

# Whitestone Hebrew Centre Bulletin

12-45 Clintonville St. Whitestone, NY 11357



## שלום

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Volume XXXI No. 4 January - February 2022 Tevet - Adar I 5782

### President's Message

Dear Friends and Fellow Congregants,  
In an extremely trying time, those of us who are blessed to see the beginning of a secular New Year could hardly be faulted for trying not to dwell on ..what's around the corner? The World – we had always thought relatively stable seems to constantly shift under our feet, and keeping balance from day to day seems a noteworthy triumph. Nevertheless – we have our cultural anchors and the shared ritual that accompanies them. As Jews we have a unique opportunity to augment the Solar New Year with our own heritage. This is the time of year many of us turn our attention to one of the most prominent repetitive incongruities of life as Jews in modern America - the concept of dual New Year celebrations. While the rest of the planet (ourselves as well) will be occupied ringing in 2022 (in a responsible manner of course), we also have the opportunity to use this season as a time of reflection and consideration of what we owe G-d. Many people do not consider it at all a discrepancy to celebrate Rosh Hashanah in the fall - then secular New Year in the winter - it's something we take for granted. But to me it illustrates how one may comfortably straddle both worlds at once. Over the years I've shared my own views on faith and what we "owe" HaShem. We are now looking forward to a new (secular) year that – while not having the built in Holiness of

our High Holidays, it does afford a chance to recalibrate the Relationship. Why not start by committing yourself to one or two Shabbats Friday night and/or Saturday morning (to start) per month. Times being what they are we are here live but also offer participation via Zoom. A mystery to me is why more of us don't take advantage of the great resource we have in Rabbi Axelman and participate in the Judaism 101 classes (currently held on Zoom) Monday evenings at 7P - any topic is up for consideration and no question is considered foolish (a warning however that not only might your question have more than one answer – it would most likely open the door to a good handful of additional questions). As I've said often in the past, the main purpose of the WHC is to provide a place where the community may come together (in person or virtually) to observe the ritual based commandments of our faith. How much we demand of ourselves for the sake of ritual observance is a deeply personal decision I would not presume to lecture anyone about. It's an agreement between each person and our Creator. You are more than welcome to be a part of this, and we hope you decide to join us in whatever manner you feel most comfortable. Please accept my simple hope for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2022.

B'shalom  
Bruce Berenson

### Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, February 22nd -- 7:30 PM  
(Meeting will be streamed on Zoom)





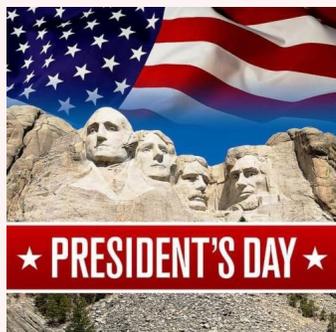
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February 21st

### WHC ADMINISTRATION

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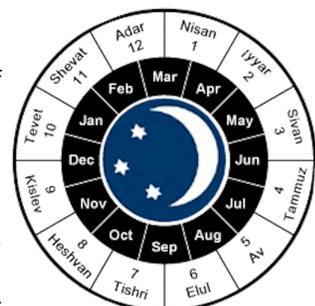


### FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

As I'm sure everyone is aware, Chanuka was very "early" this year, beginning the weekend of Thanksgiving. So obviously, without some type of adjustment, Purim and Pesach would also come very early this year. Yet the calendar has Purim on March 17<sup>th</sup>, much later than 2021's February 26<sup>th</sup> date. Why does this happen? It all relates to the way we Jews traditionally look at the calendar year and months vs. the way the Christian world does. (The Muslim calendar seems to have more in common with the Jewish one, but I claim no expertise in that area.)

Unlike the Gregorian/secular calendar which is based on the solar year, the Jewish month is based on the lunar cycle. Twelve months on the lunar cycle, based on the moon circling the earth every 29.5 days, add up to 354 days, eleven fewer than the regular year. (For the astronomers among us who know that the moon orbits the earth every 27.3 days, I refer you to [starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/questions/question32.html](http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/questions/question32.html) for a brief explanation of Sidereal Period versus Synodic Period.) Without an adjustment to the Jewish calendar, every year each Jewish holiday would fall eleven days earlier on the secular calendar. Eventually Rosh Hashana would fall in the middle of summer and Pesach would fall in the winter. Since the Torah specifically states that Pesach is the holiday of the spring, the Jewish calendar makes that happen by periodically adding a second Adar to the

