

THE BULLDOG PRINT

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Changing royalty, potential wars

Saudi Arabia, Israel move toward relationship



By Ari Berke '20

Saudi Arabian reforms, mass arrests of the Saudi Royal family and even a helicopter crash containing many Saudi elites have recently been hot discussion topics in the news. A thousand miles west, tensions between Lebanon and Israel have been steadily rising, with Israel threatening to destroy Lebanon if any confrontations erupt.

These seemingly unrelated events may actually indicate a fundamental shift in Middle Eastern politics and alliances, with potentially huge ramifications for Israel, Iran, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the world as a whole.

First, Saudi Arabia. Since Mohamed Bin Salman was appointed crown prince, sweeping modern reforms have taken place. From Saudi 2030, a plan to wean the Saudi economy off of its almost exclusively oil base and open up to Western investors, to enabling women the right to drive and encouraging them to actively pursue a role in the workforce.

These reforms have come with increased Saudi cooperation with the West, and even Israel. As Saudi-Iranian tensions continue to rise while the two fight a proxy war in Yemen, Saudi Arabia and other modernizing Sunni Gulf states (Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, etc.) have turned to the other regional power, one that only a modern Arab country would even recognize: Israel.

Israel has embraced Saudi Arabia's efforts to establish a relationship, something that has been lacking between the two countries since Israel's inception. In recent weeks, the collaboration between Saudi Arabia and Israel has become more apparent.

It started when Saudi Arabia received intelligence that the Sunni Lebanese Prime-Minister Saad Hariri's life was in danger; intelligence reportedly coming from Israel. They extracted Hariri from Lebanon, and then announced that Hezbollah, the Iranian puppet military in Lebanon and longtime enemy of Israel, had declared war on the kingdom.

Fear that this may be the beginning of another proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran grows, with Israel and Saudi Arabia and Gulf states facing Iran and Hezbollah. Iran is already

preparing, as they have begun constructing underground missile factories in Lebanon. These are alternatives to the missile convoys Iran has had to truck from Iran to Lebanon, which are frequently bombed by the IDF before reaching their destination.

Hezbollah chief, Hassan Nasrallah, seems to share this fear, as indicated when he addressed Israel in a public statement on Nov. 11, urging the state to not enter the fray.

Nasrallah said, "I warn them against any miscalculation or any step to exploit the situation."

However, Haaretz reported that Nasrallah seemed nervous and that he speaking in an uncharacteristic manner towards Israel. Nasrallah often brazenly scorns Israel's capabilities and downplays its strength. He goes on record to warn Israelis to leave Israel or to threaten that Israel will pay the price for its alleged "illegal occupation."

In this press conference, he reportedly seemed worried, almost begging Israel not to join the Saudis.

Nasrallah's nerves could signal Hezbollah's justified fears of a confrontation with Saudi Arabia and Israel: a battle Hezbollah

would undoubtedly lose. The Israelis have made it clear to the Lebanese that they are fully prepared for war in South Lebanon, and that the outcome would be devastating for Lebanon.

"What we could do in 34 days during the second Lebanon war, we can now do in 48 to 60 hours," IDF Major General Amir Eshel warned. "The growth of our strength has not been linear."

"This is potential power unimaginable in its scope, much different to what we have seen in the past and far greater than people estimate," Eshel said.

For Israel, there are two sides to this coin.

On the one hand, this could be the opportunity to make a strategic move against Lebanon, their strongest and most dangerous bordering foe, while Lebanon is already entrenched in a war in Syria.

Israel would also get to do so with the support and financial backing of Saudi Arabia, furthering the ties between the two nations.

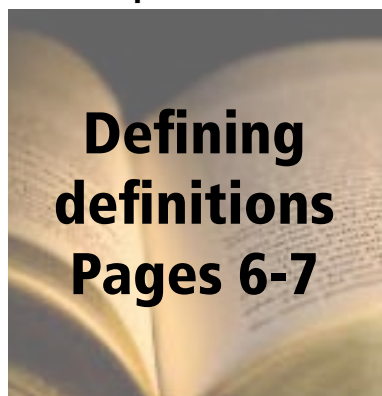
Israel and the United States have been trying to disrupt the Iranian Shiite crescent of land that stretches from Iran to Lebanon, which allows Iran to maintain control over large swaths of Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. This may be the time to do so with a full-fledged Jewish-Sunni coalition ready to partake, the most support Israel has ever received in its history.

However, Lebanon has hundreds of thousands of rockets that can reach Tel Aviv or the nuclear reactor in Dimona, more than the Iron Dome may be able to handle.

Nevertheless, the modernizing Sunni states seem ready to partner with longtime foe Israel to combat the burgeoning Shiite axis, led by Iran. However, this new partnership is still very beneficial to Israel, as it opens up a world of new economic, political and military possibilities for the Jewish state.

What's inside

Center spread



Page 2: Flashback to the most memorable moments, globally and locally, from the last half of 2017.



Page 4: Health education on the high school level. Yavneh's current outlook and potential alternatives.



Page 8: Read the two sides of the heated debate about the school's temperature.



Page 10: Lone soldiers reflect on their experience in the Israeli Defense Forces as well as an update on the U.S. Embassy move.

Wrapping up 2017

By Roy Einhorn '18

GLOBAL



Gal Gadot, an Israeli actress, starred as Wonder Woman in the recent adaptation of the DC comic book series, and became a role model for girls everywhere.

Tensions between the U.S. and North Korea elevate. North Korea has tested numerous missiles that have flown over U.S. ally, Japan. 33 year old Kim Jong-un dictates as the country's supreme leader.



On Aug. 21, North Americans experienced a total solar eclipse. Those in the path of totality saw the moon completely block out the sun. Eclipse glasses were sold by the millions.

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria ravaged Houston, Miami and Puerto Rico, leaving millions without food, water or shelter.



Just outside the Mandalay Bay Hotel, in Las Vegas, NV, Stephen Paddock opened fire onto the October music festival crowd, resulting in the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history.



On Nov. 26, Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters, Miss South Africa, won the 66th Miss Universe competition in Las Vegas. She now starts her year-long term as the global female superhero.



YAVNEH

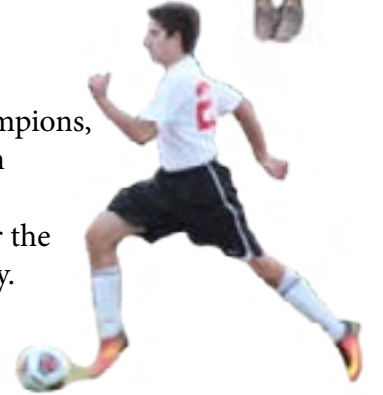


Dina Ben-Abraham blessed the home of history teacher, Chana Ben-Abraham and her husband, Eli, on Jun. 19. She has made appearances on campus, smothered by compliments

As point guard for Team USA, senior Griffin Levine led histeam to a gold medal in the 2017 Maccabiah Games heldi n Haifa, Israel.



