

Bene-Israel, their "caste name" is "Shaniwar Teli" (Saturday oilmen) owing to them not doing their traditional of oilseed pressing on Saturdays.

WBWO

Thank You India

World Bene-Israel Welfare Organization

shaniwarteli@gmail.com
Editor: Dr. Shulmith Solomon

Our Family e-Newsletter

For Private circulation in Bene-Israel families world wide



Jan 1, 2020

Vol: Jan/2020

Idea:

Elijah(Leo) Daniels

81
Years
Old
Bene Israel
Business

https://m.timesofindia.com/city/mumbai/Alibaug-secret-A-legendary-drink-with-a-Jewish-connect/amp_articleshow/52274241.cms

Momentous Shaniwar Teli Location



Pictures from 13th. Dec, 2019

PLEASE SEND US MATERIAL FOR THIS PAGE WHERE YOU THINK IT IS A UNIQUE BENE-ISRAEL PICTURE

Short Letters from Readers

Letter from the creator	Letter from the Editor
1 Jan 2020 Dear Bene-Israel e-newsletter family members, This is a small effort to bring all the world BI family together. We will try it for a while and see if there is any interest. This e-newsletter is at no cost but people working behind it are working people with family. Their time is valuable and we thank all of them for being part of this effort. Please send us your thoughts and ideas like this e-newsletter too started as an idea. Please use our classified to increase you BI business, matrimonial between BI's and travel plans. It is all at no cost. If you want to contribute short stories, cartoons, poems or other creative treat, please send them by email to us. Marathi Hebrew & English matters will be accepted. Regards, Elijah (Leo) Daniels Walwatkar	1 Jan 2020 Dear Bene-Israel friend, It is vitally important that as a Bene Israel community worldwide we come together. This has been our main objective of this E newsletter. We feel extremely confident that Bene Israeli all over the world understand this and will contribute their thoughts and ideas Eventually great deals of determination, hard work and endurance have been attributed to this E new letter. Now is the time, a turning point in the Bene Israeli; the youth are called by the times to do something greater for the community. They should be the catalysts and hope for a genuine change. Shalom, Dr. Shulmith Solomon

Living Legends of our Bene-Israel community

In this part we respect our living legends. Please send us your favorite legend and reasons you think he is your hero.

It is not long that I met Nissim and I was instantly impressed by his dedication towards preserving our Bene-Israel Heritage. His four room apartment is filled with collections of hundreds of Bene-Israel exhibits which he wants to donate to a Bene-Israel Museum. It is his dream to create the first and unique Bene-Israel Museum. He has written & published hundreds of articles on the history of Bene-Israel. His books are widely known.

It was his research that laid the groundwork for the new theory that it was the name of the Bene-Israel that gave the name to the village in Raigad area. Since Marathi language did not exist until much later, the possibility that village name gave Bene-Israel's their Kar is not possible.

This research could link our existence from -175BD until 1600 AD when Dutch, French & English re-discovered us. The first Bene-Israel synagogue was built in 1796 (even before Baghdadi synagogues were built in India).

He is my Hero. I have seen him enraged when his own Bene-Israel people argue with him and refuse to understand the logic of his analysis. Below we are publishing his resume for everyone to understand his achievements.

Please join me in ***congratulating Mr. Nissim Moses for winning our "Crown of Fame"***

Phone +972546-874601 Email: nmoses4278@aol.com

Leo - (Gold INK ON BLACK)

PS: Mr. Nissim Moses is looking for 1 million dollar donation to build first Bene-Israel Museum



Resume of Nissim Moses

Professional Engineer and in Retirement Historian Bene Israel Heritage & Genealogical Research, Graduate of Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi. In Electronics and Communications Technology.



1. Established & was Head of Acoustic Dept. at Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd.
2. Established & was Head Acoustic Unit of the Israel Ministry of Environment.
3. Established Masters Course and was Adjunct Lecturer at Hebrew University-15 Years.
4. Acoustic Advisor to Israel Supreme Court.
5. Ex-Member of the Central Secretariat of the Lishkat Ha Mehandesim
6. Ex-Member of the Central Secretariat of the Histadrut Ha Mehandesim.
7. Chairman of Several National Committees on Environmental Noise Control.
8. Established & was Director of IAI Liaison Office in New Delhi India-1993-97. He won 19 tender/contract worth \$450 million and established Israel as a major defense supplier of India.
9. Established & was V.P. Marketing Unit Far East and Asia Pacific of Ultralife Batteries-USA.
10. Examiner for Masters and Doctoral Students at the Hebrew University Students in Acoustics.
11. Chairman of Acoustic Noise Committee of the Israel Standards Institute.
12. Member of Eng. Union of IAI.
13. Overall Chairman of Insurance & Pensions Sub Committee of IAI Union & Member of Finance and Foreign Travels Sub Committee.
14. Founder and Ex-Honorary President Bene Israel Heritage Museum & Genealogical Center in India
15. Historian & Genealogist-Indian Jewish Heritage and Bene Israel Genealogy Research. Now in retirement he has dedicated his time to research on the Heritage of the Jewish Communities and the Genealogy of the Bene Israel (BI) community of India. He has developed an Integrated Family Tree which currently has more than 56,000 names several thousands of Photographs and several hundreds of Bio-Briefs. It is on display at the Diaspora Museum (Beit Ha Tefusoth) in Tel Aviv. Besides he has written several articles on the culture, traditions, cuisine etc. of the Jews of India which are on his two Facebook Sites and have been published in several International Journals and referenced on several websites. He has authored two books on the Bene Israel Jews of India.

Our New & Young Talents

A pleasant beautiful Mrs. Rahel Bhonkar, mother of two welcomes you with a broad smile and it takes her a second to steal your heart with her charming talk and simplicity.

Winner of the annual International Tik Tok best comedy videos award for 2019, Rahel proudly shows us her picture on her phone and laughs.

<https://vm.tiktok.com/xK3jJ9/>

Short Interview with Rachel Bhonkar.

Rachel tell us something about you childhood and education?

Born in Mumbai to parents Moses & Rebecca Jacob Korlekar we moved to Panvel. I graduated with Chemistry major and specialized in Export & Import diploma. I am employed by CIPLA pharmaceuticals as a Quality Control Analyst. During 2014 I got married to Ronen and now have two wonderful children, daughter Roniya (5) and son Ziv (3).

That all seems ideal. So what made you interested in making TikTok video clips?

My father Mr. Moses Jacob Korlekar is my inspiration who won the Mr. Maharashtra title. As a kid I was enthusiast about dancing and acting.



I actively participated in all the extracurricular activities in school & collage. During 2004 I won the Miss Panvel title (Miss Karnal, Raigad).

During 2018 my brother Abraham informed me about the TikTok app and I started making my videos and by now I have created more than 950 video clips.

So how did you win the award?

Actually it was my brother who sent my three video clips for the competition without me being aware of it. My videos got selected for the final competition and then won. On 12th. Dec 2019 I was awarded the prestigious first winner Trophy Certificate & Cash.

How has there been support from your family and husband?

My parents always supported me and encouraged me. I am so lucky that my husband Ronen too encourages and supports me in my projects. You will see him with me in many video clips.

What are your future plans?

God has gifted me many talents. In the future I would like to start my own dance classes and production house.

What are your hobbies?

Acting Dancing & Cooking

Where can we see your 950+ video clips?

Follow the link below; <https://vm.tiktok.com/xK3jJ9/>



Please send us new Bene-Israel talents from your part of the world to include here.

In discussion with Israel Chaim.....

Marriage then (100 years ago) and Now

My great great grandfather Rabbi Chaim Shmuel Kehimker zatsal wrote a book about 120 years ago, a history of the Bnei Israel of India, printed in English in 1937. In 22 pages on the chapter of wedding, he brings all the customs of the Bnei Israel. Rabbi Chaim Shmuel zatsal on page 147 writes that after the Kedushin at the wedding Hall the groom sat with the men and the bride with the women at the feast without mentioning that any dancing took place."

I will Bring you a story from Rav Yaakov Shichnazi's book "Neimot Netzak" page 85 and tell me what you think.

A Dayan who sat in the rabbinic court in Be'er Sheva narrates: One day, a freshly married couple married just a month came in for a divorce. I inquired and was shocked. The husband related as it is known that in the secular marriage ceremony it is customary for the groom to dance with a girl from the audience, and the bride dances with one of the men. And so it was.

And here in the "devilish" dance, said the girl to the groom "tell me if you did not find whom to marry but only with this bride? Look at me and look at your bride and decide who is more beautiful!"

The Groom compared and really the bride was not as pretty as compared to her.

From that moment on he beheld a grudge against his wife, and a barrier came between them and he was not attracted any more to his wife and asked the Dayan if there was any point in continuing the marriage. The Dayan agreed that a marriage when the root was rotten in the first place there made no sense to go on.

