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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

November 2022

Chesvan/Kislev 5783

SHABBAT TIMES

🕒 Parasha - 🕒 Candle Lighting
🕒 Shabbat ends (Maariv & Havdalah)
For service times see page 2

11 & 12 November – 18 Cheshvan

🕒 Vayeira
🕒 6:13 – 🕒 7:06

18 & 19 November – 25 Cheshvan

🕒 Chayei Sarah
🕒 6:15 – 🕒 7:11

25 & 26 November – 2 Kislev

🕒 Toldot
🕒 6:15 – 🕒 7:17

2 & 3 December – 9 Kislev

🕒 Vayeitzi
🕒 6:15 – 🕒 7:22

9 & 10 December – 16 Kislev

🕒 Vayishlach
🕒 6:15 – 🕒 7:28

RABBI'S MESSAGE

The recent months of Elul and Tishrei are compared to a marriage between Hashem and the Jewish People. First there is the courtship, which takes place during Elul.

Our Sages point that the acronym of the word Elul (אלול) spells out אֲנִי לְדוּדִי וְדוּדִי לִי ("I am to my beloved and my beloved is to me"). This verse is a quote from Song of Songs, the famous book in which King Solomon uses the metaphor of a love story to describe our relationship with Hashem.

After the courtship comes the marriage

ceremony. This is a solemn event. In Jewish law we have a betrothal ceremony (known as Kiddushin) followed by the actual marriage (or Nissuin). During Tishrei we have Rosh Hashana and then Yom Kippur. During this process we and our Creator become one as we declare and pledge our eternal allegiance to each other. Just after the Chupah, bride and groom enter the Yichud room for a few moments of privacy and seclusion. This is similar to Neilah, when we find ourselves one-on-one with Hashem.

The celebrations then begin. Sukkot, the Season of Rejoicing, lasts seven days just like the Sheva Brachot week when the newlyweds rejoice in their mutual delight.

We all know that marriage continues even after the wedding has ended. So what happens when the guests have gone home, the gifts unpacked, the cheques cashed and it's just the couple, on their own, in their home?

What happens during (the current month of) Chesvan? This month is without holidays, without

specific celebrations. How do we make the love last?

We keep the sparkle in our marriage with random small acts that keep our spouse happy and the communication open. One day it's a telephone call in the middle of the day or a text message. The next, flowers or a chocolate bar. A note left on the bedside table... a quick lunch at a small coffee shop in the middle of the work day... a weekend away...

The parallel is obvious: a quick Psalm whispered in the middle of the day... popping into shul for a random Shacharit or Mincha/Maariv... Tefilin wrapped around arm and head... a Friday night or Shabbat morning service... attending a lunchtime shiur... keeping just one Shabbos better than usual...

Weddings are so much fun. A happy marriage is even more so! Let us hold on to the magic of these past High Holidays and the spiritual bond and closeness with Hashem that we achieved. Let us continue to enjoy absolute wedded bliss for many more months to come.

Rabbi Yossi Chaikin

FROM THE REBBETZIN

The jacarandas were particularly beautiful this year. Johannesburg just exploded in magnificent lavender blossoms. A special part of October in this part of the world.

I have always loved the jacaranda trees. In fact, I was quite jealous that one of the girls in my nursery school lift scheme, Jackie, had her own beautiful tree and promptly named some other tree the Rivkaranda so as not to be outdone.

Everyone seems to hear their own message when they see the jacarandas. To students it means exam time is here. Young families plan their photo shoots. Others see the end of the school year and look forward to the summer holidays.

I see another side of Hashem's beautiful world. No matter what else is going on around us, nature plods on. The bougainvillea, the random flowers that blossom in between the rocks, the two roses that blossom in a parking lot, the lilies that pop up by themselves on a field...

In Shir Hashirim, King Solomon compares these random, beautiful flowers to the Jewish People. We who press on and survive wherever we are and no matter the circumstances, and we look beautiful too.

Have a good month.

Rivky

SERVICE TIMES SHACHARIT (A.M.)

Monday & Thursday	7:15
Shabbat & Festivals	9:30

MINCHA AND MAARIV (P.M.)

Friday	6:00
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10 BIG JEWISH INVENTIONS

By Rivka Ronda (aish.com)

We can thank members of the tribe for many wacky, wonderful, important, life-changing inventions of the past 120 years.

1. The Teddy Bear

Did you know that the teddy bear owes its existence to a Jewish couple?

Morris Michtom, a Brooklyn candy shop owner, and his wife, Rose, created a stuffed toy bear in honor of Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt. It all began when Roosevelt went on a hunting trip in 1902 but failed to locate a single bear. His assistants reportedly cornered and tied a black bear to a tree for the American president to shoot.

A big game hunter, Roosevelt refused to kill the bear because it would be unsportsmanlike, according to the National Park Service. A political cartoonist turned the fateful hunting trip into satire. When the Michtoms saw the cartoon, they decided to make a new toy and call it "Teddy's Bear." Their invention was wildly popular.

Meanwhile, across the ocean, a German family named Steiff created stuffed toy bears with shoe-button eyes and an embroidered nose.

2. Yakity-Yak Talking Teeth

Thank another Jewish inventor for providing lots of laughs with his Yakity-Yak Talking Teeth. In the 1940s an ad for a false-teeth holder

called a "tooth garage" amused Eddy Goldfarb. He imagined a pair of dentures chomping, sputtering down the road and parking in their proper place.

That image inspired Goldfarb to create a wind-up toy known as chattering teeth. When his gag chompers debuted in 1950, the packaging read, "Amazing! They Walk, They Talk, They're Alive!" Even as a youngster in Chicago, Goldfarb was inventing toys and crafting action figures from the cardboard inserts in laundered shirts.