Jewish Calendar. In every cycle of nineteen years, there are seven leap years. Every nineteen years the two calendars coincide either exactly or one day apart and then the cycle starts again. Practically speaking, since most of my life I celebrated both my Jewish and secular birthdays, eighteen out of every nineteen years I had two birthdays per year. For the purposes of most people, this extra month affects the dates of yahrzeits and Bar-Mitzvahs. For example, if someone dies in a non-leap year in the month of Adar, there is a dispute over when to observe that yahrzeit in a leap year. (Some do have a custom to light a candle in both Adars.) An early Purim, as in 2021, occurs before Daylight Savings Time begins. This year, Daylight Savings Time will begin just before Purim. This makes nightfall much later and for those who are careful about reading the Megilla on Purim, rather than before Purim, this must begin later in the evening. For discussion and questions about this issue (or other Judaism related issues), please join us for Judaism 101, currently being held Monday nights at 7:00 on zoom.



# SISTERHOOD

## Sisterhood Message

As we enter the winter months, I hope everyone is staying warm, well and safe. Please do a mitzvah and call our senior members to ask if they need anything or just to chat for a while. Hearing a friendly voice will lift their spirits. Remember to place your orders for Shalach Manot. Please see the enclosed flier for more details.

Naomi Gukowsky  
Sisterhood President

## January Happy Birthdays



Faye Mandel	Frank Smith
Mark Safran	Jared Young
Peter Skow	

## February Happy Birthdays

Benjamin Mandel

### **Prayer Book Fund - December 2021**

Inscribed Prayer Book in memory of Dorothy Schneider  
- Dr. Sol Wald and Dr. Brenda Dressler

Inscribed Prayer Book in memory of Shirley Safran  
- Sisterhood WHC  
- Patricia Smolker

### **Prayer Book Fund - January 2022**

In memory of Shirley Safran  
- Linda Pereira

\*Editor's note: If your birthday should be listed on this page and is not, please call the office at (718) 767-1500 and give us your date of birth. Thank you.

## Condolences

To the family of Shirley Safran on their loss

המקום ינחם אתכם  
בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

May her memory be a blessing

### **Simcha Fund - December 2021**

Happy Birthday to Frank Smith, the eternal youngster  
- Shirley Smith and Family

## **Making Contributions**

For many years Sisterhood has offered the service of sending cards from all those who wish to acknowledge both Simchas and Condolences. The response from the recipients is most heart warming. The following funds are available:

Simcha Fund .....	\$10
Chai Fund .....	\$18
Prayer Book Fund .....	\$10
Inscribed Prayer Books .....	\$25

The recipient receives an acknowledgement of the contribution and it is printed in the monthly Bulletin, so all can share the feelings expressed. To place orders, call Patricia Smolker at (718) 746-7068.

Checks for the above funds should be made payable to "Sisterhood of WHC".



Monday January 17th



Recent positive news generated by Israel, of which we can all be proud.  
(Articles below are excerpts of originals only)



### Israel's Aid Program to US in 2022

December 29, 2021

[JewishPress.com](http://JewishPress.com)



As 2022 begins, Israel is the most critical partner of the US in sustaining its edge over China, Russia, Europe and Japan in the development and manufacturing of game-changing commercial and military technologies.

In 2022, with merely 0.11% of the global population, Israel will remain second only to – and closely collaborating with – the US as far as the development of ground-breaking hightech innovations. Moreover, Israel's brainpower has attracted 20% of the global investment in cyber technologies, while the number Israel's Artificial Intelligence (AI) startups account to some 20% of the global total. In 2022, Israel will be second only to the US in the development and manufacturing of commercial, military and dual-use intelligence technologies and systems (e.g., remote-control jammers, counter-IED and booby-trap measures, remote-control explosives neutralization, electronic warfare and electromagnetic spectrum). In fact, around 60% of Israeli-developed intelligence and counter-terrorism systems have reached the US through joint ventures with leading US manufacturers, US-owned research and development centers in Israel, and US acquisitions from Israeli manufacturers. For example, hacking into the iPhone of the San Bernardino Islamic terrorist (who murdered 14 people at a Christmas celebration in December 2015) was facilitated by an Israeli mobile forensic technology used by the FBI. Also, the 2006 killing of the top al-Qaeda terrorist in Iraq, al-Zarqawi, was facilitated by the Israeli-developed and manufactured ("Rafael Armament Development Authority") Litening infrared targeting and navigation pod, installed on a US Air Force F-16. In 2022, the US (mostly) and Israel will remain the global co-leaders in the development and manufacturing of mini-size, small-size and medium-size satellites, as well as surveillance and strike-role