Of course such stories may be possible as long as the reason for this exists. see! How the evil urge "yetzer ha ra" deceives the person and blinds his eyes. How could the groom on the night of his marriage dance with another girl and the bride with a strange man? Just now the groom made a marriage covenant with his wife. And when you gave the ring to her, you said, "You're consecrated to me...according to the law of Moses & Israel" meaning you are mine only & no one else. Then how does he let her dance with another man? makes no sense.

Even a foolish man watching from the side can guess what will be the end of such a marriage. While there are people who have come to the conclusion that it is indeed worthy to annul this evil custom but they are afraid of what others will say about them?

And to every one of them I turn to with a question: Are you ready to destroy your own house that you start to build on the wedding night? Didn't you save a lot or took great loans to come up to the great event if then how can you swing the axe on an your wedding altar?

So do this, my brother, and be saved: Do not care for what your friends say. Because after the simchah everyone will go to his house and you will stay with the pit you dug. A lot weighed the odds and reached the correct decision, join them and then you will be graced to build a faithful home in Israel.

What do you think!

Israel Chaim Ben-Yosef PEL: 0526891414 shaniwarteli@gmail.com

חתונות בבני ישראל אז(לפני כ-100 שנה) והיום

הסבא רבה רבה שלי רבי חיים שמואל קהימקר כתב ספר לפני כ-120 שנה היסטוריה של בני ישראל של הודו שמודפס באנגלית ב-1937. ב-22 דפים על פרק חתונות הוא מביא את כל המנהגים של בני ישראל. רבי חיים שמואל זצ"ל בדף 147 מזכיר שאחרי החתונה באולם החתונות החתן ישב עם הגברים והכלה עם הנשים בסעודה בלי להזכיר הנושא של הריקודים.

מביא לכם סיפור מהספר של רב יעקב שיכנזי "נעימות נצח" דף 85 ותגידו מה דעתכם. דיין שישב בבית דין רבני בבאר שבע מספר: יום אחד באו לבית דין זוג נשוי טרי כחודש במטרה להתגרש. חקרתיו והזדעזעתי. הבעל סיפר כידוע שבחתונות לא דתיות נהוג שהחתן רוקד עם בחורה מהקהל והכלה רוקדת עם אחד הגברים. ואכן כך היה. והנה בעיצומן של אותו ריקוד "שטני" אמרה לו הבחורה אתה החתן רקד, אמור נא לי האם לא מצאת עם מי להתחתן רק עם הכלה הזאת? הבט נא בי והסתכל בכלתך ותחליט מי יותר יפה!

החתן השוואה ובאמת הכלה לא הייתה יפה בהשוואה אליה.

מאותו רגע נכנס בליבו טינה כלפי אשתו ונוצר מחיצה ביניהם ויותר לא נמשך אחרי אשתו ושאל את הדיין אם יש טעם להמשיך את חיי הנישואין. הדיין החליט באמת נישואין כאלה כשהשורש רקוב מלכתחילה אין טעם להמשיך.

בוודאי שסיפורים כאלה יתכנו עוד כל עוד הסיבה לכך קיימת צא וראה! עד כמה היצר הרע מטעה את האדם ומסמא את עיניו. הכיצד יתכן שהחתן לביל חופתו ירקוד עם בחורה אחרת והכלה עם גבר זר? הלא לפני זמן קצר כרת עמה ברית נישואין. ובשעת נתינת הטבעת אמר לה "הרי את מקודשת לי...כדת משה וישראל" פירוש הדברים- מיוחדת לי ולא לאחר. וא"כ כיצד הוא נותן לה לרקוד עם זולתו?

הלא גם אם יעמוד אדם טיפש מן הצד יכול לנחש מיד מה יהיה סופם של נישואין כאלה ואמנם ישנם אנשים שהגיעו למסקנה שאכן ראוי לבטל מנהג רע זה. אך הם פוחדים מה יאמרו עליהם החברים?

ואל כל אחד מהם אני פונה בשאלה: האם אתה מוכן להרוס במו ידך את הבית אותו אתה בונה בעיצומו של ליל כלולותיך? הלא כל כך טרחת והשקעת עצמך בחובות עד שהגעתה ליום הזה א"כ היאך תניף גרזן על מזבח נישואיך?

לכן עשה זאת אחי והינצל: אל תשגיח במה שיאמרו חבריך. כי אחר גמר השמחה כולם ילכו איש לביתו ואתה תישאר עם הבור שחפרת לך. הרבה שקלו את העניו והגיעו להחלטה נכונה הצטרף נא אליהם וע"י כך תזכה לבנות בית נאמן בישראל מה דעתכם!

ישראל חיים בן יוסף פל: 0526891414 shaniwarteli@gmail.com

BI News from All over the World

Raigad District

Advocate Herzl Bhonkar

Mr. H.S. Kehimkar (born in 1830 in Alibaug) had predicted in his book "The History of Bene-Israel of India" that Bene-Israel arrived in India during -175 BC. However the article "On The Genetic Trail Of The Bene Israel"

(<https://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/on-the-genetic-trail-of-the-bene-israel/>) claimed Bene-Israel came to India between -800BC to +600 AD.

As we do have to take some point as our beginning, if we take a mean of -800 & +600, we arrive at -200 BC (close to -175 BC), just what Mr. Kehimkar had predicted. Therefore it can be assumed, Mr. Kehimkar's theory best explains the history of Bene-Israel's in India. The Genetic trial just adds to the evidence;

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=SXAkYWb432k&feature=youtu.be>

There are many visitors whom I take to visit our first Heritage Site, the Navgav cemetery and the monument that was built forty years ago. However for the first time I had a visitor last year who remarked that the monument had nothing to do with Judaism or Israel. It should have been a Menorah or Star of David to identify itself with its roots. Somehow the logic behind it makes sense.

As latest news from Alibag, Alibag synagogue now has a green grass garden in front of it, donated in name of my mother, late Mrs. Lebana Levy Bhonkar.

It is my opinion that we should investigate the surface below the waters where the ship wrecked. We could discover remains of some kind that could prove our history. How many of you would agree with me?

Your comments to : shaniwarteli@gmail.com



Mumbai

Leora Micah Joseph

UNESCO AWARD

On Sunday, December 8, the Trustees of the recently renovated and restored Baghdadi Synagogue Keneseth Eliyahu in Fort, Mumbai and the Chairperson of the JSW Foundation, invited members of the Jewish community to a reception as the synagogue received the UNESCO Asia – Pacific Award of Merit. Dr. Richard A. Engelhardt of UNESCO presented the award. This was followed by a concert performed by the Magasaysay Award recipient, the renowned Carnatic Music Vocalist, T.M. Krishna. The synagogue was filled to capacity not only by members of the Jewish community but also other eminent personalities and invitees.

SENIOR CITIZENS CAMP

The Golden Age group in association with AJDC, organized an overnight Camp for senior citizens (17-18 Dec) to a resort in Khopoli. The camp was a welcome respite to the members of the Golden Age group who look forward to such trips with the excitement of a child. The resort had a swimming pool so many of them lazed by the pool, enjoyed playing many indoor games like Carrom, Table Tennis, Ludo etc. They enthusiastically participated in activities like Dumb Charades, Antakshari and a specially created Jewish Quiz. The seniors' group also enjoyed learning the Gujarati folk dance Garba. The camp was fun as it gave them an opportunity to relax as well as spend time with their friends or making new friends at the camp. The good food at the resort was an added bonus to the group of 25 who returned very happy and contented.

HANUKKAH CELEBRATIONS IN MUMBAI

The month of December was eventful for the Mumbai Jews. Hanukkah was celebrated not only in the homes of the Bene Israel, but also publicly. The celebration of this festival made it to the local newspapers too like the Times of India and Hindustan Times. The star attraction especially for the kids were the donuts / sufganiyot served to all at most of these events.

On the first night, CHABAD, as in the past few years held a public lighting of the Giant Hanukkah at the Gateway of India. Children from the Jewish Academy and other groups performed on the stage especially built for this event. Around 80 -100 people from our community attended the event. There were donuts for all and fancy balloons for the delighted children. Some time ago, CHABAD opened a Jewish Academy for Kids in Mumbai and a handful of our Bene Israel children attend along



Performance by Jewish Academy



Hannukah at gateway of India

with children of some Jewish expats.

ORT India celebrated Hanukkah by having a get together on Wednesday morning, December 25, 2019. Rabbi Aharon Zarfati, the officiating Rabbi at the Keneseth Eliyahoo synagogue attended the event and gave a small shiur on the festival of Hanukkah. A quiz and games were organized and those assembled actively participated in them after the lighting of the Hanukkah candles and the accompanying prayers. Around 30-35 people attended the event including trustees, staff, senior citizens and a few children who were also treated to a tasty vegetarian lunch prepared by their in house cook.

The same day, the Keneseth Eliyahoo also celebrated Hanukkah. Following the evening prayer services, the Hanukkah was lit. Thereafter, everyone gathered in the hall on the ground floor for an evening of fun and games with prizes being given to the winners. The Generous Trustees of the synagogue ensured that the congregants enjoyed a sumptuous spread all prepared in their recently opened kosher kitchen. Every Shabbat and on special occasions, kosher meals are prepared in the kitchen and served to all present. Around 80-100 people attended the event.

