



Bene-Israel women plucking fruits for oil pressing in Raigad, India



From the City of Ashdod, Israel Photo credit: Yamit Daniels

SHANIWAR TELI

מסחטות שמן שאינן עובדות בשבת

e-Newsletter

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Binding all Bene-Israel Community Worldwide

מסחטות שמן שאינן עובדות בשבת
(for private circulation only)

Passover Greetings from Shaniwar Teli e-Newsletter

Foodwanderings: Biblical Rituals and Passover Traditions of the Bene Israel, India's Largest Jewish Community



The illustrated Poona (Pune) Haggadah in Marathi and Hebrew, 1874. Photo credit: Shulie Madnick

1874

Taken from a Haggadic
Written
In
Marathi
And
Hebrew

How to make the
Matza round



**Simha Apthekar (Bene Israel)
sieving flour the community's
matzot (unleavened bread)
before the festival of
Passover**



**“And they shall take of the
blood, and strike it on the two
side posts and on the upper
door post of the houses, wherein
they shall eat it.”**



Matzoh in a basket.

[Discovering the Passover Traditions of India's Largest Jewish
Community - Food - Haaretz.com](https://www.haaretz.com/discovering-the-passover-traditions-of-india-s-largest-jewish-community-food-1.6111111)



Hannah Ramrajkar (Bene Israel) is kneading the (matzah) dough.

Cleaning Our Hearts for Pesach

Leo Daniels



Everyone gets that cleaning the house for Passover is a hassle. Having to go through all the cabinets, sweep, vacuum, mop (many Bene-Israel, they will re-plaster the walls!) is no fun.

But it's an opportunity to do a ***spiritual cleaning***, as well.
So where do we start?

The truth is that cleansing the heart is a lifelong process. But because we get a special blessing on Passover, we have to take advantage of it. So let's focus on two qualities that make the biggest messes: **anger and jealousy**. How do I clean my heart of those?

Fixing **anger** begins with understanding that everything comes from God, the good and the challenging. When I get angry and blame other people for things, I attribute a power to them that they simply don't have. This is why the sages compare anger to idol worship! Would you like to be called idol worshiper?

Fixing **jealousy** is by knowing that God never runs out of blessings. Whatever you need, there is plenty more of it in heaven. The more we realize God can do anything, the more we come to understand that the person I'm jealous of didn't take my portion. Didn't marry my soulmate. Didn't give birth to my child and they just cannot take your blessing.

They say that the loudest sound in the world is the sound of a habit being broken.

It's difficult. But so worth it because when we fix our hearts, we fix the entire world.



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Shaniwar Teli is a term used to refer to the Bene Israel community in India. They are known as “Saturday oil pressers” in Marathi because they abstained from work on the Jewish Sabbath. They also practiced circumcision, recited the Shema on ceremonial occasions, celebrated several major festivals, and observed Jewish dietary laws. Later called as Bene-Israel community and now known in Israel as Indian Immigrants (*Israeli-Indians*).

Letters

Leo,
A big function was held by IOBI along with IJF some years ago where it was decided to preserve Navgaon cemetery along with a local politician leader who owns PNP ferry service from gateway to mandwa.

I contributed XY thousand Rs. towards this to the Indian Jewish Federation IJF for this project.

We have no updates on this so far. So I am reluctant to give any more money towards this project.

I paid to the **INDIAN JEWISH FEDERATION** member who issued a receipt to me after a month.

Several donations were given at the farm house residence of Jonathan Solomon at Mandwa.

The Indian Jewish Federation is headed by Ezriel Penkar and its Chairman is Jonathan Solomon. David Talegaonkar is Secretary.

Many others too have made donations for this purpose. But we have no idea what was collected and how much more is required.

The local political leader had asked to make an estimate of how much money is required to repair / rebuilt the (new Menorah landmark) and he will help with the balance money after the community contributions are made available to get the estimates.

It is not possible that enough money was not collected to estimate the cost of repairs or rebuilding a new landmark as Menorah (a Jewish Landmark).

We think the present landmarks does not represent a Jewish Landmark and should be replaced with a Menorah. It will cost the same amount to place a new Jewish landmark rather than repairing the landmark that has so Jewish significance.

Writer is a responsible & popular member of the community and represents views expressed in many of the messages and phone calls we have received on this subject. We could not print all.



