000-strong delegation will include representatives of more than 100 climate tech companies.

The Reporter
Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania



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The Federation is asking members of its communities to support its “Friends of The Reporter” Campaign which seeks to raise \$5,000 to assist in funding the newspaper.

The newspaper is delivered monthly to each and every identifiable Jewish home in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Reporter is the primary intercommunal newspaper of the Jewish communities of Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties. Supplementing synagogue newsletters, bulletins and e-mails, *The Reporter* is issued to hundreds of Jewish households throughout our region. Over the past several years, the publishing cost of the newspaper has increased dramatically although the newspaper continues to be provided at no charge to members of our Jewish communities in northeastern Pennsylvania. The Federation has assumed the financial responsibility of funding the newspaper at a cost of \$23,990 per year and asks only that its readers assist it in raising \$5,000 as part of its “Friends of The Reporter” Campaign to offset a small share of these expenses.

We would be grateful if you would care enough to take the time to make a donation for our efforts in bringing *The Reporter* to your door.

As always, your comments, opinions & suggestions are always welcome.

With best wishes,
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