One of the most looked forward to events during Hanukkah in Mumbai, is the KHAI FEST organized by the Jewish Youth Pioneers (JYP) along with the American Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC). This is an event that brings Jewish children, youth as well as adults together on stage where they get an opportunity to showcase their talent. The youth put up some wonderful performances – showcasing individual as well as group talent. This event is a fundraiser and the JYP donates part of the proceeds to a Jewish cause each year. This year apart from the youth, the ladies of the Eve's Association Thane, put up an enjoyable dance performance. A mother and daughter duo did a jugalbandi of sorts by performing two different classical dance forms on stage. Around 300 people attended the event which they enjoyed very much.

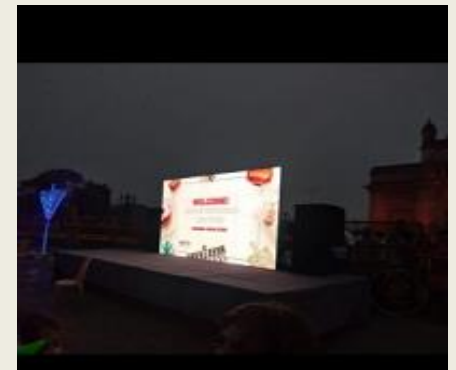
On 29th December, around 50-60 members of the Jewish Religious Union came together to celebrate Hanukkah at the Evelyn Peters Jewish Community Centre. After the lighting of the Hanukkah candles and prayers and songs, everyone participated in the games that had been organized especially for the event.

MUSICAL EVENING

On Sunday, January 12, 2020, the Golden Age group and AJDC held a Musical Evening at the EPJCC. The event was open to all. They had hired a five member professional music group that enthralled the gathered audience with a two hour performance of Bollywood songs. The performance included a mix of old songs, songs from the nineties as well as a few latest hit songs. The fifty community members who attended the event thoroughly enjoyed the evening.



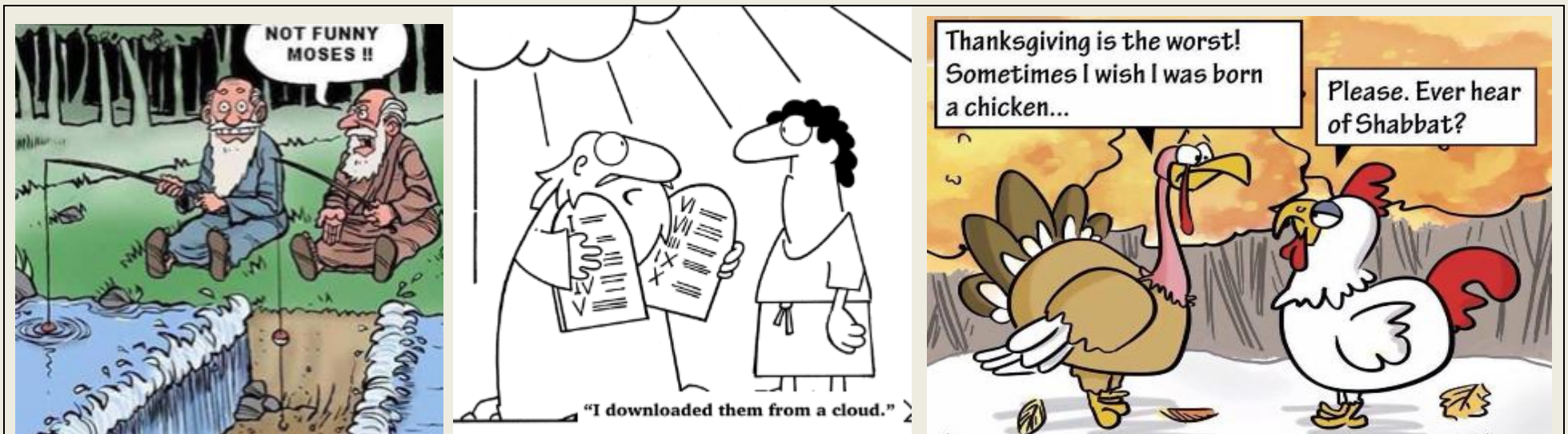
Musical Event organized by Golden Age group.



Upcoming Events:

The Gate of Mercy Syagogue (Shaar Ha' Rahamim), popularly known as the old synagogue recently received a donation of a Sefer Torah. On Sunday, January 19, 2020, the Managing Committee and Trustees of the synagogue has invited the Jewish community to be a part of the grand procession of bringing and Honouring the Torah followed by Arbith prayers. The Torah has been donated by Mrs. Uaffa & Mr. Yacov D. Ashtamkar from Lod, Israel. After the prayers the guests will proceed to the Sir Elly Kadoorie School hall for Malida and Kosher Dinner.

On February 8 and 9, 2020, The Department of Diaspora Affairs of the World Zionist Organization will be holding the 1st I vision Conference in India. The conference will have guest speakers, lectures and panel discussions focussing on Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Israel, Israeli film, Art and Culture, Tu'B'Shevat Seder + Malida ceremony, Zionist and Jewish Leadership. Registrations for the conference is open to those above 18 years of age.



(for private circulation only at no cost).

My wife and I did the Jewish divorce custom where we took a broken glass and we put it back together.

A blind man ran his fingers over the matzo for a few minutes, looked puzzled, and exclaimed "Who wrote this crap?"

Pune

Dr. Ruben Daniel

Pune is a sprawling city in the western part of India. It is the second largest city in the state of Maharashtra, it is the ninth most populous city in the country. Pune is a popular tourist resort with a cool weather having many historical forts and religious monuments. One of the most striking Monument and also a famous landmark of Pune is the 150 year old **Ohel David Synagogue**, it is one of the biggest Synagogue in Asia. This synagogue catered to the Bhagdadis who were also known as Yehudis.

There is another Synagogue in the heart of Pune in Rasta Peth dedicated exclusively to the Bene Israeli community of Pune. This is the **SUCCATH SHELOMO SYNAGOGUE**. The synagogue was constructed in the year 1921 by our fore fathers* (Photograph 1 - founders). The Synagogue was constructed exclusively by donations received from the Bene Israeli community from all over the world. The Synagogue will be completing 100 years in the year 2021.

With the migration of the Bene Israeli community to the Holy land of Israel after 1948 the community strength dwindled and at present there are only around approximately 300 Bene Israeli's residing in and around Pune city, earlier all the Bene Israelis were concentrated around the synagogue in Rasta Peth so much so that the lane opposite the Synagogue was called Jewish Street or Israel Ali in vernacular Marathi which is the local language of Pune and Maharashtra also.

Presently the younger generations of the Bene Israeli community have taken over the mantle of handling the religious ceremonies during the high holidays* (Photograph 2). An unique thing that is being followed in the Succath Shelomo Synagogue is holding a Community Malida on Rosh Hashanna Leilanoth, or New Year of trees (Tu bi shavat). This may be the only Synagogue in India which follows this unique concept of a community malida. This gives an opportunity to the youngsters of the community to come together to learn about the traditions and customs of our forefathers. The newly weds also learn how to make the malida and arranging of various fruits in the malida plate and finally we have lunch/dinner together along with fun games and prayers.

Dr. Reuben Daniel - Pune



Pune is the second largest city in the Indian state of Maharashtra, after Mumbai. It is the ninth most populous city in the country with an estimated population of 3.13 million.

Thane

Samsom Awaskar

Matter was not received until this letter went out.

Bene-Israel couple was looking at an Egyptian mummy

Mr.Penkar: Look so many bandages. Must be pukka drunk lorry driver's accident case

Mrs.Penkar : Aahoo бага, lorry number is also writer ... BC 1760

Australia

Solomon Erulkar

The Bene Israel community in Australia is a very small and we have a few in Sydney, Perth and Canberra. I am around Australia and this could be a good opportunity to the wider Jewish community at our local Synagogues,

We connect with the different families over the festive Rosh Ha Shanah and Pesach.



one. Most of our community live in Melbourne sure there could be others in different cities connect. Most of our community connect with Community Centres and Schools.

period and family events. We usually catch up

Over the last few years we as a group took on a few projects to promote our Bene Israel heritage and to make people aware of our unique history that goes back to the landing at Navgaon off the Konkan coast.

One of our first projects was to have a Bene Israel history presentation at a local Jewish Community centre. This lead to the next project that promoted our culture through Bene Israel recipes cooked by our grandparents and parents who were from Ahmedabad, Bombay and Poona. This was great successes which then lead us to being part of a Jewish Festival in Melbourne. This lead to exposure to our local radio station.



As you all may have heard, Australia has been dealing with some major fires and it's great to see the support from around the world and our local Jewish communities too.