After a 12-2 season as District Champions, the Yavneh boys varsity soccer team made it to the playoffs and became Regional Finalists for the first time in Yavneh history.



Over Sukkot break, David Neifeld of London, U.K. proposed to Judaic teacher Daniella Lieberman at sunset in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

Spearheaded by Students Against Destructive Decisions president Jordan Krieger [12], Yavneh held its very first Red Ribbon Week. Students participated in various dress-up days to discourgae unhealthy choices.




Yavneh boys varsity basketball team won their second straight Weiner tournament in Baltimore, MD, while the girls team took third place. The boys are currently 14-0, ranked number 1 among private schools in Texas and number 8 among National Jewish Day schools.



Congratulations to the boys and girls varsity basketball teams on their wins in Baltimore!

Rachel and Matthew Berke



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Modern matchmakers

No longer restricted by physical location, search for soulmates takes to the internet

By Tia Einhorn '20

Jewish matchmakers. They have been around for ages.

Primarily thought to be media icons, featured in many American movies and plays — most famously, “Fiddler on the Roof” — Jewish matchmakers have recently been put on the backburner with the rise of online dating platforms, such as JDate.

Instead of destroying tradition and removing the Jewish aspect of the match, these individuals have decided to adjust ways to a more modern approach, claiming the title of “modern Jewish matchmakers.”

Included in this movement are dozens of internet forums devoted to Jewish pairing.

Although a healthy percentage of the matchmakers sought means of working through the internet, some are trying to preserve the tradition of having in-person meetings by working within their communities.

These processes can be quite extensive. They may require stacking resumes, completing page-long applications and even payments. How to apply for a matchmaking can easily be compared to the dreaded college application timeline.

One’s geographical location transforms the methods used for matchmaking. Those who are lucky enough to live in a community with many young singles, such as New York and Los Angeles, date family friends who attend their synagogue. In Israel, some are connected through their gap year programs, with principals passing along names between the brother and sister schools.

Those who are not as fortunate to have a local pool of singles to choose from tend to resort to the online matchmaking sources. This international database can actually be seen as a gift, allowing hundreds of users to interact with other like-minded Jews worldwide.

Some Yavneh faculty have found their spouses through matchmakers, witnessing the astonishing

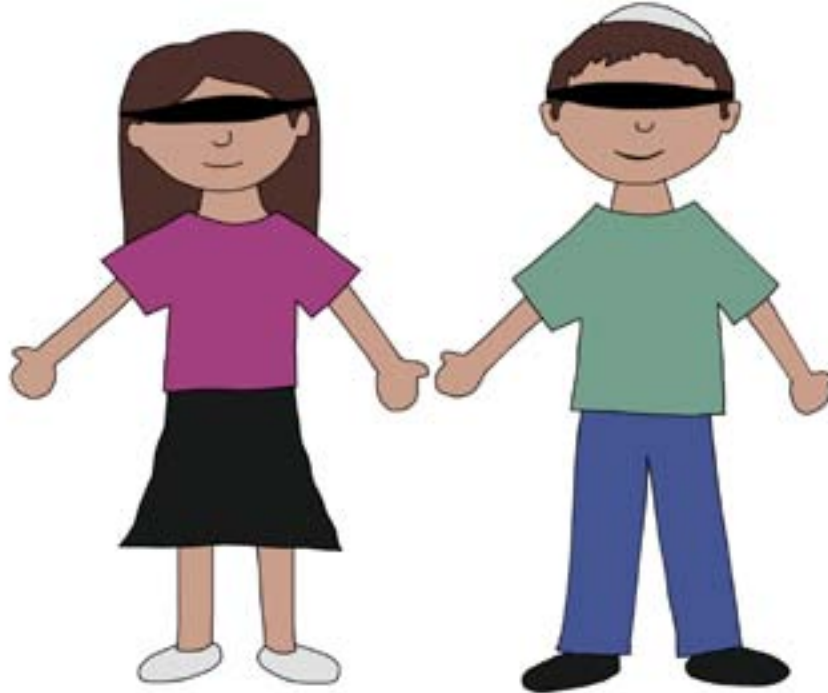


Illustration by Rachel Sasson.

power of the internet.

Judaics teacher Daniella Lieberman recently got engaged to David Neifeld of London, UK. She met him through a Jewish dating app after having exhausted all other options.

“Eventually, I ended up matching with someone who does live across the world,” Lieberman said. “[Our relationship] would never have happened had I not taken chances on myself and stepped outside the box.”

Comfort zones are inevitably abandoned either while matching others or being matched. Tiring interviews and awkward first dates reign supreme.

At least two modern Jewish matchmakers walk the halls of Yavneh. They use their social web to find compatible couples who share the same values.

“A lot of my friends were being set up with people they didn’t match with and I thought that I had a good eye for what people needed in a relationship rather than what they wanted,” history teacher Chana Ben-Abraham said. “After becoming a matchmaker on SawYouAtSinai, I was given a structure to guide me in my matchmaking.”

Matchmaking doesn’t have to be a full time job. Some actually entertain matchmaking as a hobby, connecting people in their friend groups.

“Even before I became a matchmaker, I was always setting my friends up with my husband’s friends,” Judaic teacher Sara Block said.

Confessing to having matched two couples, Judaic teacher Rabbi Meir Tannenbaum set up one marriage. Nevertheless, he would not identify himself as a matchmaker.

In the modern age, Jewish matchmakers exist in many different shapes and sizes: whether its your teacher, rabbi or mutual friend. They also employ various methods, ranging from innate instinct to carefully regimented plans. But no matter who or how, there wil always be a matchmaker with a match to make.

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Let's have 'the talk'

How far does high school need to deal with birds and bees?

By Frieda Katz '18

The bell rings for the start of Jewish Thought and Law, thus beginning discussion of *halacha's* (Jewish law) application in daily life. Students at Yavneh Academy are required to attend this course during all four years, with topics increasing in intensity and depth each year. By their junior and senior years, students cover topics such as marriage, *kashrut* (Kosher laws) and business ethics in Judaism.

During open discussions, students will often ask questions regarding the Jewish perspectives on health and intimacy. Rabbi Michel Lomner, Judaic teacher, explained how Judaic classes serve as outlets for students' questions, especially on health-related topics.

"Judaism is not a knowledge you gain before continuing on with your life, but a way to live your life," Rabbi Lomner said. "In a Jewish class, you should be instructed on how to live your life."

