



SEMMOZE NEWS

Issue 22

Fall, 2011

Did You Know?

- There are now over 2.8 million Muslims living in the United Kingdom – which is 5% of the population.
- During WWII, the highest number of people who risked their lives to save Jewish people were the citizens of Poland. Over 6,266 non-Jewish Poles have been awarded by *Yad Vashem* - the Righteous Among the Nations award.
- The world's longest piece of matzah (25 ft. long), equal to 336 matzah squares, was created in NJ recently by the Manischewitz Co. to celebrate the opening of its new headquarters.

The Call of the Shofar

by Rabbi Ron

Several years ago, as I was preparing to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, I noticed that my shofar was smelling pretty bad. Taking my shofar along with me, I went to the store to purchase some alcohol to clean it. As I was walking through the parking lot towards the store, I decided to blow my shofar. I love the sound of the shofar because it always seems to grab someone's attention.



To my surprise, as soon as I blew my shofar, an amazing thing happened: a woman, hearing the sound, stopped dead in her tracks! She then turned around, searching for where the sound was coming. When she saw it was me, she ran over, stopped a few feet in front of me and asked, "When is Rosh Hashanah? I need to make sure I attend services!" After I told her, she immediately

then took off without saying another word!

Many Jewish people do not attend services (shul) weekly. But every year, many Jews feel an obligation, or perhaps a need, to attend services for the High Holy Days. Likewise, throughout the year, many Jews also do not think much about sin. However,

when the Shofar blasts on Rosh Hashanah, something within them awakens. The blowing of the shofar is one way that God has used to get our attention all throughout history. Consider the following Scriptures found in the Tenach:

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a shofar, and declare unto My people their transgression, and to the house of Jacob their sins." (Isaiah 58:1)

"Blow the shofar in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly; ... Let the priests, the ministers of the

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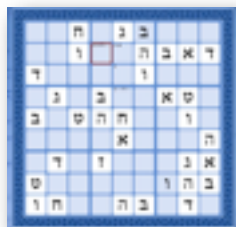
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ISRAEL21c is a non-profit educational foundation which reports on Israeli innovations which add value to the world through efforts in health, technology, culture, and 21st century technologies. (Israel21c.com)

Judoku app Released for iPad

(JTA) Judoku, a Jewish version of Sudoku, has been released as an application for the iPad. The game uses Jewish symbols such as a Star of David and shofar, or



letters of the Hebrew alphabet, in place of numbers. It also includes humorous explanations of the Jewish symbols.

Judoku creator Andrew Charon created a successful mobile Sudoku app before turning to the Jewish version. "My whole life people have asked me questions about Judaism, and then it occurred to me, here's the opportunity to merge both into one fun user experience," he said. "I wanted a captivating tool I could use to teach my own children about Judaism. Learning the Torah was competing for their attention against Angry Birds and Justin Bieber tweets. I figured if you can't beat 'em, join 'em! That, and frankly, I really just wanted to create something called Judoku." ■

Israelis are Top Social Networkers

(JTA) Israelis are the world leaders in the amount of time they spend on social networking sites, a recent survey found.



The average Israeli user of online social networking spends 10.7 hours a month on sites like Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, according to a survey by comScore, a firm that measures the digital world.

Russia, with an average of 10.3 hours of monthly social networking time, placed second in the survey, followed by Argentina, the Philippines and Turkey.

With 3.4 million users (46 percent of its population), Israel has the 37th highest number of Facebook users in the world, according to comScore. The United States has only a marginally higher percentage of Facebook users, with 150 million American Facebook members (48 percent of the population). ■

The eminent British historian Paul Johnson wrote of the Jewish State: "In the last half-century, over 100 completely new independent states have come into existence. Israel is the only one whose creation can fairly be called a miracle." Israel is a miracle because the Jewish state was established against all odds.

The Call of the Shofar (continued)

LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let heritage to reproach, that the nations should make them a byword: wherefore should they say among the peoples: Where is their God?' "(Joel 2:15, 17)

Although many Jewish people do not think much about sin, or how it affects their standing with God, the prophets blew the shofar to warn our ancestors. The shofar calls us to stop sinning and to return to our God. I encourage you to attend services for the High Holy Days and heed the call of the shofar. The priests of God are weeping on your behalf, asking God to spare you from judgment. ■

US Shortage of Kosher Meat for Rosh Hashanah

(A7 News) Jewish New Year of Rosh Hashanah is a few weeks away, but some U.S. distributors of kosher meat already are stocking up supplies for the Jewish New Year of Rosh Hashanah because of fears there will not be enough meat in the face of a soaring demand, Kosher Today reported.