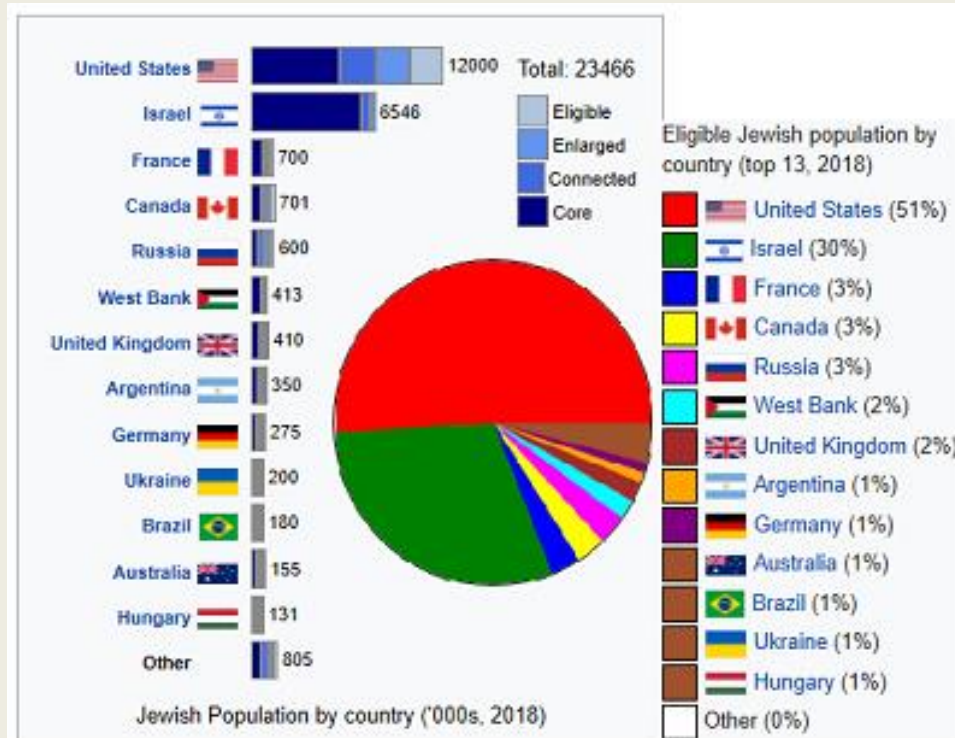
In my next update, I will forward some more stories from our Bene Israel Community about their journey to Australia from India and Israel.

Please write to Solomon David at shaniwarteli@gmail.com

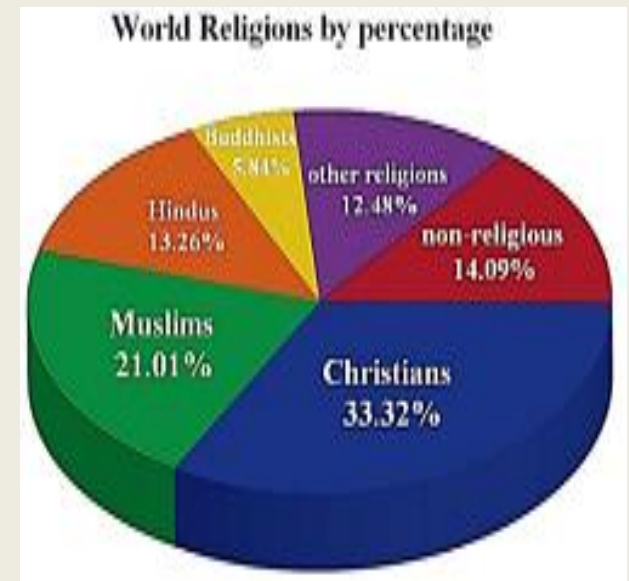
Note: The total population of Jews in Australia is less than 1% of total population of Australia.

World Jewish Population: 2018

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_population_by_country



Total world population of Jews : 23,466



The Jewish population in India is 0.0335%

Thalkar: What do these men have in common: Krishna Ram Gandhi and Jesus?

Awaskar: All are born on government holidays.

Canada

We are looking for a representative from Canada. Please contact us. shaniwarteli@gmail.com



Suggestion made by a Bene-Israel how the third temple can be re- built in its original location across a bridge.

New Zealand

Yoel Reuben

Bene-Israel's in New Zealand is only me and my family. There are 2 others now, 1 in Auckland and other in Christchurch. I live in Wellington. As part of the wider Jewish community with no problems.

USA- “Jews of India” Exhibition

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County, 310 Mounts Corner Drive, Freehold, NJ 07728, +1732-252-6990

(info@jhmomc.org, <https://www.jhmomc.org>) held an rotating exhibition on Jews from India.

This exhibition showed combine exhibits from all the three; Bene Israel, Cochin, and Baghdadi, Jews from India.

The Museum introduced the exhibition as below;

Summary below: (<https://jewishheartnj.org/events/jews-of-india-exhibit-opening-1574722431> - link for full version)

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County is pleased to announce the opening of its new exhibit, Jews of India: The History and Practices of the Bene Israel, Cochin, and Baghdadi Jews. The Opening Reception will be held on Sunday, December 15th, from 2 PM – 4 PM, with a suggested donation of \$15 per person, free for children and students.

The afternoon will include refreshments of wine, cheese, naan, and hummus. Guests will have an opportunity to hear from Monmouth County residents who are descended from Jewish Indian families, as well as other guest speakers. The Museum also has received recordings of some of the Bene Israel liturgical melodies, which will be played during the reception.

The history of the Jews of India is complex and shrouded in mystery. There are three groups: Bene Israel, Cochin, and Baghdadi, each with a different origin story. The Bene Israel has been the largest of the groups, with an oral tradition that they are descended from seven couples who were the sole survivors of a shipwreck off the Konkan coast, south of Bombay. Their arrival could date between the eighth century BCE and the sixth century CE. The Cochin and Baghdadi Jews arrived in India later and settled in different areas of the country.

This exhibit was prompted by the donation of books and artifacts by community members Yochanan and Sophie Perry. Their personal story was highlighted in the Fall 2018 issue of the Museum’s newsletter, Heritage Highlights. Family photographs, books, and objects will be on display, as well as a 1965 first day cover showing the stamp honoring the Cochin Paradesi Synagogue, which houses a set of copper plates dating from 1000 CE, given to a Jewish leader from the Hindu ruler, outlining special privileges which would forever be granted to the Jewish community.

Funding has been made possible in part by a general operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of the Department of State, through grant funds administered by the Monmouth County Historical Commission.

In this rotating exhibition only person who spoke was a representative of the Cochin community. No one from the Bene-Israel New-Jersey / New-York community officially spoke on Bene-Israel community.

Born in India, now living in Monmouth County,

Gila Rosenblatt will discuss the history of Cochin Jews of India from their earliest days to the present. She will present information on how this group first settled in India, the growth of the Cochin community, and their eventual resettlement in Israel and the United States. Her talk includes insight into different aspects of Jewish life in India including food and recipes, and some of their unique ritual practices. Visitors will also be able to taste a sample of

Cochin fare. <https://www.jhmomc.org/events>

Ashdod

Norman Solomon

Rav. Simshon Bamnolkar has been fighting for more than 20 years to build a Bene-Israel Synagogue and have now received final approval. The final permits were issued six months ago.

This is Bene-Israel Bet-Kneset is planned to build rooms so that members of the community can rent it out for weekends for bar-mitzvah wedding & Shabbat-khatan. Presently none of the many Bene-Israel synagogues in Ashdod offer rooms for the purpose. This will be a pleasant welcome.

We wish Rav. Bamnolkar best wishes.



Ramle & Lod

The population of Bene-Israel's living in Ramle & Lod areas In Israel is in hundreds. Most of the Indian shopping however was still done in Ramle area where the Indian shops are popularly located.

The residents of Lod welcomed when one our Bene-Israel family decided to open an Indian Grocery shop in heart of Lod market. They serve the local Bene-Israel communities including Moroccan's Ethiopians and Israeli's youngsters who have lived in India.

They take orders for Indian snacks & food including bidda (beans, cleaned or cooked in red or green masalas), puri-bhaji, pav-bhaji and other Indian mouthwatering dishes.

Call Curry House at: 052-8676640 / 08-6150600



India Chanukah's



Eilat

Moshe Dighokar

In the city of beaches of Israel; Eilat, there are about 130 Bene-Israel families. This community is served by two Bene-Israel synagogues, Shaarei Shalom (Gate of Peace) and Arba Imaot (four mothers).

The prayers are conducted by our own Bene-Israel seniors. Mr. David Nir handles the admiration of the Shaarei Shalom while Mr. Isaac Shapurkar handles the Arba Imaot administration.

Further Amuta (NGO) Sitar is used for festival occasions and get together for Purim party, Chanukah parties others. They also conduct evening classes for small children and arrange annual three days tour to the north of Israel.



Eilat Stone derives its name from the city of Eilat where it was once mined, it is a green-blue heterogeneous mixture of several secondary copper minerals including malachite, azurite, turquoise, pseudomalachite, chrysocolla. The Eilat stone is the National stone of Israel, and is also known as the King Solomon Stone.