Rabbi Lomner emphasized that because of such, it's crucial to educate students on peer pressure, relationship struggles and related topics — concerns that are prevalent aspects in one's life — and that the Judaic staff do so to the best of their ability.

"If we're not addressing [health topics] in Judaic classes then we're failing," Lomner said.

Throughout their four years, teenagers are constantly warned of the dangers of society, specifically those on high school and college campuses.

Heather Behr, Yavneh's guidance counselor, notes that students meet with Jewish Family Service social worker Janet Henson as often as four times a year, educating students on possible dangers that may befall them in high school or college.

Hollywood, political scandals and the #MeToo social media campaign against sexual assault have further shed light on possible risks posed to today's youth. To ensure safe decision-making among all humanity, people must start by encouraging youth to make healthy choices.

Although Yavneh lacks a formal health curriculum, its educators deem the topic highly crucial for Jewish teenagers.

Judaic teacher Daniella Lieberman said that health-related subjects often are discussed in Judaic classes, as all subjects at Yavneh in some way connect to Judaism.

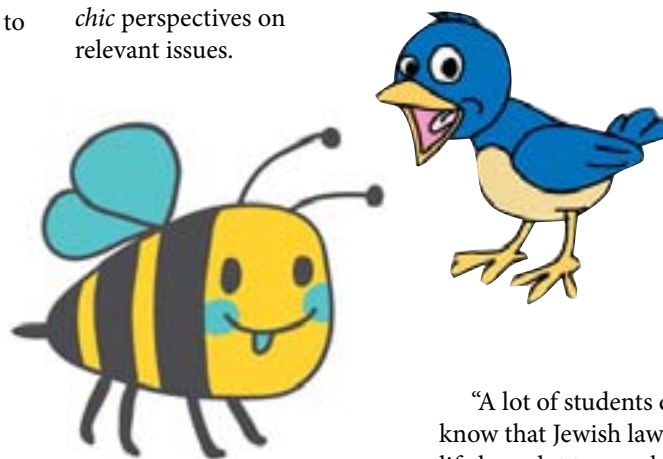
"Because we [Yavneh] are a Jewish school, everything that we do stems from that bigger picture; even our math

and science classes are under that Jewish umbrella," Lieberman said.

She suggests developing a prospective health course that would be gender-specific, not only for the sake of Jewish modesty but for secular reasons as well. Judaic principal and teacher Rabbi Meir Tannenbaum would also support more in-depth gender-specific health education.

Previous efforts have included both faculty and alumni serving as teachers and facilitators. For example, former Yavneh Judaic teacher and assistant principal Naomi Schrager, who has since moved to Israel, established several health-related initiatives.

Any enforced health policy or course, Lieberman said, should thoroughly focus on the *halachic* perspectives on relevant issues.



"A lot of students don't know that Jewish law and life has a lot to say about [physical intimacy];"

Lieberman said, stressing that related issues are scarcely brought up in modern Jewish learning.

On the other hand, however, Rabbi Lomner sees the merit of avoiding establishing a formal health class.

"In the secular world, it has become socially acceptable to engage in sexual immorality and drug use," Rabbi Lomner said.

One may argue, Rabbi Lomner said, that prolonged discussion akin to a conventional health class may not only motivate certain students to take contraceptives and behave inappropriately, but may imply that students already do engage in such pursuits, and thus must be warned away from them.

Hence, according to Rabbi Lomner, discussion of these topics during Judaic classes may suffice as ample health education in certain cases. He said that in Judaic courses, students are often taught the reasons behind abstinence and how one may better their soul by avoiding related behaviors.

"Ideas about being safe and taking care of our bodies are all ideas that the Torah teaches us," Rabbi Lomner said. "We do discuss these ideas in depth; perhaps not in a health class but in Judaic classes."

Based on her experience, Behr said an additional concern rises in many of the talks she gives both Akiba Academy middle schoolers and Yavneh students.

"Often times when I do [health] talks, I find that certain, more educated kids will think that they already know it all, so they won't even want to hear what I have to say," Behr said.

Concurrently, this attitude may create shame upon those less educated on, yet willing to learn certain health subjects.

Considering how modern society "has become more open about everything intimate," Lieberman said, the topic requires more discussion and education than ever.

Behr said that parents should involve themselves in high school health classes and discussion days, as the responsibility to teach these topics even moreso lies on them.

"This way, when students talk about the class afterwards, they'll be doing so with not only their peers, but their parents," said Behr.

She also said that if Judaic classes do offer education on these topics, there could be sessions a few times a year where students may ask questions on health in regard to its aspects in Judaism.

"I think the next step [for Jewish schools to take] is to bring in [an Orthodox] guest speaker to hold a seminar on topics that students wish to discuss," Rabbi Lomner said, providing the example of bringing in Gila Manolson, author of *The Magic Touch* and related works on relationships in Judaism.

"It's not fair for us as Jews to stay quiet about something that is so relevant in the world and pretend that we don't have a say," Lieberman said. "For the sake and safety of the [Yavneh] students, it's important to educate on the general discipline of health."

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Cursive, a lost art?

By Miriam Schwitzer '21

It's time to throw away the paper and get out the computers. Due to the efficiency of keyboarding, schools have done away with teaching cursive. Regular typing has resulted in cursive becoming a near dead form of writing for today's youth.

As a replacement for cursive, school systems have turned to Google Drive and similar programs. Elementary schools demand their students produce homework assignments on computers.

In 2013, Common Core, which has been adopted by 40 states, added keyboarding as a required course. Due to this adjustment, some districts cut cursive from their curriculum. While Texas is not a Common Core state, it has reduced teaching cursive to only the third grade.

Despite the evergrowing use of typing, which has seemingly caused the demise of cursive, a number of studies have found cursive provides benefits that typing does not.

Handwriting encourages many skills such as hand-eye coordination and muscle memory. By the time someone reaches the fifth grade, their handwriting is already drastically different than when they first learned to write it.

Writing in cursive on tests or assignments is shown to improve scores. According to a 2013 New York Times article, a study showed that students who printed rather than wrote in cursive scored lower grades on their SATs.

Other articles in The New York Times showed how handwriting stimulates the brain in ways that typing can't. A story from a 2016 Times magazine reported "research suggests that children need introductory training in printing, then two years of learning and practicing cursive, starting in grade three, and then some systematic attention to touch-typing." In response, Louisiana added cursive back into their curriculum.

Cursive doesn't only impact test scores, but has plenty important in various aspects of daily life.

Checks are a common way to share money, and banks will only approve the check if there's a signature on the back. People sign their names in cursive because it adds a kind of personalization and is harder to copy.



Using cursive on assignments and tests has been proven to improve scores by a 2015 New York Times article. A number of studies have found multiple benefits of writing cursive. Handwriting helps develop skills such as hand-eye coordination and muscle memory.