Sulmith & Leo, Regarding the state of the monument in Navagao. Please don't promote this project unless you get valid explanation on the delay of the project which was deemed urgent by IJF along with IOBI in 2018. Five years have passed without any progress or explanation. Who will want to contribute to this project again and again if this is the present status? It is sad that money collected for the said purpose is being held up by IJF and IOBI without giving any updates on the same. No transparency amounts to a sense of tardiness and distrust among community members.	Money kept separately for what? These monies were to be utilized to repair the monument, and the local politician was to put extra money required. Even Herzl Honker and his father were present at the event and should carry out the repairs asap. Until the community does not get the list of donors and amount's donated and the total amount that is available. In last five years the value of the money is reduced at least by 50%. Who is responsible for this? We hope IJF & IOBI make transparent this account.	Further what is happening with the money collected by IOBI? If IJF was collecting the money, why was IOBI collecting money. They said they will send receipts to everyone once IOBI stationary will be printed. IOBI promised next meeting in Israel in next six months and then everything went on silent mode. The whole idea disappeared. No one spoke of it any more. No accounts were ever given or any receipts were sent. <i>Why are you asking money for a project for which community has already paid and are waiting to see repairs to start?</i> Please don't promote this project. <i>This writer too is a respectable member of our community in India.</i>	“ WHERE IS OUR MONEY? ” 
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The only memorial of the Bene-Israel in Navgao is rotting and needs repairs and restoration. The community does not have \$100K to \$200K needed to repair it. Some are of the opinion to discard the old monument and make a new, a more Jewish monument instead, like a Menorah, the symbol of the state of Jews; Israel. When you look at the present monument, no where you get an impression of it being a Jewish Landmark. This new monument too could cost about \$100K to \$200K and you will get a real Jewish symbol, as it should be meant to. In either case nothing can be done unless funds are available either for repairs or for new monument.	On the other hand, there is a need for road expansion in Bandra and our old un-used Bene-Israel graveyard can become part of this future expanded road. Should the community give up the old graveyard and use the money for the repair or building a new monument in Navgao? Sarah Joseph Hi Sarah, We have checked if this possibility is feasible. Following is the reply we have received from the Hon. Secretary of the Indian Jewish Federation Advocate David Talagaokar; B.M.C. will give alternative land for Jewish Cemetery. They will not give monies. David T  	To Shaniwar Teli, My grandparents were Bene-Israel and since I grew up under influence of my grandmother of my mother, who was a strict Bene-Israel tradition follower, I too feel Jewish and want to part of the Bene-Israel community. Before the death of Rabbi Diviker of Jerusalem I was in contact with him and he was going to guide me how I could immigrate to Israel. But since he expired, my case is also stuck somewhere in his papers. Please guide me what should I do to immigrate to Israel. My parents had given me and my sister non Jewish names and family name. All my documents are therefore in alien names and not Jewish names. We live in Assam. Ravi Ahuja We suggest you contact Rabbi Joshua Kolet from Israel. His WhatsApp number is: +972526060394 E-mail: rabbijkolet@hotmail.com	Bene-Israel going to Dubai Dear Leo, As all of us Israeli's love traveling outside Israel (Turkey & Europe), with Dubai opening to Israeli citizens, everyone started rushing to this new destination. We too went to Dubai with excitement. However I would like our people to realize that in Dubai you will find many Muslims from Pakistan, SriLanka Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Kerala. They speak Hindi /Urdu. Though the Dubai government has open ways for Israelis the local Muslim population disapproves of this move. Even though they are not citizens there their population is in millions and you come across them everywhere. It is my advice to be very careful. Especially don't let ladies go alone to toilets or markets. Women are kidnapped for prostitution and there is no one who can help you. The authorities will side only their law. We are free people but Dubai is an evil place if you are not careful. Solomon Isaac
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Editorial's Desk

Shaniwar -Teli team would like to inform all our readers that we have put a Disclaimer for all the articles which are received by us from the individuals. We just print it in our E- newsletter. The views expressed do not represent the opinion of the Shaniwar-Teli team nor is it written by any of our team members.

Various events have taken place in these few months.

The Etz- Haeem Synagogue in Mumbai has gifted four Safer Torah to the Succoth Shalom Synagogue Pune on the 8th of January 2023. On the 26th of March 2023 the Beth-El Synagogue of Panvel will receive a Safer Torah which has been donated by Mrs. Sima and Mr. Nachson Nigrekhar of Yavne Israel in memory of their parents Mr. Moshe and Mrs. Yerusha Nigrekhar.

The Marathi Gaurav Bhasha Divas was celebrated on the 27th of February 2023 in Ashdod. It was attended by eminent Indian Jewish personalities as well as by the Indian Embassy personals as well as the Deputy Major of Ashdod.

Israel also helped Turkey when it was devastated by an earthquake on the 6th of February.

We would like to congratulate Mr. Levi Reuben who was honored as a Top Educator.

The President of India Draupadi Munnu addressed the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divad convention in Indore Madhya Pradesh. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or the Day for Non- Residents Indians is commemorated annually on the 9th of January. It renews and strengthens linkages of overseas Indians to their place of origin.

This award is to commemorate the contribution of the Indian diaspora. It also creates a better understanding of Indian abroad. It supports Indian cause and works for the welfare of the local Indian community. This year this prestigious award was conferred on Ms. Reena Pushakaram a prominent restaurateur in Israel.