Kosher stores have said that non-kosher customers account for up to one-quarter of their sales. Soaring demand in the multi-billion Kosher food industry is partly due to the fact that kosher food is considered by many to be healthier and of better quality than non-kosher products due to stringent

laws of preparation. Salmonella scares in non-kosher brands have drawn non-kosher customers to seek kosher food.

In addition, the natural growth in many orthodox communities is nearly 10 percent. Shortages during the Passover holidays have become routine in recent years, partly due to increased demand for kosher foods. ■

Cinnamon: The latest hope for Alzheimer's

(Israel 21c) A new Israeli study shows that the common spice cinnamon seems to delay the progress of Alzheimer's disease, a degenerative brain condition. The research builds on the work of Prof. Michael Ovodvia of Tel Aviv University, who discovered about a decade ago that an extract of cinnamon -- one of the aromatic ingredients in the incense used in the ancient Jewish Temple - has powerful anti-viral properties.

Researchers found that CEppt, Ovodvia's cinnamon extract, can delay the effects of five aggressive strains of Alzheimer's-inducing genes. The extract also showed pharmacological properties that could be more effective against Type 2 diabetes and Parkinson's disease.

Cinnamon is one of the world's oldest herbal medicines, mentioned in Exodus, Proverbs and the Song of Songs, as well as Chinese texts as old as 4,000 years.



American & Israel Soldiers Train Together

(Israel Today) A company of US Marines was in Israel recently for joint urban warfare training sessions with Israeli soldiers. Most of the exercises took place at the IDF's state-of-the-art Urban Warfare Training Center at the army base in southern Israel. The Americans had traveled to Israel from their base in Europe.



IDF's Urban Warfare Training Center has been used repeatedly by the US military to train soldiers preparing to deploy in Iraq and Afghanistan, where urban warfare against insurgent forces is the norm. The Israelis use each visit by their American counterparts to create new ambassadors for Israel and to better help the American public at large to understand Israel's situation, at least militarily. "We now better understand what Israel really is and when we go back to the US we can tell people that," said Platoon Sgt. Hattenbach. But it wasn't all just war games. The Marines also got a chance to experience Israeli culture and history, to see what day-to-day life is like in the Jewish state. ■

Coco Chanel: Designer, style icon - and Nazi?

(Haaretz) You may want to hold off on buying that bottle of Chanel Number 5: a new book claims that Coco Chanel - fashion guru and inventor of the little black dress - may have been an anti-Semite and Nazi collaborator during World War II.



In "Sleeping with the Enemy: Coco Chanel's Secret War," Hal Vaughan explores the designer's "long-whispered collaboration" with the Nazis, including her membership and activities for the Abwehr Nazi military intelligence. According to Vaughan, Chanel's lover during the war, Baron Hans Gunther von Dincklage, was a Nazi agent.

According to the book, the baron appeared to be "an innocuous, English-speaking tennis player, playboy, and harmless dupe," but was in fact a Nazi agent who was honored by Hitler and Goebbels during the war. Chanel, who the book claims was "fiercely anti-Semitic long before it became a question of pleasing the Germans," was not the only French artist to allegedly collaborate with the Nazis. Among others, Jean Cocteau and Maurice Chevalier were also said to have worked with the Nazis. ■

Will the Future King of England be a Jew?

(J Weekly.com) It could happen! Could Prince William have married a Jew - and how would that sit with the House of Windsor?

According to the family tree of Kate Middleton, wife of Prince William:



Kate's mother was born Carol Goldsmith, daughter of Ronald Goldsmith and Dorothy Harrison (both Jews). The parents of Dorothy Harrison are Robert Harrison and Elizabeth Temple (both Jews), the latter a descendant of the Myers family (traditional English Jews in the 19th century) Bottom line: Princess Kate is a Jew on her matrilineal side, and as a consequence, the future king of England will be a Jew according to Jewish Law and tradition. It's

nice to think that there will be Jewish blood in the royal family for many generations to come - even if they won't exactly be hosting a seder at Buckingham Palace. ■