Based on a survey of Yavneh Academy students, 85 percent of students know how to read cursive and write in cursive. These students learned cursive in elementary school, though it was only taught for one year.

Some teachers believe that this is not enough time for cursive to truly be learned, especially when the skills aren't being reinforced over summer break. History teacher Chana Ben-Abraham is one such teacher.

"People say that handwriting is dead, but just because something is dead doesn't mean that it can't be revived," Ben-Abraham said.

Keeping in mind the significance of legible handwriting, Ben-Abraham tries to incorporate both typing and writing in her class.

"Anything that the students are taking home, I allow them to type because I do see the advantage of having a typed assignment that you can just pull up and edit as needed, but the majority of class work is done by hand," Ben-Abraham said.

Typing is prevalent at Yavneh, and while this does cause people to work on their handwriting, some are skeptical of the skill's importance.

Many students appreciate the opportunity to type. Both Alexis Goldberg [10] and Noah Feldman [9] said they preferred typing. Both students learned cursive at Levine Academy, which has not yet discontinued its cursive courses. The school has a three-year program that focuses solely on cursive.

Nevertheless, cursive is often soon left behind and traded for an easy print handwriting.

"I have not used it since third grade," Goldberg said.

A disadvantage of cursive is the time commitment necessary for learning the complex script. Certain letters can be written multiple ways, and there are distinguishable differences that exist in the upper and lower case versions.

Sometimes certain life skills can slip through the educational cracks. Cursive might just become one of these skills if it is continued to be underestimated.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Keycards: a neglected necessity

Safety of students sits at the top of the priority list for schools across America. At Yavneh Academy, students, faculty and parents receive keycards to open the gates to the parking lot and doors to the buildings on campus.

Despite the usefulness of the keycards, few students actually carry them during the school day; illustrated by the huddles of students waiting outside the doors to the student lounge or main building, impatiently pressing the call button for security.

According to a recent Yavneh survey, while 78 percent of students still have their original keycards, only about 32 percent carry the card at all times.

When a student refuses to use a keycard, it places a burden on the security guards, as they have to take the time to let the student in.

"We really want to encourage students to use their keycards to enter the buildings," Patricia Mosley, manager of administra-

tive services, said. "As it is a trouble for them, it is a trouble for the security guard desk to open the doors for them on a daily basis."

If a student tries to buzz in without a keycard, security guards have been instructed to not open the doors.

"Every time a Yavneh student doesn't use their keycard and I have to stop and attend to them, it takes away from other areas I need to be watching and compromises security," Miriam Geller, campus security, said. "Most students become very frustrated when I don't respond immediately to their buzzing, but they have the privilege of key cards and should use them."

Although only three students have had to have their keycards replaced, it is still a problem for both the administration and security.

"If [students] lose a card, they have to pay \$15 and we'll replace the card," Mosley said. "We deactivate their old card and activate the new card."

It is for the safety of the students that the keycards exist.

Without them, the school would be able to be accessed by people with possible malicious intent. When a student loses a keycard and fails to report it, the card has the potential to end up in the wrong hands.

"The safety of the campus is number one," said Ralph Peterson, chief financial and operating officer. "If the students don't contribute to that same desire for safety, then we are not safe."

Security is an important issue no matter where one lives in the world. But in the case of protection, schools, full of the bright minds of the next generation, must do everything in their power to protect the campus.

Yavneh's dedication to security needs to be appreciated. The school's crucial safety systems — fire drills, lockdown drills and keycards — should be taken seriously by everyone, not only by the security guards..

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Enjoy winter break!
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Staff

SAME WORDS DIFFERENT MEANINGS

By Meira Abraham '20
Layout by Roy Einhorn '18

First word when you hear...

[suh-leb-ri-tee] - A famous or well-known person

Basketball Rich
Photoshop Attractive
CELEBRITIES
Hollywood Concerts
Famous Irrelevant
Photogenic Drama Pointless
Kardashians

[al-kuh-hawl, -hol] - a colorless volatile flammable liquid that is produced by the natural fermentation of sugars and is the intoxicating constituent of wine, beer, spirits, and other drinks, and is also used as an industrial solvent

Abuse Mistake
Stupid Party
ALCOHOL
Teenagers Bad
Drunk Unhealthy
Dangerous Choice
Drugs

[dih-skrim-uh-ney-shuh n] - The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex.

History
Injustice Black
Racism Separation
DISCRIMINATION
Judgement Evil Minority
Unfair Alone
Religion Slaves

[soh-shuh l mee-dee-uh] - web-sites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking.

Life Stressful
Drama Snapchat
Instagram Communication
SOCIAL MEDIA
Consuming Addicting
Fake News
Twitter

How do you define...

LOVE FAMILY HATE

“Two people coming together and forming a bond.” - Stephanie Henkin [10]

“An open door.” - Sophia Achar [11]

“Relationship between two people that can't be broken.” - Yosef Weiss [10]

“It's anything you want it to be.” - Rachel Sasson [12]

“AP Chemistry.” - chemistry teacher, Lourdes Lindzey

“When you are able to treat someone and respect them the way you would treat and respect yourself.” - Noga Even [12]

“Knowing that everyone is created in G-d's image and that everyone is perfect in their own way.” - Blake Fonberg '17

“When you're not only willing to, but you want to give to another, whether it be time, energy, etc...” - Evie Dunsky [12]

“People who you are connected to.” - Harrison Christnagel [10]

“People who love and care about you.” - Yosef Weiss [10]

“A unique bond between people who love each other.” - Stephanie Henkin [10]

“People that you end up spending so much time with, that you didn't even choose to spend time with. At the end of the day, you're glad you've spent all that time with them — they become people who love you and depend on.” - Evie Dunsky [12]

“People who are close to you no matter whether they're related to you genetically or not.” - Mei Sullum [9]

“People that allow you to feel completely like yourself and to know that there won't be any judgement from them. Family is not who you are born with, family is what you create around yourself.” - Blake Fonberg [17]

“Group of related persons, either legally or by blood.” - Leib Malina [11]

“A group of people you love.” - Sophia Achar [11]

“Strong dislike.” - Yosef Weiss [10]

“An extreme dislike or resentment for an object or idea.” - Leib Malina [11]

“The cause of all evil in this world. Hate is probably the strongest and most driving force on earth. It is not being able to accept a person or thing for whatever it may be.” - Blake Fonberg '17

“It's blind, crippling, demeaning and cruel.” - College counselor, Allyn Schmucker

“It's when you want the worst for someone, you feel exactly the opposite to them as you would yourself. You want everything bad to happen to them.” - Noga Even [12]

“Strong feeling towards something.” - Rachel Sasson [12]



The ongoing question: Is Yavneh too cold or too hot?