unmanned aerial vehicles. In 2022, the US and Israel will continue to expand air, naval and ground forces joint maneuvers, training and visitations, leveraging Israel's unique battlefield experience in combatting Palestinian and Islamic terrorism and facing Russian and Iranian military systems (e.g., battle tactics formulation; acquaintance with Soviet/Russian battle tactics and military systems such as radar, surface-to-air missiles, combat aircraft and tanks). For instance, unprecedented air-defense cooperation has evolved between the US and Israeli air forces in response to rising mutual threats, such as Iran, in general, and Iran's attack drones and ballistic missiles, in particular. In 2022, the US will persist in leveraging Israel's vast experience in securing the safety of commercial airports and airline passengers. In 2022, unlike all Arab countries, Israel will still be the only stable, reliable, effective, technologically-advanced, democratic and unconditional ally of the US in the Middle East. Israel will continue serving as the most effective platform for the repositioning of US military systems, medical supplies and ammunition in a critical region between Europe-Asia-Africa and the Mediterranean-Red Sea-Gulf of Aden-Indian Ocean-Arabian Sea-Persian Gulf. In 2022, Israel will persist being the most effective battle-tested laboratory (and a mega-billion-dollar bonanza) for the US defense industries and armed-forces, and a second-to-none source of military intelligence to the US, foiling anti-US Islamic terrorism and enhancing the performance of the US national security agencies. In 2022, some 250 US high-tech giants will continue to maintain – and expand – their research and development centers in Israel, leveraging Israel's brain power. It has enhanced the competitiveness of the US industry in the global market, saving billions of dollars in research and development, while increasing US exports and expanding US employment.

### Israeli Parkinson's treatment shows positive results, eyes FDA approval

December 21, 2021

[jpost.com](http://jpost.com)

An Israeli therapeutics company has announced that its Phase III trial of a drug to treat early Parkinson's disease (PD) has successfully met its primary and key secondary endpoints and can now prepare for regulatory approval by the US Food and Drug Administration. "There is a clear unmet medical need for an early PD treatment that can significantly improve motor symptoms and daily function while avoiding side effects," she

said. People with early-stage PD usually suffer from tremors, slowness of movement and challenges with their agility. The disease generally starts on one side of the body and eventually travels to the other side. Over time, PD affects balance and posture.



Continued on next page

## Israeli Innovators Improve Lives of Disabled People in Ways Never Imagined

By Pesach Benson Dec 13, 2021

[unitedwithisrael.org](http://unitedwithisrael.org)



An international movement based in Tel Aviv is bringing innovation to people with disabilities. Shani Sigman, a five-year-old girl with cerebral palsy, wanted to draw and paint, but lack of strength and dexterity in her hand made this activity too difficult. Fortunately, Tikkun Olam Makers, a Tel Aviv-based nonprofit, organized a hackathon where a special prosthesis was designed. In most circumstances, this would be a happy ending. But for Tikkun Olam Maker's founder, Gidi Grinstein, that prosthesis — and other devices developed by the organization's volunteers — is part of a bigger plan. Tikkun Olam Makers (or TOM for short) wants to help 250 million people with disabilities by creating a library of plans for 2,500 products with instructions on how to achieve this goal.

"Now, someone else in the world with the same disability can search and see if the library has a solution to their problem. They can take the product portfolio to a maker, paid or volunteer, where they live, and that person can make it,"

Grinstein told Globes. At a ceremony held in Dubai, TOM honored its volunteers with awards for the best inventions. The three grand prize winners were:

- A portable adaptive toilet designed by volunteers in the US for a 16-year-old with disabilities. The device allows the boy to travel more independently.
- A device that raises and lowers a "talker tablet" for a woman who wanted to more independently use a voice-control mechanism to control her wheelchair. This was designed by Spanish and German volunteers.
- Shani's prosthetic, which was developed by Israeli volunteers.

"It feels great to know that their lives are so much easier; it's so rewarding," Noam Platt, a New Orleans volunteer who helped develop the adaptive toilet told the Jerusalem Post. "Being a fully able body is a transient state. Everybody at some point in their lives will experience disability, be it through injury or age. Everyone will need products like this."

## Israeli Firm Uses Air and Water to Store Solar Energy for Nighttime

December 13, 2021

[theepochtimes.com](http://theepochtimes.com)

**KIBBUTZ YAHIEL, ISRAEL**—The southern tip of Israel is a rocky desert where solar panels are abundant and the sun, when shining, is the source of nearly all electricity. Once it sets, however, the grid shifts back to fossil fuels to generate power. Renewable energy from solar and wind powered systems cannot be stored without extra cost. But at Kibbutz Yahel, a small community not far from the Red Sea where a sweet variety of dates called Medjool is grown, residents have started using a new technology that can store solar energy cheaply and produce power well into the night. During the day, excess energy from solar panels drive a system where

water is used to condense air in underground tanks. After sundown that air is released to power a turbine and generate electricity. And the cycle repeats in the morning. "Other kibbutzim are waiting and watching to see if this works, and certainly it could become the green energy storage solution for the area," said Yossi Amiel, Yahel's business manager. The system was developed by Augwind Energy, a company traded in Tel Aviv with a market cap of 1.2 billion shekels (\$386 million).