We wish to convey our sincere condolences to the family of Susan E King the founder of Jewish Genealogy center. Her tremendous contribution to the world of Jewish genealogy will be appreciated forever.

We would like to wish all our readers a Happy Passover (Pesah).



Hats off to the two Pune synagogues to collect thousands of rupees donation for Bayiti Parents' Home in Panvel.

Shulmith Charikar Ph.D.
Editor

Publisher's Desk

This issue somehow is full of matter on the Bene-Israel memorial in Raigad. Also with the change of the year, everyone reported of their elections except one. You can guess who!

Fair Elections has the power of ridding any institution of its current diseases.

Wishing all our readers happy Passover holidays.



Elijah(Leo)
Daniels

***“Living Legend”* of the Bene-Israel Community**

This is the first time this title goes to an amazing group; ***Minyan Group***

This group was recommended by our able team member Elijah Jacob who needs no introduction. ***Thank you Elijah.***

Minyan Group was formed by two respected Bene-Israel's; **Mr. Solomon Rohekar** and **Mr. Daniel Joseph Bhonkar**. They started this innovative group (read their amazing story below) to serve the community. ***We salute such members who selflessly perform acts that just touch your heart. God bless them and their family.***

The Honorary Jewish Prayer (HJP) Group started about 6 years ago (in December 2016)

Some Community Members were worried that due to migration of our people from south Mumbai to Thane (and beyond) & Israel-- the Synagogues in Mumbai city were not getting the Minyan for Sabbath Prayers.

Thus there started a small group of people who wanted to have a Minyan in Synagogues. This group would spend from their pockets to buy Kiddush, dates, bananas, snacks & tea at the Synagogue. Slowly like-minded Community Members started rallying around and the group strength grew to the present number that is 20.

Thus Kurla Prayer Hall, Panel Synagogue, New Synagogue (Shaare Rasson) started having Sabbath Shacharith Prayers at least once a month. The Synagogue Committees also extended full cooperation and took over the Kiddush, Snacks etc. upon themselves.

After the Chinese Virus (Corona) calamity suddenly it was noticed that other Synagogues also started facing the Minyan problem. Hence, a video conference was called in 2022 and the problem was discussed in detail with the Committees of Synagogues.

Now, our HJP Group members, who were all going to one Synagogue per week- were distributed to 3 other Synagogues-- namely- Etz Haeem Prayer Hall, Magen Hassidim Synagogue and



The Honorary Jewish Prayer (HJP) Group at Beth-El Synagogue in Panvel



List of current members of the Honorary Jewish Prayer (HJP) Group

Solomon Daniel Rohekar Daniel Joseph Bhonkar Judah Daniel Sankar Isaac Shellim Shapurkar Aaron Binyamin Thalkar Isaac Dandekar 	Binyamin Daniel Divekar Gershon Shimshon Nigrekar Isaac Nowgaonkar Aaron Reuben Ameet Kolatkar 	Joseph Malekar Moses Massil Noah Pingle Nissim Sankar Nissim Pingle Ariel Belkar 	Nathaniel Shrivardhankar Solomon Satamkar Isaac Kelly Solomon Palkar Elias Herman Hananiel Satamkar 	Contact to join HJP Group Solomon Daniel Rohekar 7718832909 90045 91792 JUDAH DANIEL SANKAR 87791 76691 9820469572 SHAPOORKAR ISAAC 93 21 044647
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Tiphereth Israel Synagogue on weekly basis.

In-between another problem was noticed, that due to many reasons, Minyan had become a problem at the Cemetery too.

Our HJP Group immediately decided to request our Group Members to fulfill the requirements of Minyan at the Cemeteries. (Some of our Group Members had even gone to Cemeteries outside Mumbai).

Synagogue Committees felt that they should recognize & acclaim the esteemed work undertaken by the honor HJP Group members. But our Group firmly believes that this service is not for publicity purpose, but purely for the benefit of our Community and hence no Felicitation should be taken.

One Israeli gentleman had even offered to donate a car to our Group to be used for the Minyan service, but we thanked him and rejected the offer.

"Certain Synagogues didn't have 'Readers', especially of Torah portions of the Day.

So our Group brought into our fold those who were well versed in Hebrew and Torah reading.

Our HJP Group was invited to far-off places like PEN. We visited that Synagogue twice or thrice.

It was also pointed out that Residents of **Barite** (parents' home for Bene-Israel in Panvel that was opened by Elijah Jacob with the support of AJDC) should also be given opportunity to attend Sabbath Shacharith Prayers. As all residents couldn't be taken to Synagogue- so we kept our Sabbath Shacharith Prayers there at Bayiti in New Panvel on 3- 4 occasions before the outbreak of China Virus (Corona).

Our request to our Community Members is that instead of offering gifts in cash or kind only gift that they can offer is to join us or any Synagogue for Prayers and attend funeral and related services for our Community.