As I walk through the halls of Yavneh, it's apparent that students are all dressed in a similar fashion. Wearing long sleeves and sweatshirts, students carry fuzzy blankets from class to class. They rarely dress in short sleeves, even when outside temperatures soar. The reasoning behind this phenomenon is no mystery — Yavneh is too cold.

Though I enjoy wearing a sweatshirt, skirt and leggings, these articles of clothing should be saved for cold, winter days- not used as an everyday school outfit due to the low temperatures inside.

Whenever I walk into a classroom, I'm welcomed with a gust of cold air. A shiver involuntarily runs down my spine and goosebumps sprout on my arms as I reluctantly walk to my desk. How will I concentrate? I look around and to no surprise, I see my classmates shivering as well. We all wonder if we could raise the room's temperature. Some even try to touch the up arrow on the thermostat.

Classrooms should be set at a comfortable temperature of 70 to 80 degrees, where students can sit at a desk without a blanket over their legs, bundled up in layers of clothes to keep warm. If rooms weren't as cold as they are now, they would be able to focus and participate more in class discussions.

Of course, Yavneh's many cold rooms and hallways allow for the student body to dress in accommodation with the dress code, especially with long skirts covering the knees and sweatshirts that cover arms and elbows. But with this, students may experience a lack of personal self-expression through their clothing.

The Yavneh school day lasts eight hours, and students are typically at school for longer. For these five days, students are able to express their fashion sense and add a personal touch to the school's dress code, yet both are stripped when the only way to accommodate for the cold rooms is to dress in a basic sweatshirt.

Expression of a teenager's personal style is critical in the development of their self-confidence. If a person feels that they look good, their composure will be good as well, helping them do better in school and in social situations. I can't do that when I have to layer a sweatshirt over everything I wear.

clock, I count the minutes until I can walk outside into the cold air.

For some students this is a common occurrence, while it is only circumstantial for others. Either way, it is clear to me that the Yavneh building is too hot.

If every classroom was set at the same, cool temperature then it would be a lot easier to dress in the morning. Sweatshirts would be a viable option without having to think about the possibility of Yavneh being as hot as an oven.

Every classroom should be set at a cool temperature, in the mid 60s to low 70s. As a result, students would resort to layering their clothing. The dress code wouldn't be as significant a problem since the school's temperature would require students to dress more modestly.

The administration works tirelessly to get the students to follow the dress code. Neither side enjoys the combat. The student being dresscoded feels resentment towards the faculty member, while the faculty member dislikes repeating the same demands. Everyone wants to go to school in comfortable clothes. They don't want to be worrying about the length of their skirt or the cut of their neckline.

Now that winter is approaching and the temperature outside is beginning to drop, Yavneh is reacting with haste. As soon as the temperature went down one degree, the classrooms became five degrees hotter. This is the wrong response.

Everybody loves big sweatshirts and as soon as it is cold outside, sweatshirts are a fashion staple. But if everybody is dressing warmer, there is no reason to increase the temperature inside. In that case, everybody ends up sweating. That's no fun for anyone.

Yavneh advertises itself as a family, a second home. When I think of home, I think of being cozy. I think of blankets and covers. Some of my favorite memories from my old school consisted of being on the soccer field in a jacket, wrapped up with a friend under a blanket. All of these cozy situations and feelings revolved around the cold. Clearly the classrooms at Yavneh should not be set to 40 degrees. But a little cool air flowing through the halls would greatly improve everyone's day.

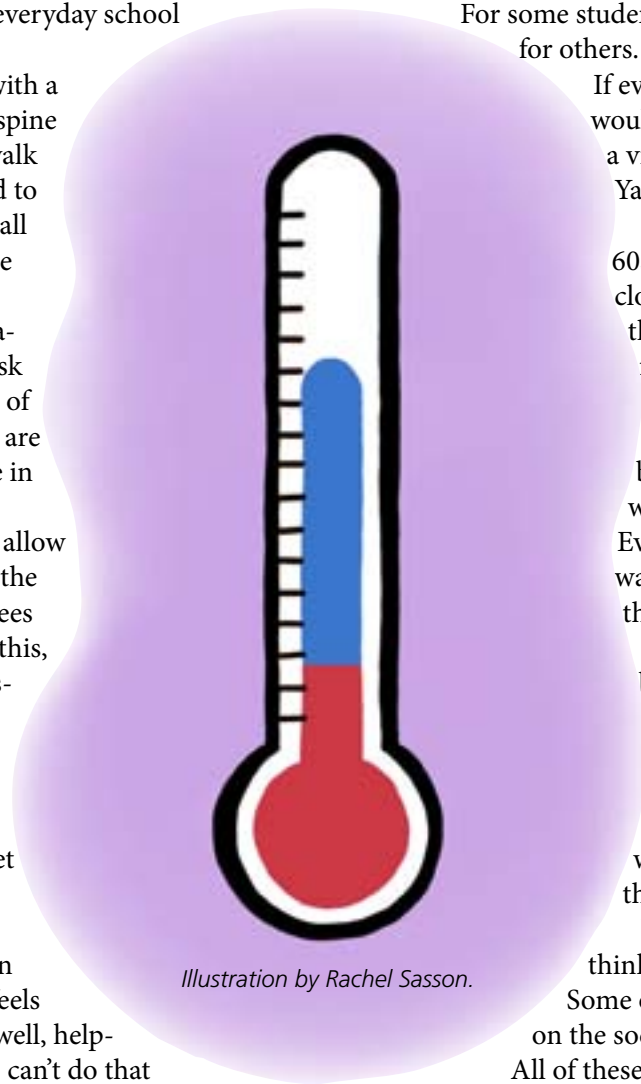


Illustration by Rachel Sasson.

By Tami Govrin '20

By Jamie Perkins '20



"I used to go out of my way to wear cute clothes for school, but over time, my wardrobe has become limited to sweatshirts and maxi skirts."

Liz Lesh [10]



"No matter what the weather is outside, inside Yavneh students always seem to need an array of jackets and blankets."

Noga Even [12]



"Yavneh is absolutely freezing. I am forced to wear a sweatshirt almost every single day. I carry a blanket with me to every class."

Emily Warshowsky [12]



"I'm in support of a very well air-conditioned school year-round because heaters don't make me comfortable."

Mordechai Rees



"It's too hot because in every shemistry test, we end up sweating."

Noam Elbaz [10]

Female trailblazers of history

From nurse to actress, women defy degradation based on gender

By Rachel Rouhani '21

Despite the fact that women have typically been considered the fairer sex, too frail to take charge, many powerful women have been the driving force behind various successes. Female trailblazers have left and continue to leave marks on their fields and communities.