Special Feature

Cemetery in Sundernagar near Ahmedabad, Gujrat

This beautifully preserved cemetery is in Surendranagar, Gujrat near Ahmedabad, where no Bene-Israel's are living now.

Aaron Benjamin Dighorkar, who lives in Eilat now, travels every year to India to take care of all kind of needs for preserving this cemetery where his grandparents and wife Neomi rests. There is inadequate support for his endeavor and he endures colossal expenses alone.

Aaron is looking for more people whose relatives are buried in this cemetery so that a coordinated effort can be made to keep the cemetery safe clean and preserved as it is part of our BI heritage.

In the bottom picture you can see Aaron with white check shirt standing next to the grave of his wife Neomi. Standing next to Aaron is Moshe, his son.

Please contact Aaron at: +972545968583 in Eilat, Israel



Pictures from Jan 2019.

1937-38	<i>Dr. Elijah Moses Rajpurker</i> MAYOR OF GREATER BOMBAY
	DR ELIJAH MOSES RAJPURKER (1873-1957) Elijah Moses Rajpurker, medical doctor, public health activist, and the only Jewish mayor of Bombay (modern Mumbai), was from the city's Bene Israel Jewish community. Bene Israel members began to enter into higher education around the turn of the 20th century. Rajpurker qualified as a doctor, opening a medical clinic in Dongri, an area of Bombay. http://static.daattravel.com/Images/PDF/India-Famous.pdf

Shaniwar Teli – Heritage

Nissim Moses – Historian for Indian Jewish Heritage & On-going Research on Bene Israel Genealogy

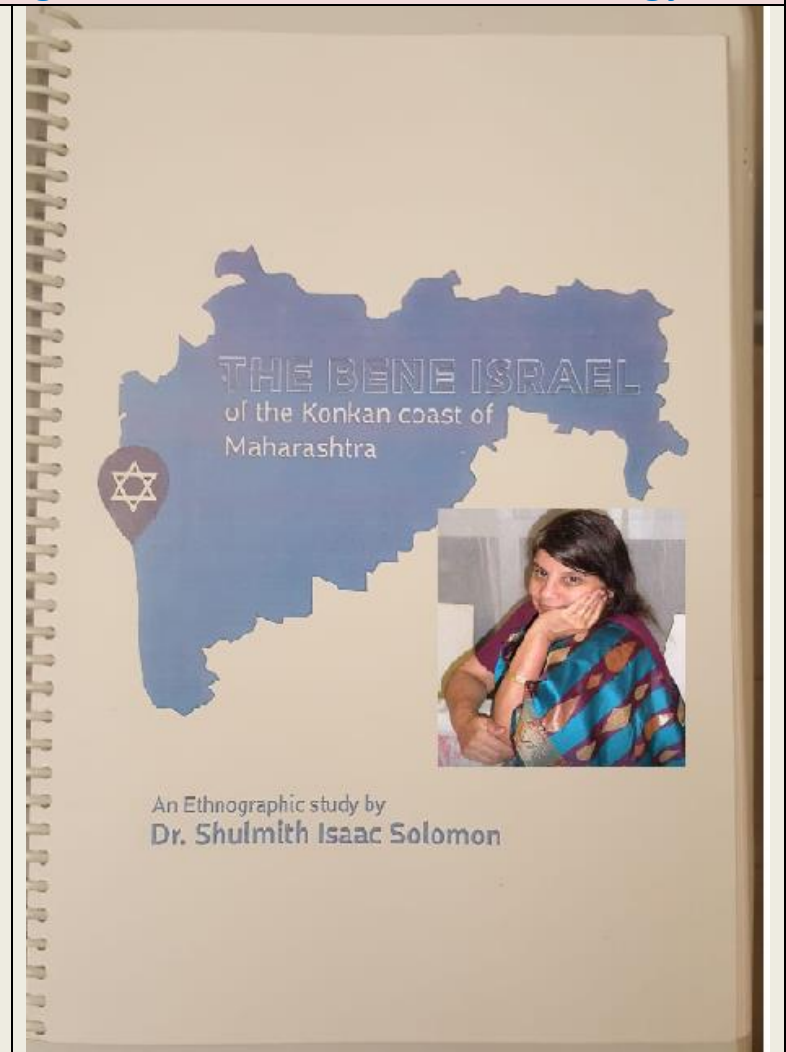
Ethnography is defined as an illuminative account of social life and culture in a particular social system based on multiple detailed observations of what people actually do in the social setting being observed. Ethnography can be described as both qualitative and quantitative research methods that are used by sociologists when studying specific groups, communities or institutions found being a part of a larger complex society.

Dr. Shulmith Isaac Solomon in her pre-published research 'The Bene Israel of the Konkan coast, Maharashtra' touches on many issues that perhaps we never thought of. I was impressed by her questioning how our people blended with the three thousand years caste system or later influences of Christianity and later Islam.

Dr. Solomon details our Customs and Rituals and goes in to details, step by step explaining each ritual like from Sebah Tofa, Nazir, Sebah Shelamin, Korban Nedaba, Koran Naser, Malida and more, looking at its origin in the social environment Bene-Israel's faced over 2000 years in year.

Dr. Solomon is looking for funds to publish her valuable research. To discuss her research, please contact Dr. Solomon at +972536238836

Above summarized by Elijah (Leo) Daniels



Note: In future this page will be written by Mr. Nissim Moses himself giving us latest information on our Heritage

TEST YOURSELF
IF YOU ANSWER CORRECTLY ALL THESE QUESTIONS THEN YOU ARE PAKKA SHANIWAR TELI
 BY Ellen Daniels

1.	How do you take “naav”?	11.	On what occasions Bene-Israel’s perform “Malida” ceremony?
2.	When do you eat “bidda”?	12.	When do you say “Uncle Aunty Jewayla yaa”
3.	What is a must dish for “mendi” dinner?	13.	As Bene-Israel Tourist in Raigad, where would you go first?
4.	When do you make “Choi che Ladu”	14.	When do you arrange “Eliyahoo Hanavi” Chair
5.	When do you eat “karanji / puri”?	15.	When do you take “Naav”
6.	Why are you at “Bhau cha Dhakka”? once a year?	16.	When do you use “Suter Pheni”
7.	As young man, why do you keep looking up in Synagogues?	17.	When do you wear white clothes?
8.	When do you not take bath?	18.	When do you make “Ghari”
9.	When do you do “Chalsoni” ceremony?	19.	When do you “Ghatto Halwa”
10.	When do you make “puranpoli”	20.	When do you eat “Pink Halwa”

Correct Replies: Refer to your parents and grand parents

Please send us your creative interesting materials for this page if your mind is creative.

Viva

Looking for Viva who was member of JRU Youth Group during 80’s

Please contact us Viva

ORT India

Ort India committee

Mr. Levi Rubens,
Chairman

Mr. Benjamin Issaac,
Hon. Secretary

Mr. Johnny Jhirad,
Member and Chairman of the
Education subcommittee

Mr. Solomon D. Rohekar,
Member & Member of the Education subcommittee

Mrs. Diana Haeems,
Member

Mrs. Joyce Shankaran,
Member

Mrs. Aviva Issaac,
Member

Mrs. Sivanah Ashtamkar,
Director & member of the Education subcommittee

Mr. Elkan Palkar,
Project Manager & Member of the Education
subcommittee

Please contact:

Mrs. Sivanah Ashtamkar, Director, Member Education subcommittee

ORT INDIA

68, Worli Hill Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.

Tel. 91-22-24968423

Email: Director@ortindia.org

Many are already aware that Ort is giving scholarship grants at actuals up to Rs.50,000/- for school students, Rs. 75,000/- for junior college and up to Rs. 2,00,000/- per year to students pursuing college or professional courses of their choice. Please apply to Ort office for the scholarships. In 2019 so far Ort has given scholarship grants of Rs. 40 lakhs to 100 students.

Further we also plan to give scholarships to those who applied in 2016 but were not given one at that time.

Ort has also decided to promote certain courses from reputed institutions like Garware institute at the Kalina campus of Mumbai university, NIIT centers throughout India, Mumbai university Thane Sub campus, etc. The NIIT Centers are thus also open for our brethren from Ahmedabad and Pune with scholarships from Ort India.

These vary from Information Technology to Law, Data Analytics to Banking and finance and digital marketing to Management and so on. So get in touch with Ort office for more details of the courses or Google them yourself.

The scholarships for courses of your choice will of course also continue.

Ort is sponsoring aptitude tests and career guidance sessions at IPH at Thane. Please phone and start registering by phoning Ort India office so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Ort is bringing workshops on Parenting, Healthy marriage skills, motivation etc. Please take the benefit of these facilities as also spread the word.

Granting of registration in online courses for people already working so they can study at their convenience and advance in their careers. Weekend courses are also available through Jaro Education and Welingkar Institute.