## Outsmarting the Hackers: Israeli Techies Make Online Shopping, Banking Safer

By Abigail Klein Leichman December 13, 2021

[unitedwithisrael.org](http://unitedwithisrael.org)

Banking and shopping online have never been more popular, thanks to the worldwide pandemic and the convenience of accomplishing these tasks 24/7 from home. Unfortunately, the rise in transactions has come with an unwelcome companion: a rise in fraud. Online fraud includes false or illegal transactions using stolen payment or identity information. There's also "friendly fraud," where a customer instructs the payment provider to cancel payment on a received item or service, resulting in costly chargebacks to the merchant. Several Israeli companies have developed sophisticated antifraud technologies to protect both sides and simplify weeding out bad actors. Here we review four of them. **RISKIFIED** — Last year, friendly fraud cost merchants some \$125 billion. Eido Gal and Assaf Feldman founded Riskified in 2013, offering a unique chargeback guarantee. Today it works with three of the 10 largest ecommerce companies and has processed more than a billion orders. "

**JUSTT** — Founded in 2019 as AcroCharge, Justt uses machine learning and domain-specific technology to flag incorrect

chargebacks and builds tailored solutions to gather and submit evidence on merchants' behalf.

**BIOCATCH** — Cybercriminals increasingly try to bilk the elderly out of their life savings, taking advantage of seniors' lower level of digital savvy. After determining that 40% of confirmed fraudulent credit-card applications involved a person with a declared age of 60 or older, BioCatch recently launched its Age Analysis fraud-prevention solution for over 50 big financial institutions. BioCatch was founded in 2011 based on military machine-learning technology to authenticate identities using behavioral biometrics — how you type, move the mouse or handle your smartphone. Even small differences in behavior suggest that a hacker, not the account holder, is at the keyboard. Knowing that typical cybercriminals are much younger

**IDENTIQ** — Identiq was established in 2018 with the idea of creating a peer-to-peer network that allows merchants to validate the identities of new users.



## Thank you for Donations -- November and December 2021

### Yahrzeit

Spencer & Audrey Albert  
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### General Donations

#### **In memory of Nechama Greenfield (mother of Rabbi Axelman)**

Curtis and Allison Faver

#### **End of year donation**

Ellis Rosenblatt

#### **In memory of Shirley Safran**

Mark Safran

**Donations to Rabbi's Discretionary Fund  
 in memory of Nechama Greenfield,  
 Dorothy Schneider and Shirley Safran**  
 Ellis Rosenblatt

#### **In honor of Rebbetzin Sharon for her selfless work preparing kiddush following services**

Arthur Isman



### **WHC BULLETIN BY EMAIL!**



If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, in addition to the printed version, please send your email address to [haxelman@gmail.com](mailto:haxelman@gmail.com) and let us know. The email version appears in color and will reach you several days before the hard copy. Thank you!

### SCHEDULE OF WHC CLASSES

(led by Rabbi Axelman)

**Sundays @ Time TBA -- Talmud Class**

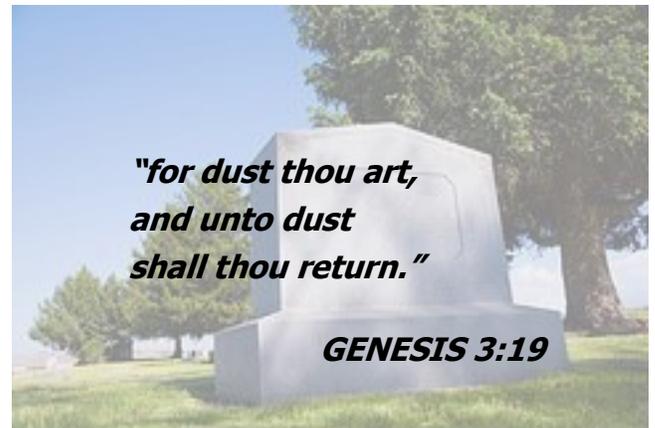
**Mondays @ 7:00 PM -- Judaism 101  
Explore Your Questions**



Please check our website for updated days and times of classes.  
Currently classes are being streamed on zoom and not being held in person.

### Whitestone Hebrew Centre Congregational Cemetery

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