Florence Nightingale, an icon for women in nursing, stepped into traditionally male positions and, in doing so, put women in a war zone.

During the Crimean War, a war between the Russian Empire and an alliance of ___ and the Ottoman Empire, Nightingale was known as the “lady with the lamp.” She walked the halls of the hospital bringing light and succor to the injured soldiers. Defying the expectations of her time, she paved the way for working women everywhere.

Golda Meir, another female idol, influenced the political scene of the Middle East becoming the first female prime minister of Israel.

Meir’s achievements illustrate her undying love towards her homeland of Israel and her refusal to back down because of her gender in a male-dominated world. Taking the position of prime minister of Israel in 1969 at the age of 71, her tenure encompassed one of the toughest times in Israeli history: the Yom Kippur War. She helped newly immigrated families, like her own, by overseeing the construction of about 200,000 low-income apartments. Resisting adversity, her toughness aided Israel in persevering through the Arab assault.

Lucille Ball, one of the world’s most well-known actresses, built her career from scratch. Her determination and success teaches that following dreams can truly pay off.

Ball was born into a poor family who moved a lot because of her father’s job. His early death created obstacles for her childhood. She wanted to fulfill her teenage dream of being an actress but was too shy at the time.



Lucille Ball

She overcame her fears and later in life aired her own show, “I Love Lucy, w h i c h showed her true colorful traits — outgoing, confident and daring.

While powerful women were needed in history, they are still needed in the present.

“It is important for young girls to have female role models,” Trina Baskin [9] said. “A lot of time, females are looked down on. Having a good female role model will show girls that they can be and do anything they want when they try hard enough.”

Greatness cannot be achieved overnight. It’s not about knowing everything or investing time, but about daring to dream, never giving up and being humble every step of the way. Creating bonds with people from all walks of life builds an understanding and acceptance for all human beings.

That was exactly the mindset of Susan B. Anthony, a major figure of the past who inspires people today. Anthony spent most of her life during the 19th century fighting for the freedom and rights of women. She used her own experiences and hardships to relate to other women.

Anthony never gave up on the validity of woman’s suffrage. She traveled all over the country to convince others to support her efforts. Women were not given the right to vote in her lifetime, but when the amendment allowing for women’s suffrage was passed in 1920, Anthony’s hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed.

Independence serves as one of the greatest privileges. When people speak up and form their own opinions and ideas, others are inspired to do the same. Establishing personal goals and sticking to them instead of trying to assimilate into the lives of others can be crucial.

Nettie Stevens, an American geneticist, also had the courage to look beyond the status quo.

During the 1800s, Stevens discovered that the sex of an organism is based on its X and Y chromosomes, disproving hundreds of years of men blaming women for not giving them a “male heir.” Most scientists did not accept her idea at the time, but Stevens was not fazed. She continued to research and do what she was most passionate about. Today, biology classes teach her findings.

Even the young female students at Yavneh Academy have dreams to better the world.

“I think its really important that we focus on those who are less fortunate than us,” Shea Doty [11] said.

Although women have been targets for criticism and objectification throughout history, some still combat the negatives. Turning that hatred into one’s fuel and passion shows a person’s courage and confidence.

Oprah Winfrey shows courage and confidence. Despite personal hardships, she has created her own media empire and is known as



Oprah Winfrey

the queen of television talk shows.

Following a tough childhood being sexually abused by male relatives and friends of her mother, she dedicated herself to rising above her circumstances. She launched her own talk show where she refused to trash celebrities. Winfrey gained respect and recognition for her ideals.

The literal translation for the word “trailblazer” is “a person who makes a new track through wild country.” These women faced untamed terrain of male dominated fields and blazed a trail for many women to come — genuine world changers.

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Serving in the holy land

Lone soldiers reveal trials and tribulations

By Maayan Abouzaglo '19

Fighting for one's life and for the country they call home. Away from family, in a foreign country, alone but not lonely.

This is the experience lone soldiers undertake. By definition, a lone soldier is someone without immediate family in Israel serving in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Serving in regular units, these soldiers are integrated within the mandatory program Israelis serve in, but are accommodated by the State of Israel in ways regular citizens are not.

Programs are in place to help lone soldiers prior to their arrival in Israel, during the recruitment process, throughout the duration of their service and even after they've been released from the IDF, should they choose to stay in Israel.

To commemorate fallen lone soldier Michael Levin, fellow soldiers established the Lone Soldier Center in 2009. Knowing their concerns first hand, they honored Levin's memory by founding an organization dedicated to meeting the needs of lone soldiers.

Former Dallas resident Gabi Sallmander is currently completing her *Sherut Leumii* (alternative voluntary service for Israeli citizens who do not serve in the IDF) at the Lone Soldier Center in Jerusalem. After originally working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sallmander switched to the Lone Soldier Center because she felt she needed a more fulfilling role.

"Interacting with the soldiers and caring for them is probably my favorite part. Being here at the center I have made lifelong friends with some of the soldiers that I have cared for," Sallmander said. "Another special part of the center is that even though we are an organization and a professional place, at the same time we are all one big family."

Although her job concentrates on social media and technology, Sallmander notes that every employee assumes the responsibility of supporting the soldiers before, during and after their service.

Weekdays at the center are quiet as soldiers are at their bases, but it sponsors Friday night dinners and holds events on various bases during holidays for the lone soldiers.

"The soldiers come in and feel like they have a place to go to see all their friends and hang out with people that understand their situation. We try to give the lone soldiers a centralized place to meet up," Sallmander said.

Currently training with the combat engineers of the IDF, Yavneh Academy alumnus Josh Lynn '13 admits to having pleasant encounters with the Lone Soldier Center.

"The Lone Soldier Center is incredible. [It] help[s] with everything you could ever need. Contacts, food, facilitating army stuff, networking and everything else in between,"

Lynn said.

Feeling dissatisfied with his studies in college, Lynn sought an alternative opportunity. Weighing the positives against the negatives, his ultimate decision to enlist stemmed from his fear of regretting not having gone to the army.

Regarding why he joined, Lynn says that there were both personal and ideological reasons he took into consideration.

"From searching for something that would push my limits physically and mentally, to experiencing the Holocaust camps couple times, the reasons varied quite a bit," Lynn said.

Fellow Yavneh alumnus Zev Klein '11 made the decision to become a lone soldier for similar reasons. Klein spent a year studying in an Israeli yeshiva after graduating. Feeling

"I also had a desire to live [in Israel] for a long period of time, and I felt that being a soldier would integrate me. I would feel more Israeli and less like a tourist."

Knowing only enough Hebrew to spend a short period of time on a base for immigrants, he soon began his training.

"A lot of difficulties, relating to the new currency, societal norms and starting over, were things that at the time I glossed over," Perkins said. "My goals were so focused in my mind that all obstacles seemed small at the time."