Our Group is named 'Honorary Jewish Prayer Group' to emphasize the fact that our service is totally voluntary and free. All can contact to join HJP Group: Solomon Daniel Rohekar 7718832909 / 90045 91792, JUDAH DANIEL SANKAR -87791 76691/9820469572
Shahpurkar ISAAC 93 21 044647

ऑनररी ज्युईश प्रार्थना गट सुमारे 6 वर्षांपूर्वी (डिसेंबर 2016 मध्ये) सुरू झाला.

काही समाज सदस्य चिंतेत होते की आमच्या लोकांच्या दक्षिण मुंबईतून ठाणे (आणि त्यापलीकडे) आणि इस्रायलमध्ये स्थलांतर झाल्यामुळे- मुंबई शहरातील प्रार्थनालयांना शब्बाथच्या प्रार्थनेसाठी मिनियान मिळत नाही.

अशा रीतीने तेथे लोकांचा एक छोटा गट सुरू झाला ज्यांना प्रार्थनालयामध्ये मिनियान ठेवायचे होते.

हा गट त्यांच्या स्वखर्चाने प्रार्थनालयामध्ये किद्दूश, खजूर, केळी, स्नॅक्स आणि चहा इत्यादी घेण्यासाठी खर्च करत असे.

हळुहळू समविचारी व इच्छुक सदस्यांनी एकत्र येण्यास सुरुवात केली आणि गटाची संख्या सध्या 20 पर्यंत वाढली.

अशा प्रकारे कुर्ला प्रेयर हॉल, पनवेल प्रार्थनालय, न्यू सिनेगॉग (शाआरे रासोन) मध्ये महिन्यातून किमान एकदा तरी शब्बाथ शहारीथ प्रार्थना होऊ लागली.

प्रार्थनालय समित्यांनीही पूर्ण सहकार्य केले आणि किद्दूश, स्नॅक्स इत्यादी स्वतःच्या हाती घेतले.

चायनीज व्हायरस (कोरोना) आपत्तीनंतर अचानक असे लक्षात आले की इतर प्रार्थनालयांनाही मिनियान समस्येचा सामना करावा लागतोय.

म्हणून, २०२२ मध्ये एक व्हिडिओ कॉन्फरन्स बोलावण्यात आली आणि प्रार्थनालय समित्यांशी या समस्येवर तपशीलवार चर्चा करण्यात आली.

आता, आमचे HJP गट सदस्य, जे सर्व दर आठवड्याला एकाच सिनेगॉगमध्ये जात होते- त्यांना 3 इतर सिनेगॉगमध्ये गरजेनुसार पाठवले जाऊ लागले -- म्हणजे- एट्झ हाईम प्रार्थना हॉल, मागेन हासिदीम प्रार्थनालय, तिफेरेथ इस्राएल प्रार्थनालय (साप्ताहिक आधारावर)

मधेच आणखी एक समस्या लक्षात आली, ती म्हणजे अनेक कारणांमुळे स्मशानभूमीतही मिनियानची समस्या निर्माण झाली होती.

आमच्या HJP गृपने लगेचच आमच्या गृप सदस्यांना स्मशानभूमीत मिनियानच्या गरजा पूर्ण करण्यासाठी विनंती करण्याचा निर्णय घेतला. (आमच्या गृपचे काही सदस्य मुंबईबाहेरच्या स्मशानभूमीतही गेले होते).

काही समाज सदस्यांना असे वाटले की त्यांनी आमच्या HJP गट सदस्यांचा या सेवेसाठी सन्मान केला पाहिजे. परंतु आमचा गृप ठामपणे मानतो की ही सेवा प्रसिद्धीसाठी नाही तर निव्वळ आपल्या समाजाच्या फायद्यासाठी आहे आणि त्यामुळे कोणताही सत्कार करू नये अशी त्यांना विनंती केली.

एका इस्रायली गृहस्थाने मिनियान सेवेसाठी वापरण्यासाठी आमच्या गृपला कार देण्याची ऑफर देखील दिली होती, परंतु आम्ही त्यांचे आभार मानले आणि ऑफर नाकारली.

" काही प्रार्थनालया मध्ये 'वाचणारे' नव्हते, विशेषतः त्या दिवसाच्या तोरा भागांचे.

म्हणून आमच्या गटाने हिब्रू आणि तोरा वाचनात पारंगत असलेल्यांना आमच्या गेटात आणले.

आमच्या HJP ग्रुपला पेण सारख्या दूरच्या ठिकाणी आमंत्रित करण्यात आले होते. आम्ही त्या प्रार्थनालयाला दोन-तीनदा भेट दिली.

