



WHAT'S IN THE NEWS



Election Results

The Israeli elections took place in early March with eight parties passing the election threshold (there have been 12 and 13 parties in previous Knessets). The leading party, with 36 seats is Likud. Blue and White follows with 33 and the Joint Arab List comes in third with 15. The Ultra-Orthodox party, Shas, received 9 seats. The Ashkenazi Ultra-Orthodox party, Israel Our Home (headed by Avigdor Liberman), and the left wing coalition parties each received 7 seats, with the religious right wing party 'Yamina' receiving 6 seats.

As the Israeli government is making agreements and new developments surface, the Coronavirus has become the main headline in Israel. Israel has taken strict measures as the virus has spread. Israel experienced the first death of someone from the coronavirus on March 21st, an 88-year-old male who was also a Holocaust survivor. There are more than 3,000 individuals in Israel with confirmed cases of coronavirus as of March 27th.

As both of these subjects develop on a daily and hourly basis, I hope to share more information in the April edition. I am happy to answer any questions you may have about the current situation.

THIS MONTH IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY

March 10, 1949

"The Ink Flag," (Degel Ha'dyo) was raised in Um El Rash-Rash, which is in Eilat of today, marking the end of the Israel Independence War and its final operation, "The Uvda Operation."



The operation began on March 5th and its purpose was to conquer the Negev prior to signing cease-fire agreements with Jordan. The commander, Nachum Sarig, realized that his brigade did not have an Israeli flag and ordered his soldiers to make one. Using a white sheet and ink, the soldiers created their own flag. This picture has become iconic and marked for Israeli society the end of the Independence War, as well as Israel's victory. The Eilat municipality created a statue replicating the iconic photo.

EXPLORE ISRAEL

The First Train Station in Jerusalem



The Ottoman empire established a train station in Jerusalem in 1892. It was the first station that ended in Jaffa. The train stopped running in 1948 because of Israel's Independence War, as some of the tracks were under Jordanian authority. The train station was officially closed in 1998, with barbed wire causing the location to be neglected.

In 2012 renovations began in the first station, and it was reopened in 2013. The area is currently a deck filled with restaurants and shops, as well as singing and dancing events. It has an additional hangar that periodically has events like 'Ice city' or Israel's national book fair. This location is also unique as events and some shops are open also on Shabbat, making it a space for the gathering of the secular community on Shabbat.

HEBREW SLANG

חופר/חופרת

Literal meaning – to dig

Actual Usage – speaks a lot, probably way too much

Someone could say: “That Netta, she is such a choferet!”

GUESS THE PHOTO

Last Month's Photo

The woman on the left of the picture is Or Cohen, the Shlichah from Rhode Island who is the first female commander on a combat vessel, who unfortunately could not come to our synagogue as a result of restrictions from the coronavirus. We hope to reschedule her visit in the future. The other two women are from her course who are also ‘first women’ in their positions- the middle is Omer Chacham, the first woman to be a commander of a missile boat of Sa’ar 5, and the right is Yarden Salman, the first woman to receive the excellency award in the naval officer’s course.

This Month's Photo

Where am I? What is happening next month that I chose this photo?



Answers can be sent to netta@bnaiisraelcong.org.

Netta Asner
Congregational Shlichah
240-221-2504
netta@bnaiisraelcong.org



The congregational shlichah program is made possible by a partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

ISRAELI SOCIETY

I have just completed this book by David Zoldan, *Shades of Israeli Society*. In honor of that, I have created a new section in which I will describe a different group in Israeli society.



The New Haredis make up about 70,000 individuals of the Ultra-Orthodox society (1,080,000). The majority are young and are characterized by being more modern, while maintaining their strong connection to Orthodoxy. They remain in the traditional Orthodox garb but serve in the IDF, engage in academic studies, and join the work force. In addition, they seek cultural outings for their families that are appropriate for their lifestyle. However, they face many difficulties as the traditional Ultra-Orthodox society does not accept them, and others still associate them with Ultra-Orthodox society. The New Haredis symbolize the change occurring among the young population in Ultra-Orthodox society.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Morning Ivrit (Hebrew)

Tuesday, March 31, 9:30 AM

20 minutes of Hebrew vocab for kids but open to adults too!

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/872256498>

My IDF Service: Combat Service

Thursday, April 2, 1:00 PM (Female Combat Soldier)

Monday, April 6, 1:00 PM

Join our *Shlichah* for weekly interviews with former soldiers from different units in the IDF towards Israel's national Memorial Day which will occur 2 weeks after Passover.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/777606378>

From International to National: Holocaust Memory in Israel and America

Thursday, April 22, 7:30 PM

Join our *shlichah*, Netta Asner, for a conversation about Holocaust thought and discussion in American and Israeli cultures. There will be discussions about Holocaust survivors writings such as Primo Levi, Elie Wiesel, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau etc., and their portrayal in both cultures.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/772508337>

Meeting ID: 772 508 337

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,772508337# US (New York)

Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Please check the website for information on upcoming events such as Zikaron Basalon and Yom HaAtzmaut.

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/joinvirtually