In contrast to Klein, Perkins did not attend a preparation course.

"I had a lot to learn, from army slang and culture to meeting various types of Israelis to understanding about what being a fighter is actually about," Perkins said.

While the training was difficult on his way to becoming a *tzanchan* (paratrooper), Klein notes that he maintained the mindset that he joined the army to challenge himself, all while protecting the Jewish homeland. He had to get accustomed to the strict authoritative hierarchy of the IDF.

"Getting acclimated into army life was the biggest change; extreme discipline, getting yelled at by my commanders who were my age or younger, eating and sitting and moving when told to," Klein said.

Although he did not take advantage of the centers' resources, Klein believes they have created a certain respect for lone soldiers in Israel.

"There is only so much that I believe is appropriate for the government to do for lone soldiers, without making it seem as though they are more special than non-lone soldiers," Klein said.

Either way, lone soldiers are incredibly brave, fighting for their country thousands of miles away from everything they ever knew.

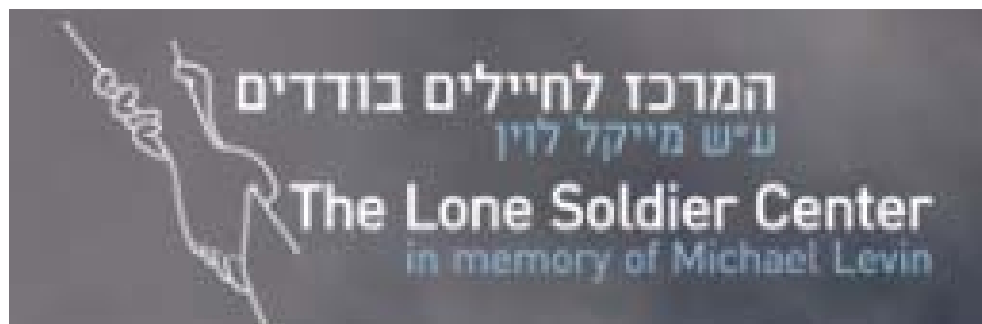


Photo by Lone Soldier Center website

a sense of responsibility to the state of Israel, Klein realized his duty to assist with the country's overall safety.

"A series of events and experiences—including arriving in Israel during the March of the Living, and taking advantage of the country during my yeshiva year in Israel—made me recognize how uncomfortable I was living in the land without making any contribution to its safety or successes," Klein said.

After making the decision to enlist in the IDF, Klein sought a pre-army program to aid with his paperwork and athletic and Hebrew skills in the summer of 2012. Completing all his necessary tests, he awaited his first days of service with both apprehension and excitement. To prepare, Klein reached out to friends and family to inquire for advice.

"Attending the pre-army program was a good first step—it essentially mimicked army life, making the transition into actual army service less of a shock," Klein said.

Seth Perkins, cousin of Yavneh student Jamie Perkins [10], joined the IDF for similar reasons. Following his time at college in Massachusetts, Perkins made *aliyah* (immigration to Israel) and studied at an institute of Jewish learning.

"I had decided that if I was going to live there, I felt a need to contribute in a way most civilians do," Perkins said.



Jerusalem: the new U.S. embassy

By Ari Berke '20

On Wednesday, December 6th, President Donald Trump announced his intent to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Israel's de-facto capital. During his campaign, Trump repeatedly committed that when elected he would move the embassy, so the fulfill-

ment of that promise has been highly anticipated. This move has been met with disdain by many Arab countries, and various U.S. embassies and consulates in those countries are preparing for violent demonstrations by enraged citizens. However, the Czech republic has followed suit and formally recognized Jerusalem as the nation's capital following Trump's

announcement. This move was supposed to be done in 1995, when Congress passed the Jerusalem Embassy Act almost unilaterally. However, each successive President has invoked a waiver allowing the President to postpone the move due to national security concerns.

In my opinion, this move is long overdue. Never did the Palestinians alone actually control any part of it, so they have no claim to be anything but non-citizen residents, as they always have been. In contrast, Israel has complete sovereignty over Jerusalem, and no other sovereign nation can make any similar claim, neither do any attempt to. If that doesn't constitute a reason for Jerusalem's recognition, I don't know what can.



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Special kibbutz for special needs

Grandparents of Yavneh student reflect on their unique community

By Shahar Peleg '18

In the heart of the Upper Galilee, among the multitude of mountains and winding roads, lies a unique community.

At first glance, this community seems like a typical Israeli kibbutz. The residents all work together and have a communal lifestyle. Everyone shares everything. All money is pooled and distributed equally among each member. The tranquil setting and tree-lined streets serve as an ideal location for this way of life.

However, upon closer inspection something surprising comes to light. This kibbutz — Kishorit — supports and houses mentally challenged adults.

The kibbutz provides for a community of 170 individuals and was founded in 1997 by Yael Shilo, Shuki Levinger and Dalia and Amos Peleg, grandparents of student Shahar Peleg [12]. These pioneers strive to create a warm home where individuals with special needs can live joyful and content lives.

The kibbutz achieves these goals by employing special needs residents at the businesses inside the kibbutz. An array of tasks are available to the kibbutz members, including jobs at a vineyard and winery, a dog kennel where award-winning competition dogs are trained, organic vegetable garden, bakery and goat farm.

With these options, each member can find their own niche and work in a field that interests them. Working at these businesses provides residents with a sense of accomplishment and pride. This, in turn, helps foster a feeling of self-worth and dignity.

Many members also work outside of Kishorit in the neighboring city of Karmiel. While this helps members integrate into society, problems can arise as well.

“If they are working outside, in



Photos courtesy of Kishorit's website.

the city, we have to protect them, to make sure they are not being used and that they are getting the respect that they deserve,” Dalia Peleg said.

“But the pros outweigh the cons of this system. Kishorit will continue implementing [it],” she continued.

Although the residents work to help maintain the financial stability to support Kishorit, they still do not generate enough money to support the kibbutz's needs.

In order to supplement the income from the businesses, Kishorit relies on various other means, such as farming. Kishorit owns land where they cultivate cotton, wheat, corn and peanuts, as well as fruit and olive trees: these help provide the kibbutz much needed extra income.

Kishorit also relies on donors who dedicate their time and money to help Kishorit continue to flourish. Many of these donors are individuals with special needs children.

“We get donations from Jews that just want to help,” Dalia Peleg said.

Members of Kishorit live in a home where they are supported and encouraged to strive to be their best. The staff understands the members, and they meet the members needs.

“We call [Kishorit] a home for life,” Dalia Peleg said.

There are communities around the world where individuals with special needs live alongside people with no special needs. This model, however, leads those individuals to feel inferior.