बाईती च्या रहिवाशांनाही शब्बाथ शाखारीथच्या प्रार्थनांना उपस्थित राहण्याची संधी द्यावी, याकडे आमच्या ग्रुपचे लक्ष वेधण्यात आले. सर्व रहिवाशांना सिनेगॉगमध्ये नेले जाऊ शकत नव्हते- म्हणून आम्ही चायना व्हायरस (कोरोना) चा प्रादुर्भाव होण्यापूर्वी 3-4 वेळा नवीन पनवेलमधील बाईती येथे आमच्या शब्बाथ शाखारीथ प्रार्थना ठेवल्या.

आमच्या समाजसदस्यांना आमची विनंती आहे आम्ही निस्वार्थपणे सेवा करीत आहोत म्हणून रोख किंवा भेटवस्तू देण्याऐवजी ते एकच पुरस्कार आम्हाला देऊ शकतील कि आमच्या ग्रुपमध्ये किंवा प्रार्थनेसाठी कोणत्याही प्रार्थनालयामध्ये त्यांनी सामील व्हावे आणि आमच्या समाजासाठी अंत्यसंस्कार आणि संबंधित सेवांमध्ये सहभागी व्हावे.

आमची सेवा पूर्णपणे ऐच्छिक आणि विनामूल्य आहे यावर जोर देण्यासाठी आमच्या ग्रुपला 'ऑनररी ज्युईश प्रेयर ग्रुप' असे नाव देण्यात आले आहे."

HJP जनजागृती समितीमध्ये सामील होण्यासाठी सर्वजण संपर्क साधू शकतात : सोलोमन डॅनियल रोहेकर ७७१८८३२९०९ / ९००४५ ९१७९२, जुदा डॅनियल शंकर -८७७९१ ७६६९१/9820469572 शापूरकर आयझॅक ९३ २१ 044647

גוגל תרגום

קבוצת תפילות הכבוד היהודית (HJP) הוקמה לפני כ-6 שנים (בדצמבר 2016)

חלק מחברי הקהילה היו מודאגים מכך שבגלל נדידת אנשינו מדרום מומבאי לת'יין (ומעבר לה) ולישראל- בתי הכנסת בעיר מומבאי לא קיבלו את המניין לתפילות שבת .

כך קמה קבוצה קטנה של אנשים שרצו לערוך מניין בבתי כנסת. קבוצה זו הייתה מוציאה מכיסם כדי לקנות קידוש, תמרים, בננות, חטיפים וזה בבית הכנסת. לאט לאט חברי הקהילה בעלי דעות דומות התחילו להתאסף מסביב והכוח הקבוצתי גדל למספר הנוכחי שהוא 20.

כך אולם התפילה קורלה, בית הכנסת פאנבל, בית הכנסת החדש (שערי רסון) החלו לקיים תפילות שבת שחרית לפחות פעם בחודש. גם ועדות בית הכנסת הרחיבו את שיתוף הפעולה המלא והשתלטו על הקידוש, החטיפים וכו'. על עצמם.

לאחר אסון הנגיף הסיני (קורונה) פתאום הבחין שגם בתי כנסת אחרים התחילו להתמודד עם בעיית המניין. לפיכך, כונסה ועידת וידאו בשנת 2022

והבעיה נדונה בפירוט עם ועדות בתי הכנסת .

כעת, חברי קבוצת HJP שלנו, שכולם הלכו לבית כנסת אחד בשבוע - חולקו לשלושה בתי כנסת אחרים - כלומר - אולם תפילה של עץ הים, בית הכנסת מגן חסידים ובית הכנסת טיפרת ישראל על בסיס שבועי.

בין לבין הבחין בבעיה נוספת, שמסיבות רבות, מניין הפך לבעיה גם בבית הקברות .

קבוצת HJP שלנו החליטה מיד לבקש מחברי הקבוצה שלנו למלא את הדרישות של מניין בבתי העלמין. (חלק מחברי הקבוצה שלנו אפילו הלכו לבתי קברות מחוץ למומבאי).

ועדות בית הכנסת הרגישו שעליהן לכבד את חברי קבוצת HJP

שלנו על התפילה הזו. אך הקבוצה שלנו מאמינה בתוקף כי שירות זה אינו למטרות פרסום, אלא אך ורק לטובת הקהילה שלנו ולכן אין לנקוט ב - Felicitation.

ג'נטלמן ישראלי אחד אפילו הציע לתרום מכונית לקבוצה שלנו שתשמש לשירות המניין, אבל הודינו לו ודחינו את ההצעה.

בבתי כנסת מסוימים לא היו 'קוראים', במיוחד של פרשיות התורה של היום .
אז הקבוצה שלנו הביאה לקפל שלנו את אלה שהיו בקיאים בעברית ובקריאת התורה .

קבוצת HJP שלנו הוזמנה למקומות רחוקים כמו PEN. ביקרנו בבית הכנסת ההוא פעמיים או שלוש פעמים .