Johnny Jhirad

Member and Chairman of the Education subcommittee

News from AJDC & EPJCC – they so kindly sent us their new letter KESHER

KESHER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE AJDC AND EPJCC



January 2020 (Tevet - Shevat, 5780)

Dear Community Members,

Shalom and Happy New Year!

Your membership has enabled us to accomplish so much this year!

The AJDC, IIT and EPJCC would like to express their deepest thanks to all the donors, volunteers and supporters who provided the financial & moral support needed to continue our mission.

We look forward to a continuing partnership with all community members!

We have interesting programmes, camps and events for the upcoming year too! Don't miss out and renew your membership today! It's quick and easy- just call Ashley or Sinhora on 24360578/ 24331734. Also please update us in case your telephone numbers or addresses have changed so that you keep receiving the Kol India and the other important event updates.

Thank You,
Nissim Pingle

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Holiday	2	3	4
5 Hebrew Class Alef	6 Kabbala/ Orot Ha-Torah/ Torah Class	7 Fast of Tevet	8 Hebrew Class Bet	9	10	11
12 Golden Age Get Together/ Hebrew Class Alef	13 Torah Class	14	15 Hebrew Class Bet	16	17	18
19 Hebrew Class Alef	20 Torah Class	21	22 Hebrew Class Bet	23	24	25
26 Republic Day	27 Torah Class	28	29 Hebrew Class Bet	30	31	

Golden Age Get-Together!

Staying active and being social are key to ageing gracefully! All elderly from our community are invited on Sunday, 12th January for this fun get together to meet up with friends and make new ones, play housie, do stand-up, dance and entertain!

Venue: EPJCC, Matunga
Time: 4-6pm

Refreshments will be served.

For details and registrations call Diana Haeems (7506038474) or Diana Korlekar (9920371130) or Ashley (24360578).

KESHER - January



Women's Meet (Orot Ha-Torah)

Women's meet will take place on Monday, 6th January at 3pm.

Venue: EPJCC, Matunga.

Kabbala Session!

All are invited for an interesting session on Kabbala by Mr. Judah Kolet.

Topic- Abraham and his Descendants.

Date- Monday, 6th January.

Time- 11am at the EPJCC

Lunch will be served.

Kindly RSVP, please call Ashley on 24331734.

Shabbat Challah for Sale

Bring Shabbat into your homes with freshly baked Challah!

The Challot are being prepared by the AJDC in collaboration with Om Creations.

Wheat challot are also available!

For orders please call Sinhora before Wednesdays on 24331734.

Weekly programmes at the EPJCC-

Hebrew class Aleph (for beginners) every Sunday, 3.30pm to 5.30pm

Hebrew Class Bet (advanced) every Wednesday, 6pm to 8pm

Torah Class on Mondays from 6pm to 8pm

All these classes are facilitated by our JSC Fellow Jeremy Wilson.

If you are not a part of the Whatsapp groups for the above classes please call on 24360578 and confirm if the class timings have changed.

Winter Youth Camp!

The JYP committee is pleased to announce its camp to Ooty!

Dates: 22nd to 26th January 2020.

Thanks for the overwhelming response- this one too promises to be filled with Jewish learning, adventure, sightseeing and fun!

Forthcoming Events (February)

2nd : EPJCC 21st Anniversary and Volunteer felicitation

8th & 9th : i Vision Conference + TuBShvat Seder

PLEASE NOTE:

The AJDC and EPJCC offices will remain closed on Fridays and Saturdays on account of Shabbath and on 1st and 26th January for New Year day and Republic Day respectively.

KESHER is for private circulation only

Members are requested to inform EPJCC in case of change of address, email or phone number.

A Reminder : Membership is on a

calendar year basis, January to December, irrespective of the month of application.

Cheques should be sent in the name of - "Indian Joint Trust."

Evelyn Peters Jewish Community Centre
Administrative Building,
1st Floor, Above Bank of Maharashtra
O.S. Muparal College Ground
Bel Gandhinagar
Behind Ruby Mills Gate
Matunga, Mumbai 400 038
Phone: 91-22-24330835 / 24331734
E-mail: ajdcindia@jdc.org

Help the EPJCC Help You

We would like to offer our community the opportunity to Enhance their Jewish knowledge. To do that, we would like to know what Jewish topics are of interest to you or what you would like to learn about. Based on your response and the number of requests, we will build a sustainable course content.

Please call the Director for EPJCC, Mr. Nissim Pingle with your request on Tel. No.: 24210835 or email at: nissim.pingle@jdc.org

BJP's Jewish Minority Leader in Maharashtra

Sassoon Phansapurkar

Mr. Phansapurkar with his team successfully introduced the Bene-Israel community in to minority category of Government of Maharashtra. As the Bene Israeli is declared as a minority community they will be entitled for various benefits. The youth of the community will get preference to professional courses as well as obtain positions in government and private sector. Mr. Phansapurkar and his team are making efforts to gain Bene-Israel community these important benefits/rights. They also work on other projects that will help Bene-Israel community in general. Besides Navgav and Worli, there are many other neglected Jewish cemeteries that have been currently used for unofficial building by non-Jews like in Panvel. Mr. Phansapurkar's team tries to get these properties back for the Bene-Israel community. See link below.

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=362358361166843&id=100021780464630

Sassoon's team visited the Jewish Cemetery located at Jambhul Pada, Shdhagad –Paali Distric of Raigad, Maharashtra on 31 Jan, 2019 and again on 1 Feb, 2019 to launch police complain to re-possess the cemetery.

Sassoon's team has been active in objecting and requesting to move the taxi stand away from the entrance to the Worli cemetery.

During June 2019 Sassoon's team presented problems faced by our students as exams are held during Yom Kippur and other Jewish festivals. Further issues about scholarship and free education for Bene-Israel students were also discussions. This meeting was held with Education Minister Shri. Ashish Shelar.

During July 2019 Sassoon's team met the higher education minister Mr. Vinod Tawade to discuss the problems our students face while getting admissions into higher education intuitions.

These are just some examples of many projects this team deals with. Sassoon insisted that not just his name but lots of our other Bene-Israel members of the community help in this project and we should mention their names too. But due to lack of space, we refer all of them as Sassoon's team.

Further, Sassoon welcomes donations as all the work they do needs financial support that currently is provided from the pockets of each active member. Please contact:

Mob; 8169441594/9869711786/9867733923 BJP office, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021

<https://youtu.be/2NDd3Vozveo>



News from our heritage sites and other...

IJF Avd. David Talegaokar	IJHC Ruth Benjamin/Pinchas Yosef	IOBI Yafa Gupte
We were promised information but due to time restrictions it was not sent. Perhaps in next issue we will get up-dates.	We were expecting up-dates from them but nothing was sent. They do have their own newsletter too. Perhaps that is the reason. This e-newsletter is a general Bene-Israel letter to connect all the World Bene-Israel together.	We spoke to their President Yafa Gupte who will discuss this in their managing committee, and if they approve, we will have get up-dates from them every three months.
Worli Cemetery		Others
No contact was made by us as we did not know whom to contact. We request them to please contact us at shaniwarteli@gmail.com		Please contact us if your activities should appear here

Travel

Bhutan was named among the top travel destinations for 2020, according to Lonely Planet.



<https://www.insider.com/best-countries-to-travel-to-in-2020>

Bhutan, officially the Kingdom of Bhutan, is a landlocked country in South Asia. Located in the Eastern Himalayas, it is bordered by the Tibet Autonomous Region of China in the north, the Sikkim state of India and the Chumbi Valley of Tibet in the west, the Arunachal Pradesh state of India in the east, and the Indian states of Assam and West Bengal in the south. Bhutan is geopolitically in South Asia and is the region's second least populous nation after the Maldives. Thimphu is its capital and largest city, while Phuntsholing is its financial center.

Shaniwar Teli Cooking

Please send us your Bene-Israel Recipes to share

Below by: Sarah Daniels

Methi-chi-Bhaji



Easy & Quick (20 minutes)

Cut well washed 200 g **Methi** in to one inch pieces (if not it tends to bunch together after cooking).



Add two semicircle cut **onions**, 2 to 5 **green chilies** (depending on how spicy you like it, cut into small pieces) and fry together in 200 ml preheated **cooking oil** until onion looks looks transparent or lightly brown.



Add half teaspoon Haldi and salt to taste. Mix well.

Add two **potato** cut in bhaji size and cook until semi soft.



Add Methi and cook until cooked and brown it if you like it more fried.

Note: This recipe is good for both large leaves and small leaves Methi.

This recipe is also good for frozen Methi (above quantity for 1 block of frozen Methi)

Health Tips

Please send your health tips to share

Reflexology Points to Control Diabetes

Place your fingers 2 centimeters below the knee, as shown in the picture. Massage this area with a little pressure for 5 minutes every day. It balances the digestive system. Diabetes is said to begin with stomach fire and proper digestion can reduce this problem. You will immediately see the result. This method is also used to prevent aging, arthritis and other forms of weaknesses.