“They are carrying on themselves a burden because they know that they are different than others in the ‘normal’ world, so it is already difficult for them in society,” Dalia Peleg said.

In Kishorit, everyone is an equal, and the members feel that way. Kishorit provides a protected environment where its members can live life to the fullest.

Another special aspect in Kishorit are the “shin-shin-

im”. This acronym stands for *shnat-sherut*, a year of volunteer service.

Eighteen-year-old volunteers dedicate a year of their lives to the unique kibbutz before being drafted into the army. They live together in Kishorit and interact and bond with the members.

The shin-shinim work in the morning at one of the businesses. In the afternoon they do activities with the members, such as a dance, drawing or English class.

The volunteers also have the opportunity to mentor the members of Kishorit individually. They can take members out on a one-on-one activity such as going to the mall or a movie. The shin-shinim are heavily involved in the community and in each of the members lives.

Both the members and the volunteers are influenced by the close relationships formed during that year of living, working and learning together. Many of the “shin-shinim” consider the experience at Kishorit to be irreplaceable.

Kishorit can be like a sanctuary; members live happy and fulfilled lives. They have the chance to partake in many opportunities that they would not have otherwise had available in the outside world.

“Kishorit is a one of its kind in the world, there's no other place like this,” Dalia Peleg said.

The Bulldog Print is the official student newspaper of Yavneh Academy of Dallas and serves as an open forum to inform and reflect the opinions of its students and the Modern Orthodox community.

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Not so chill Netflix

Beloved streaming site removes fan favorites

By Sarah Liener '20

Over the past few months, Netflix disappointed its subscribers, discontinuing popular shows and movies.

These shows and movies include "How I Met Your Mother," "Friday Night Lights," "One Tree Hill" and "Titanic." All genres are taking a hit.

Approximately 50 percent of Yavneh Academy students surveyed were upset, saying a favorite show or movie was being deleted from the service.

Some consider switching from Netflix to Hulu since the latter has bought exclusive rights to a Yavneh favorite, "How I Met Your Mother." But as Netflix remains the more popular service, the general public is not rushing to change.

Jonah Schwarz-Mullins [11] weighed in on this. "The only reason people use Hulu is to get past the ads," Schwarz-Mullins said. "They offer exclusives that Netflix can't offer."

Yavneh teachers are affected as well.

"I watch Netflix every night," physics teacher Brittany Pendleton said.

History teacher Mordechai Rees subscribes to both services.

"I'm actually considering cancelling my Hulu subscription," Rees said. "What I like about Netflix is [that] it has a [larger] movie selection than Hulu, and I tend to want to stream movies more than TV."

Netflix offers some gripping originals, such as



Illustration by Rebecca Herschberg '20.

"Stranger Things" and "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" that hold onto subscribers. Luckily, some popular shows will remain on Netflix for now, ranging from the '90s sitcom "Friends" to the dramatic 2017 teen-craze "Riverdale."

According to Netflix, the program decides to remove shows when a licensing agreement with

a company ends. Netflix evaluates the popularity of the show or movie, the cost and the rights to renew the license.

Despite explanations for the removal of shows, viewers resort to various methods of coping. Some have chosen to binge-watch these shows quickly to see a show one last time.

Others rush to find new, entertaining shows.

Sophia Achar [11] serves as an example of a binger. While in the middle of watching of "How I Met Your Mother," Achar received the news that it would soon be taken off of Netflix.

In a frenzy to complete as much of the series as possible, Achar spent much of her free time binge-watching the show.

"I didn't sleep for three days," Achar exaggerated. "I don't get why they have to take it off."

Despite the sorrow, most people are loyal to Netflix. The platform has remained a loyal television source to millions of people for years. What started as a DVD mailing business transformed into a fantastic only medium for entertainment.

Although withdrawal for shows has been experienced, Netflix predicts that it will offer about 80 new films in 2018. The program hopes that the subscribers will fall in love with these new shows as much as they did with the old ones.

CALENDAR



December

General studies exams

Dec. 12-15. They're coming! Prepare to succeed. We believe in you.

Chanukah

Dec. 12-20. Light up the nights! Spin all of those dreidels and gather the gelt and latkes.

Star Wars: The Last Jedi

Dec. 15. A galaxy far away arrives at theaters. May the force be with you.

Winter break

Dec. 18- Jan. 1. Oh what fun it is to ride in a car not going to school.

The Greatest Showman

Dec. 20. Go to the movie theaters and experience a circus. Zac Efron and Zendaya star in this family-friendly magical film.

Pitch Perfect 3

Dec. 22. Don't miss the sign to hit up this movie. Fat Amy and the Bellas reunite and take to the stage overseas.

Fast- 10th of Tevet

Dec. 28. Commemorate the breaching of the walls of the Old City.

January New Years

2018 here we come! Stay up to watch the ball drop at 12.

We back

Jan. 2. Classes resume. Life returns to 12324 Merit Dr.

National Spaghetti Day

Jan. 4. Cheese, alfredo and marinara sauce are ready to party.

Hebrew winter exams

Jan. 10/11. Been around the Neta books, we will speak the language. Exams will occur during Hebrew class.

MLK Day - No school

Jan. 15. Sleep in like a king, have some inspiring dreams.

Judaic winter exams

Jan. 16-17. Torah time. At least a 90 for a Shacharit grade rewards an exemption for one exam.

Ruth B. comes to Dallas

Jan. 18. Be at the House of Blues at 6:30 to catch the singer of Lost Boy. Witness her pure acoustic talent.

Grey's Anatomy returns

Jan. 18. Dramatic doctors continue to fight for life, liberty and the pursuit of surgery.

Quarter 2 ends

Jan. 19. No, school doesn't end at winter break. One semester down, one more to go.

Candle lighting times

| December | January |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Dec. 8 at 5:03 | Jan. 5 at 5:17 |
| Dec. 15 at 5:04 | Jan. 12 at 5:23 |
| Dec. 22 at 5:07 | Jan. 19 at 5:30 |
| Dec. 29 at 5:12 | Jan. 26 at 5:36 |

Shabbat/Holiday ends

| December | January |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Dec. 9 at 6:01 | Jan. 6 at 6:16 |
| Dec. 16 at 6:03 | Jan. 13 at 6:22 |
| Dec. 23 at 6:06 | Jan. 20 at 6:28 |
| Dec. 30 at 6:11 | Jan. 27 at 6:34 |

Menorah lighting times

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dec. 12 after 5:21 | Dec 16 after 6:03 |
| Dec. 13 after 5:22 | Dec. 17 after 5:23 |
| Dec. 14 after 5:27 | Dec. 18 after 5:23 |
| Dec. 15 after 5:04 | Dec. 19 after 5:24 |