עוד צוין כי יש לתת לתושבי בייתי הזדמנות להשתתף בתפילת שבת שחרית. מכיוון שלא ניתן היה לקחת את כל התושבים לבית הכנסת - אז שמרנו את תפילות שבת שחרית שלנו שם בבית בניו פאנבל בשלוש - 4 פעמים לפני התפרצות נגיף סין (קורונה).
הבקשה שלנו לחברי הקהילה שלנו היא שבמקום להציע מתנות במזומן או מתנה חביבה בלבד שהם יכולים להציע, היא להצטרף אלינו או לכל בית כנסת לתפילות ולהשתתף בהלוויה ובשירותים נלווים עבור הקהילה שלנו .

הקבוצה שלנו נקראת 'קבוצת תפילה יהודית של כבוד' כדי להדגיש את העובדה שהשירות שלנו הוא בהתנדבות מלאה ובחינם.

כל אחד יכול ליצור קשר כדי להצטרף לקבוצת HJP: שלמה דניאל רוקר7718832909 / 90045 91792, יהודה דניאל סנקר -87791
044647 21 93 שאפורקר יצחק

Chating with chatGPT on the Bene-Israel community!



charGPT is an artificial intelligence (AI) software program that searches all the possible answers to your question and gives you a single answer. Unlike Google that gives you many options to choose from, here you get one answer. ***So we decided to ask chatGPT about the Bene-Israel community.*** See how this interesting conversation went and its amazing answer.

Leo: What is the future of the Bene-Israel community?

chatGPT: I'm sorry, but I do not have any information on a community called "Bene-Israel." It is possible that the name is misspelled or refers to a very small and specific community that is not widely known or documented. If you have any additional information about this community or if there is a specific context or location that you are referring to, please let me know and I will try my best to provide you with an answer.

Leo: Bene-Israel community is Jews from India.

chatGPT: Thank you for clarifying. The Bene Israel is a historic community of Jews who have lived in India for centuries. It is difficult to predict the future of any community, as it is influenced by a wide range of factors including social, economic, political, and cultural changes.

However, it is worth noting that the Bene Israel have faced various challenges and changes over time. Many members of the community have emigrated from India to other countries, particularly Israel, over the past few decades. This has led to a decline in the size of the community in India. Additionally, like other Jewish communities around the world, the Bene Israel face challenges related to maintaining their religious and cultural traditions in a rapidly changing global context.

Despite these challenges, the Bene Israel has shown resilience and adaptability throughout their history. They have maintained their unique identity and culture despite living in a predominantly Hindu and Muslim society. In recent years, efforts have also been made to preserve and revitalize the community's rich cultural heritage through various initiatives.

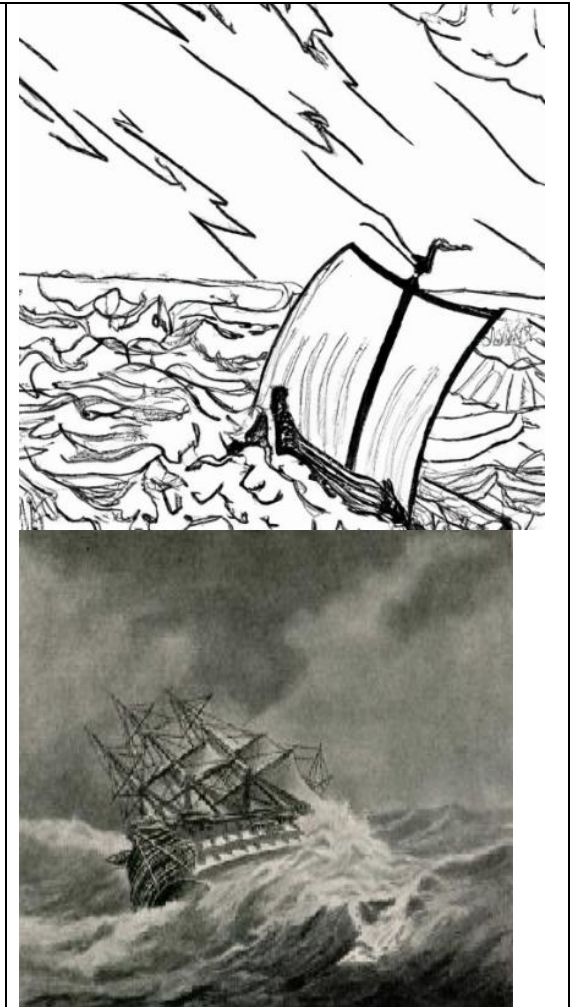
In conclusion, the future of the Bene Israel community will depend on a range of factors and is difficult to predict. However, the community has a rich history and culture, and its members have demonstrated resilience and adaptability in the face of challenges.

