

**New Israeli Military Chief Aviv Kochavi**

Kochavi was promoted from deputy chief of staff by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a ceremony at the Israeli army headquarters in Tel Aviv, also attended by Eisenkot.

Kochavi, born in 1964, grew up in Kiryat Bialik in northern Israel. Kochavi studied Philosophy at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Public Administration at Harvard and International Relations at Johns Hopkins. He's the first vegetarian chief of.

Departing Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot also made an address in which he spoke of preparedness: "During my service I saw it as a duty to fill out many tasks and to make every effort to return my soldiers home safely. Out of this responsibility I placed my goals as chief of staff and in light of this, I am looking at the army I leave behind me and see that it is a fit, prepared and powerful military that has grown stronger in wisdom and determination, an army that initiated and struck on four different arenas and has proved that victory is a significant value.



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**The General Coming to End the Netanyahu Era**

Former Israeli military chief has emerged as a leading challenger to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and is touting his security credentials to launch his political campaign ahead of April elections.

On Tuesday, January 29th, Benny Gantz formally launched his candidacy for Israel's premiership and unveiled his newly formed party's political platform.

Describing himself politically as on neither the right nor the left, he called for strong military responses to threats Israel faces on its borders and pledged to seek peace with the Palestinians, even if the chances are remote.

He vowed to do more to address a variety of social problems in Israel, including increased polarization, the high cost of living, health care, transportation and education. "If it turns out that there is no way to reach peace at this time, we will shape a new reality," he said. "Even if we cannot make peace with our neighbors, we will work hard and reach peace within ourselves."

On other issues, Mr. Gantz staked out mainstream positions: he vowed to preserve Jerusalem as Israel's capital, which much of the international community doesn't recognize; maintain sovereignty over the disputed Golan Heights; and keep intact existing settlement blocs in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

He criticized Mr. Netanyahu and his government in the speech, faulting the premier for weakening Israel's institutions and using the office to his advantage. "The current regime encourages incitement, subversion and hatred. The basic values of Israeli statehood have been converted into the mannerisms of a French royal house," Mr. Gantz said.

Mr. Gantz on Tuesday announced that his party would run together with that of a former Likud defense minister Moshe Yaalon, who is also a former army chief of staff and vowed to join forces with others in the future.

**Did you know?**

Israel is the only country in the world where the number of trees is increasing. Is it thanks to Tu Bishvat?

## Musicians with disabilities win auditions on 'Rising Star'

The Shalva Band, from Jerusalem's Shalva National Center, makes it to the semifinal on the reality singing TV show.

The Shalva Band, comprised primarily of eight musicians with disabilities, captivated judges during its auditions for "Rising Star," the Israeli reality singing competition TV show produced by Keshet.


The band is hoping to win in "Rising Star" show and represent Israel in the Eurovision contest which will happen in May 2019 in Tel Aviv.

Last year Netta Barzilai won "Rising Star" and won the Eurovision contest with the song "Toy"

The band was founded 12 years ago by Shai Ben Shushan, a drummer who sustained a head injury in Special Forces combat service.

After recovering, Ben Shushan volunteered with Shalva, a Jerusalem organization that provides a range of services to



Follow "The Shalva Band" on  to hear their songs

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## Blintzes for Shabbat:

### **You will need –**

- 2 Eggs
- 1 Spoon of sugar
- 1 Teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 2 TBSP of butter (melted)
- 1 Cup of milk
- 1 Cup of flour
- ¼ Teaspoon of salt
- Oil

### **For the stuffing:**

- 3.5 Cups of Ricotta
- 1/2 Cup (minus 1 spoon) of sugar
- 1 Teaspoon of cinnamon

### **How to make it –**

1. Make the stuffing first – mix all the ingredients and put in the fridge.
2. Mix – eggs, sugar, vanilla extract, butter and milk
3. Add flour and salt and mix until there are no lumps
4. Fry for about two minutes and turn the blintzes
5. Place aside until it's fully cold
6. Put the on the blintzes, fold the sides and roll.



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*Shlichim at Congregation Har Shalom*

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