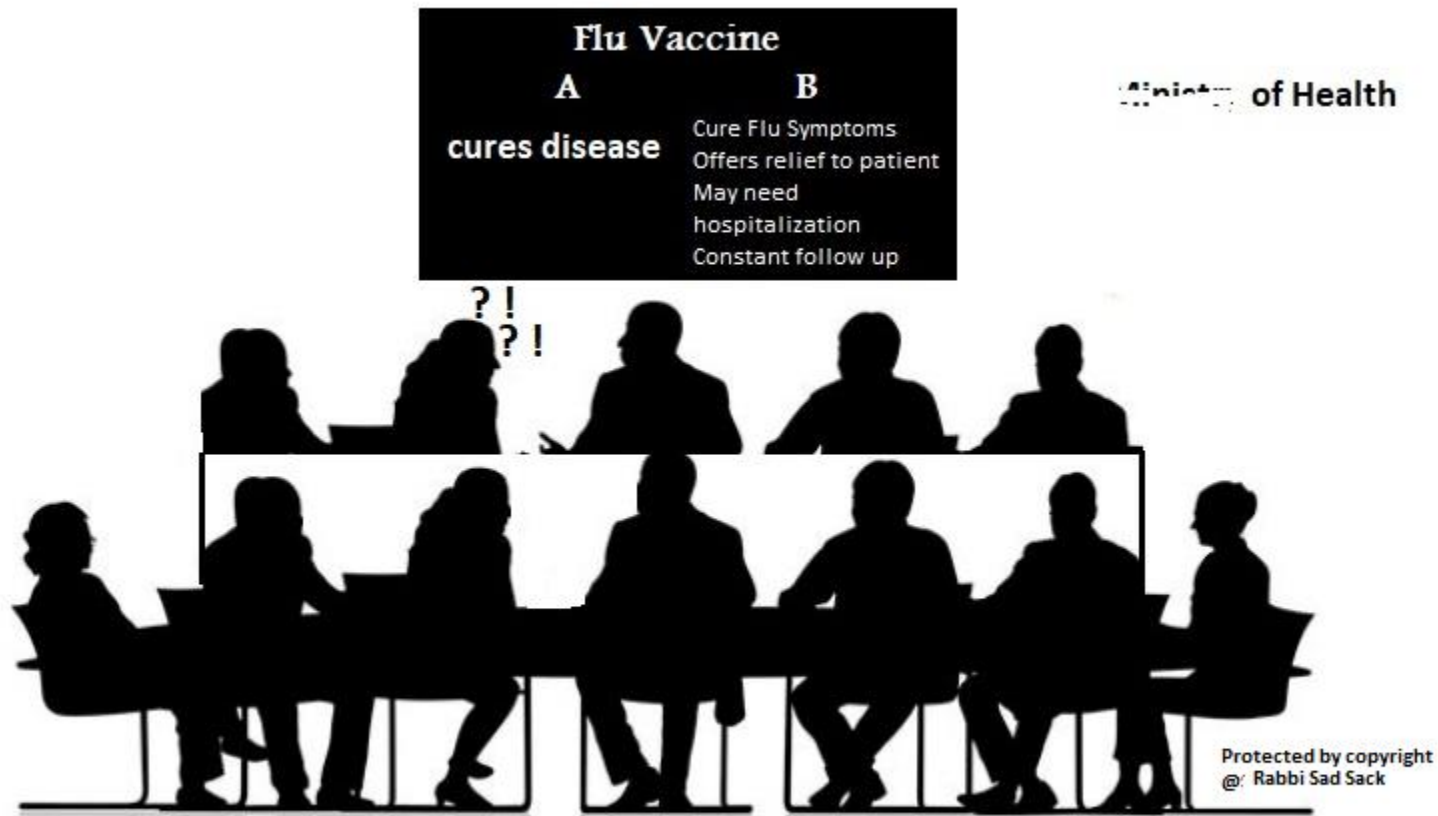


<https://www.modernreflexology.com/reflexology-points-to-control-diabetes/>

This 10 Second Stretch Routine Can Eliminate Back Pain



Cartoon by Rabbi Sad Sack



....they had to call this urgent meeting of doctors to apologize for sending out group A vaccines by mistake, instead of group B!! But now that the mistake is identified, they are going to take major steps to rectify it on emergency footing so that patients get proper care.

CLASSIFIED

BI-BUSSINESS	BI-MATAROMIAL	BI-TRAVEL	Future Meetings
Travel from Israel to India and with-in India contact me. Visa, Ticket, Travel Peres Pezarkar +919870427265 For Kosher Mahadrin food for any occasion in Israel call me, Ikey Agarwadkar 052-4411119 Delivery possible at cost. Ladies & Gents Hair Cutting & Dresser in Ashdod Yaron: 052-592-9957 	BI 30 5'2" girl Graduate Working. Grew up in India, now living in Israel looking for suitable for marriage. Only serious. Call/Whatapp: +972 50-261-3111 BI man 38, 1.72 cm from Israel working with Electronic keeps Sabbath working, looking for religious girl for marriage. Contact Diana: 055-6888672 60 years old man from Ashdod Israel, well settled, self-employed, never married looking for Marathi speaking BI women for sharing time/live in. Facebook link: https://www.facebook.com/danny.daniels.710	Travel to & from Lod Airport call me, Yona Dhokarkar : 050-8511550/ +972508511550 Malida at Cave of Elijah, Western Wall, Eilat, Both Small and large cars/vans. Sarit Kasukar for all you travel needs from Israel and in Israel 050-6891214 Insurance Agent for Life Car Health Business Travel Call Doris 03-9692656 / 03-9698848	22.2.2020 JRUYG's of 80's members in Israel to meet in Lod to welcome Elijah Jacob's JCD team visiting Israel. 11 AM to 4 PM.  Keneseth Eliyahoo Synagogue (Fort Synagogue) 55, Dr. V/B. Gandhi Marg, Fort, Mumbai - 400 023 Tel. No. 2283 1502 / 22830617 Mobile No: 9820051020/9820078032 14th January, 2020 To: The President Trustees, Secretaries and Committee Members. Dear Sirs / Madam, This is to inform you that Hon'ble Speaker of Israeli Parliament (Knesset) Mr. Yuli (Yoel) Edelstein is visiting Mumbai. The Consul General of Israel, Mr. Ya'akov Finkelstein, has requested us to Welcome him on Sunday, 2nd February, 2020 at the Keneseth Eliyahoo Synagogue at 4:30 p.m. Kindly inform and organize your Congregation and the Community Members to attend the function to show the Solidarity of the Indian Jewish Community by attending in large numbers and welcoming him. Each Synagogue, Institutions and Organisations will be given the opportunity of felicitating him with a bouquet. Please come in large numbers. Refreshments will be served to one and all. Thanking you, Yours sincerely,  (Solomon F. Sopher) President Keneseth Eliyahoo Synagogue



Hebrew Book: The Bene Israel Community in India and in Israel Today (Hebrew Edition) (Hebrew) Paperback

The Bene Israel Community in India and in Israel Today: Celebrations, customs, often-asked questions and their answers. "If the members of the Bene Israel community were birds, animals or reptiles they would have been placed under the category of endangered species; but since they are neither birds nor animals, they are vanishing as a community and being amalgamated into main stream Judaism."

I am myself a member of the Bene Israel community, so before our rituals and customs which we have followed for centuries, vanish completely, I took it upon myself to collect our rituals and record them in writing. As I am myself eighty-seven years old, I could not find many older than myself who would enlighten me further on the subject. I am often called upon to give a talk on our community.

I started collecting the questions which follow my talks and I am presenting them herewith. Every research paper should have a bibliography at the end of the theses, but since I am writing what was told to me by my elders as well as my own recollections I have no bibliography to present." Shimeon Kollet - Available on Amazon \$ 15.99