(Though it did not give a reply about the future but it definitely gave a short history)

Talking to DALL.E AI on Bene Israel community



DALL.E is an AI program that makes any image you ask it to create. We asked the program to draw the ship in storm that bought Jews to the Konkan in 175 BCE. In seconds it produced 5 original images that we reproduce below.



A Tribute To The Iron Lady

Lebana Penkar



I am a product of my experiences... but more importantly, I am a product of my DNA: and I owe my Mental constitution to the first 'Iron Lady' I ever encountered – my Grandmother!

We celebrated the heroism of Queen Esther during Purim on 7 th March, commemorated the International Women's Day on 8 th March and look forward to the Festival of Pesach – and these three events give me reasons to pay a tribute to my Grandmother who stands testament to unwavering female courage, resilient strength and an unshakable will, which remains a strong inspiration and Influence in my life journey.



1974: Lebana is in the arms of her mother Naomi.

My earliest feel of my Grandmother is of her soft, cotton saree, because I was brought up by her –literally ‘aanchal ke tale’. I had the privilege of being born in a Joint Family – a family institution that is fast dwindling. I was growing up in a large-family house throbbing with energy, with my parents, grandparents and other family members, who would stay together, eat together, laugh, fight share, care and amidst all this, my Grandmother stood out as an incredible role model. While she was raising two sons and four daughters of her own, she was “Maa” to me.

My earliest memory of my Maa remains of a tough lady who commanded the entire household...and beyond. Maa used to manually run a Communal Kitchen. Her routine would include waking up at 5.00 in the morning and making soft chapattis and masala to prepare fish curry to be sent out in Food Dabbas by noon, to sustain the livelihood of her family. At 9.00am would be her visit to the Dongri Fish Market and like a true ‘Israeli Bapus’ (actually ‘Aais’), she would buy the scaled fish ‘Daadha’, clean it, cook it, pack it into lunch dabbas and dispatch it via the Mumbai Dabbawalas.

You see, my orientation to the Mumbai Dabbawalas’ Six Sigma operational precision began at age 4 - credit and courtesy to my Maa! As I grew up to an age of understanding, I realized that my Maa was a very popular woman, lovingly and respectfully addressed as ‘Esther Bai’. Maa was simplicity personified. No jewelry, no make-up, no fancy sarees. It is because of her today, that I understand that value does not lie in our status or possessions, but rather in the impact we have on others, and because of how we touch people’s lives. Our value is determined by what we live by – empathy, compassion, genuine concern, dignity and integrity.

There was definitely nothing ordinary about this woman. It’s fascinating how this lady ran a culinary business from her home! I cannot confidently say if Maa’s business was born out of her passion or necessity... I believe it is both. I knew for sure that the household was financially weak. But even in the most trying times of dire financial crisis, this lady never cribbed nor complained. When things did not Work favorably, she simply believed in herself, decided to take charge, gathered the reigns of the house and kept going over and beyond to keep her family happy. She proved that patience is indeed born among the not-so-privileged. Through all the ordeals, she stayed strong, selflessly continued to fulfil her familial duties and relentlessly worked to sustain her household. She was the strong support system and truly the ‘Better Half’ to her husband, in an era when women would stay under the shadows of their spouses.

She was a natural Entrepreneur who turned her house into a space which elevated the 5 senses of sight, sound, smell, touch and taste! She employed 5-6 women who would be working in the extended courtyard of the house – rolling papad, pounding spices in huge

pestles, grinding the grains and millets on the traditional grinding stone - the 'Jaata' or crushing masala on the Paata-Varwanta, that would eventually blend into her signature dishes. It's strange how Maa like a true MasterChef, would look at the texture or consistency of the preparation and tell if the dish was cooked to perfection! Even the most regular household food - from Birda to Saandan and from Kaande Pohe to Lasanaachi Chutney, every food preparation would be an authentic Bene-Israeli culinary delight...recipes that one could treasure for the lifetime.

In fact, the traditional Bene – Israeli delicacy that became synonymous with my Maa's name is 'MethiCha Halwa'. It's been years, and nobody would and can ever match up to her taste. Jewish and Non-Jewish people alike would come from far and wide, to buy kilos of 'MethiCha Halwa'. She would reverently cut diamond shaped pieces of the rich, glistening delicacy, loaded with dry fruits and pack it up artistically in plastic bags for the buyers, collect money and secure it in within a knot tied with the corner of her saree pallu. Later in the day, one part of that money would be paid as daily wages to the women labourers (what an ethical Lady Boss!), the second part would be buried as savings in aluminum dabbas filled with rice, while the last part would be used for the daily expenses and purchases for the next day! I sure learned business operations, economics and the value of savings very early in life by observing her.

Interestingly, no relationship was merely transactional for this lady. No person who came to her house rich, poor man or woman, Jew or a Non-Jew, would ever leave without meals – Lunch/ Dinner or at least Tea and 'Nashta'. Sometimes, she would compromise on her own meals and not eat the entire day but the petty thought of cutting down on expenses incurred on hospitality towards her guests and customers never crossed her mind. In fact, she gained repute of having 'Barkat in her Hands'. With such a large heart, she never fell short of anything, ever!