3. Sam Born, The Candy Man

The novelty business also appealed to a candy maker born in 1891 who received his education in Berdichev, Ukraine, at the city's rabbinical school. When Sam Born's family moved to France, he landed a sweet job in a candy store and learned the business.

In 1910 Born emigrated to the U.S. and was responsible for many innovations including the technology to produce chocolate sprinkles, known as Jimmies; the hard chocolate coating used for Eskimo Pies; and was given the keys to the city of San Francisco in 1916 for inventing a machine that mechanically inserted sticks into lollipops called the Born sucker machine.

He began to manufacture candy in 1923, calling his company Just Born because the products were so fresh. His company created Mike and Ike, Hot Tamales, and Peanut Chews, earning him a

spot in the Candy Hall of Fame.

4. The Ballpoint Pen

Laszlo Biro, a Hungarian-Argentine inventor, came up with the idea for the modern-day ballpoint pen. He worked as an editor for newspapers in Hungary and had a problem with ink from fountain pens, which smudged and took a long time to dry. Meanwhile, he noticed, the ink in newspaper printing presses didn't smudge and dried quickly.

He tried putting the same ink in a fountain pen, but couldn't get it to flow into the tip. So Laszlo Biro worked with his brother, a chemist, and developed a new tip with a ball that moved freely in a socket. The Birus presented the first working ballpoint pen at the Budapest International Fair in 1931.

5. Instant cameras

Edwin Land, cofounder of the Polaroid Corporation, made it possible for pictures to be taken and developed almost immediately. In 1947 he demonstrated the Polaroid Land Camera, which could produce a finished print in 60 seconds. Land's photographic process soon found many applications in business, science and the military. Before he died in 1991, the New Englander had received more than 500 patents for his innovations in light and plastics.

6. Word-processing computer

Pioneer Evelyn Berezin was born in New York in 1925 to Jewish immigrants from

Russia. She designed the first true word-processing computer. She also developed the first automated airline reservation system. United Airlines put her invention into service in 1955. It served 60 cities throughout the United States with a one-second response time and with no central system failures in 11 years of operation, according to the Computer History Museum.

Berezin received her BA in physics from New York University in 1945 and an Atomic Energy Commission fellowship for graduate study there in 1946. Her interest in physics stemmed from reading her brother's science-fiction periodicals.

7. Mobile phones

Credit engineers at Motorola's Israel research and development center for coming up with the original cell-phone technology. "From the tool that guards your mobile identity to a new keyboard solution, Israeli expertise keeps your phone from getting bigger yet staying cutting edge," according to ISRAEL21c.

8. Video games

Who can believe that video games already have been around for 50 years? Ralph Baer, whose family fled Germany just before World War II, helped pave the way for the game systems we know today. The Jewish engineer began to investigate how to play games on a television in 1966. Then he and two colleagues created several test units. The result was the Brown Box, a

prototype for the first multiplayer, multiprogram video game system. Baer licensed it to Magnavox, which released the design as the Odyssey in 1972.

9. Camera phone

Remember life before smartphones and selfies? Baby Boomer Philippe Kahn does. He was born in Paris in 1952 to Jewish immigrants of modest means. His mother was a Holocaust survivor. The birth of his daughter in 1997 triggered the birth of a new technology. Kahn wanted to take a picture of the baby and send it to friends directly from the hospital. While in the waiting room, he succeeded! He fired up his computer, wrote some lines of codes, synchronized them with his Motorola mobile phone and digital camera and created the world's first camera phone.

10. Google

Larry Page and Sergey Brin, now Silicon Valley billionaires, developed Google as computer science graduate students at Stanford University. Page envisioned a World Wide Web search engine that could rank hyperlinks based on how often other pages linked them. Brin helped turn the idea into PageRank, the algorithm foundation of Google Search. The product went live on Stanford's network in 1996.

Jewish minds have created many more inventions that touch our lives, from cherry tomatoes to the remote control. But that's another story.

MAZALTOV

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov to:

BIRTHS

- Philip & Rilla Jacobson on the birth of a great granddaughter born to Ariel & Tali Flax in Johannesburg.
- Rabbi & Rivky Chaikin on the birth of a grandson born to Shmuly & Chanale Hurwitz in New York.
- Philip & Rilla Jacobson on the birth of a great granddaughter born to Menachem Mendel & Brachi Fox in Melbourne.
- Rene Gamsu on the birth of granddaughter born to Grant & Amy Price in Johannesburg.

ENGAGEMENTS

- Philip & Rilla Jacobson on the engagement of their granddaughter Nechama Fox to Levi Salek in New York.
- Philip & Rilla Jacobson on the engagement of their grandson Harry Jacobson to Lydia Kenley in London.
- Doris Samson on the engagement of her grandson Yehudah Samson to Shifra Santhaus in Manchester

BIRTHDAYS

- Willie Wittert on the occasion of his 96th birthday on the 9th November.

MARRIAGES

- Mazaltov to Philip & Rilla Jacobson on the marriage of their granddaughter Elke Moshel to Aaron Zalcman.

ANNIVERSARIES

- Hymie & Judith Feinberg on the occasion of their 64th wedding anniversary on the 30th November.

REFUAH SHLEIMA

We wish a Speedy recovery to:



- Madeleine Fane
- Phillip Altbeker
- Shmuelly Nudelman

BEREAVEMENTS

We wish long life to:

- Danny Sack on the death of his mother, Tilly.
- Larry and Howard Kotzen, Caron Gishen and Lana Witkover on the death of their mother, Nita Kotzen.
- Melanie Epstein on the death of her father, Kalman Levine.

May Hashem comfort them and their families among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem and grant them long life.