<https://www.amazon.com/Hebrew-Book-Israel-Community-India/dp/9655505146>



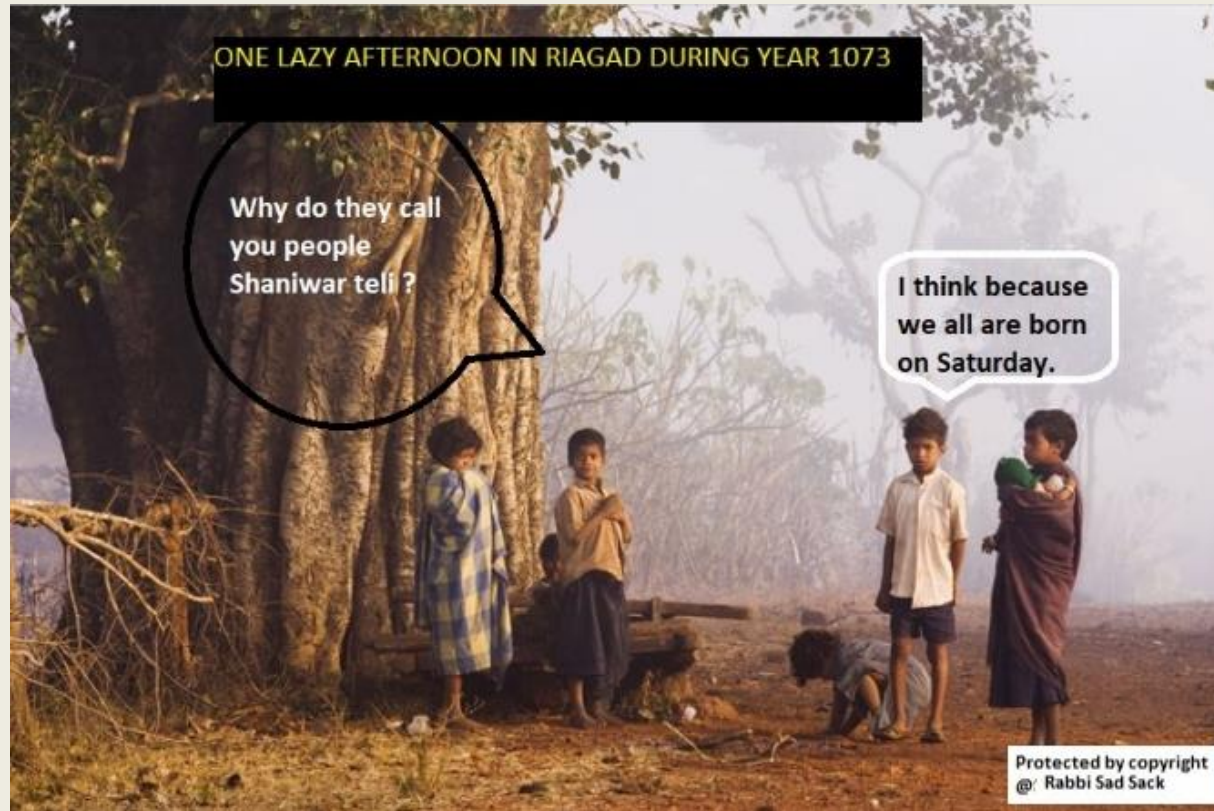
Available on Amazon \$ 15.99

Bhonkar: Why do vampires try to avoid getting in to arguments?

Korlaker: Because it always makes them cross

Shaniwar Teli Jokes

By Rabbi Sad Sack



Ashtamkar: No one has been able to reply the question if the hen came first or the egg!!

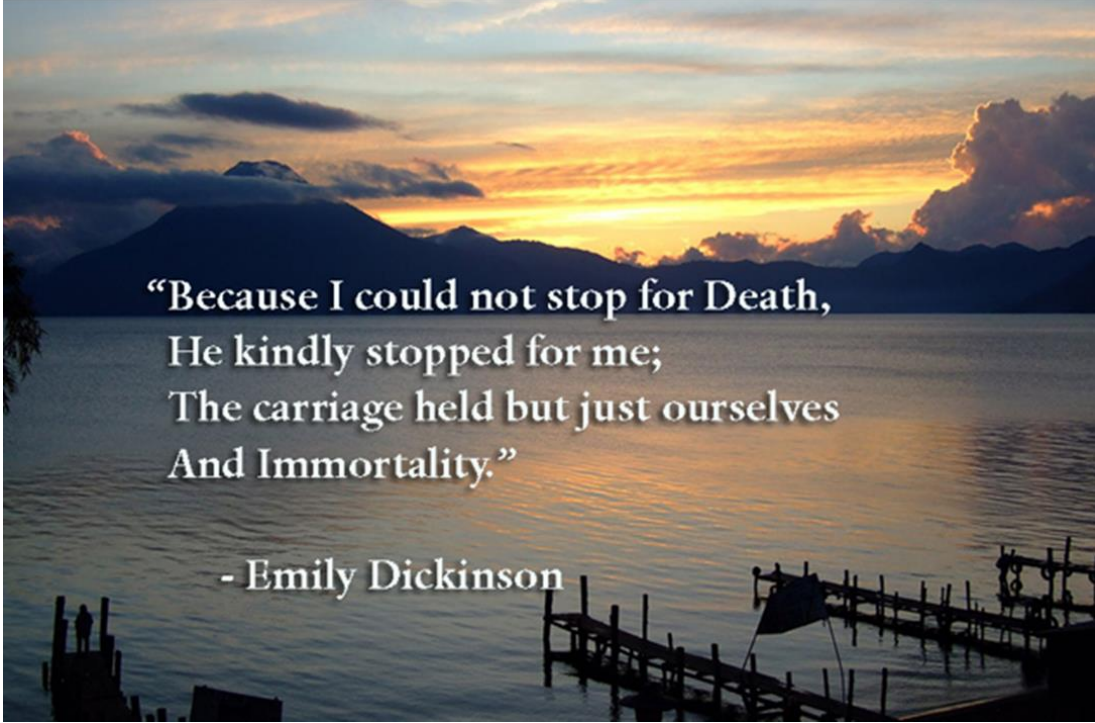
Koletkar: Because it is a completely silly question.

Ashtamkar (surprised): Why!?

Koletkar: Yes! Because first came the cock!!

Poems

Please send us your poems for this section



“Because I could not stop for Death,
He kindly stopped for me;
The carriage held but just ourselves
And Immortality.”

- Emily Dickinson

Points to Ponder (send your points to ponder)

What if Man and God both met one day and both exclaimed “My Creator”

What if God asks you after you die “So how was heaven?”

The fool didn’t know it was impossible. So he did it and succeeded!

Short Stories

Please send us short stories written by you. Below: Story By **Eli Walwatkar** (Crime)- Israel

DENIAL

In Pen Asher Shapurkar walked the small mud lane in his huge farm towards his home. Both sides of the lane were covered with dense tall grass and huge trees. It was twilight time and it was clear the full moon in the sky promised a clear sky during the night. It also promised another bone chilling night in this winter season. By the time he waked in to his front yard night had set.

The home was in completely darkness. Asher was familiar with his environment, how it looked and smelled during different parts of the day. After all he was born in this home and had lived last fifty years in this same home. But today something was different. The smell!! There was a smell in the atmosphere. Smell of a women who was in her menstrual cycle. Smell of blood! Lots of blood!

Dazed he opened the lock on his front door and lit all the lights. He quickly walked around his home, climbed the second level and checked room by room. But all looked well and as he had left them. He walked down, back to the sitting room and to his work desk. Was he imagining the smell? No, it was there and very strong!

To let air in to his home he opened the front door, windows and the back door. He walked out of the back door in to darkness and found all was as should be. He walked back in to his home but after few steps in side his home he stopped. His shoes; they were sticking to the floor. Surprised he looked behind. He had lead black red sticky foot marks in to his home. Blood marks. Lots of blood! He has stepped in to a pool of blood.

A cold chill climbed his spine as he turned back gaping into the darkness of his back yard. Walking slowly he walked out of the door in to total darkness. He stood there like a shocked rabbit that does not move. His eyes got adjusted to the darkness and that is when he saw it.

He stood in a pool of blood. The blood had thickened in this cold chilly night. His gaze followed in the direction of the blood. It went four meters away in his back yard. At the end of the blood drain there stood a chair, a chair with two wooden handles. A man sat on it. His head was leaning towards side like he was asleep. A butcher knife was stuck in his stomach.

Next morning Inspector Solomon Gosalkar and his team were investigating the murder site and questioned Asher over and over to see if his version of the story changed. The man sitting in the chair with the knife in his stomach was Nathan the twin brother of Asher. In case of death of Nathan, Asher would become sole beneficiary of this whole property and wealth.

There were rumors that a rich property developer from Mumbai wanted to buy Nathan & Asher's property in enormous price and converted it in to a massive housing complex. With Mumbai growing into New Mumbai and further deeper in to Raigard district, Pen's population was growing rapidly and the property developer thought investing in to Pen could mean hitting a gold mine. While Asher was keen on this deal Nathan was not interested in selling their ancestors property. Therefore the police suspected foul play. Asher planned Nathan's killing. But how? Asher was out in Alibag the whole day. There is no evidence of any one coming in to Asher's home. How did Nathan reach there? If Asher was not there, who killed him? There is no evidence of any stranger coming to Asher's home.

Complete this story; all reasonable ideas will be printed.

To Our Readers

1. Please send us your letters and articles to email: shaniwartali@gmail.com
2. Write to us about any BI business you run and would like to advertise free
3. Please send us matrimonial to add to the classified poems and stories (Marathi English Hebrew)
4. All your suggestions are welcome
5. Not every letter or articles or other items received by us can be printed.
6. We are BI Family e-newsletters. No criticism please. We only appreciate work of all BI.
7. No disputes. If there are difference of opinion, that will always remain and respected.
8. Please excuse us if you find any mistakes. We tried our best.

Disclaimer

No one of us who are offering this voluntary service in creating this Bene-Israel Family Newsletter is responsible for any wrong or misleading information. All has been done only with good intention.

Only purpose of creating this newsletter is to increase communications between Bene-Israel's in the world.

**Coming Dead Line to submit matter for next issue:
15th March Sunday 2020**