I learned the importance of celebrating festivals the Jewish way from her. She almost seemed to have an Annual Jewish Business Calendar fit into her entrepreneurial brain. Yom Kippur was the time for Padaraachya Poorya...she would make the richest and most perfect stuffing for filling, would delicately craft layers, and fry it patiently to golden precision, to make the Poori melt in mouth, in a single bite.

A fortnight before the festival of Pesach, our courtyard would be transformed into a huge 'Show Kitchen' – a concept that has recently caught fancy in luxury hotels. One would witness huge stacks of homemade Kosher Matzoth – 'Pesach chya Bhakrya' in the courtyard being cooked by 7-8 women, on the traditional 'Chul' – an earthen cooking stove with fire made from coal. Simultaneously, these

Pesach chya Bhakrya were being sold by the dozens to people who would walk in to buy them. While they waited for the fresh packets to be ready, Maa would graciously offer tea and khari to the waiting customers. Since, I would be running all over, I would be given a Bhakri with Khajoor - Dates, and I would get to observe the women fervently at work.

Today I realize that way back in the 70's, Maa guaranteed employment to the needy, underprivileged women by providing them a dignified means of earning their livelihood. She impressed upon my young mind very early that a purposeful life is marked by the impact we have on others. She lived by example – ever giving and willing to help the community.

Maa was definitely 'Avant Garde' – quite forward thinking for her times. She was not an educated professional, yet she made sure that all her children (including her daughters) were educated and working. She stood by everyone in times of need, was there to listen and was there to understand.

Need more Women like her today! She was an amazing woman who touched the lives of many and inspired (beyond DNA) many in our family to follow an industrious path to success. Maa remains my inspiration of true womanhood - independent, tenacious and resilient with an indomitable female spirit...almost a warrior! I seek your wisdom, strength, fortitude and blessings to follow your footsteps.

Love You Always...

- Your Granddaughter, Lebana

About the Author:

Lebana Penkar, Trustee of Sir Elly Kadoorie School, Board Member of the IJF Committee and India Steering Lead of the Commonwealth Jewish Women's Network, is a very active member in the Bene-Israel community in India. Professionally, she manages the India Human Resources Operations as Senior Vice President of an Interior Designing Company – Arrivae. During Covid times, Lebana raised funds from the Commonwealth Jewish Council, UK and distributed 21 Oxygen Concentrators through the IJF to Synagogues and Jewish Institutions across India to be used in their respective regions. She is committed to keep the Indian Jewish Community united and thriving; and at the recent Purim Party at Sir Elly Kadoorie School, we heard her talk on Queen Esther representing Women Power in the Torah. Lebana is daughter of Mr. Ezriel Raymond Penkar (popularly known as Viju Penkar). Her mother is Naomi and Paternal Grand Mother, was Mrs. Esther Raymond Penkar, to whom she is paying a tribute through her article.



A Tribute To The Iron Lady

Lebana Penkar



Marathi Translation of the above article. This is copy pasted so some letters may not look the same due to lack of Marathi alphabets

माझ्यातील 'ती' ला सलाम...

मी माझ्या अनुभवातून शिकत गेले पण त्याहीआधी माझ्यातील नात्याच्या धाग्याची वीण माझे आयुष्य घडवत गेली हेच खरे... आणि माझ्या आयुष्यातील सुंदर रंगाची ही विण सजवण्यातील सर्वात मोठा वाटा होता तो माझ्या आजीचा...

आपण सगळेच ७ मार्चला होणाऱ्या 'पुरीम' सणाला राणी एशतरचा धाडसीपणाचा आणि ज्युईश समुदायाच्या रक्षणासाठी तीने केलेल्या साहसकथेला उजाळा देत असतो... लगेचच दुसऱ्यादिवशी ८ मार्चला स्त्री शक्तीचा जागर करण्यासाठी जगभरात 'महिला दिन' साजरा करतो आणि मग आपण सारेच आतुरतेने वाट पहातो ती एप्रिलमध्ये साजऱ्या होणाऱ्या 'पेसाच' सणाची. इजिप्तमधिल ज्युंच्या गुलामगिरीच्या अंताचा जल्लोष आपण पेसाचला साजरा करतो. पुरीमच्या एशतरचे धाडस, जागतिक महिला दिनातील स्त्री शक्ती आणि या पेसाचमधिल गुलामगिरीचे जाखड फेकून देण्याचे धाडस हे तीन्ही गुण मला माझ्या आजीने सदैव आपल्या कर्तृत्वाने माझ्यात बिंबवण्याचा प्रयत्न केला. आज माझ्यातील आत्मविश्वासात मी तीचे प्रतिबिंब अनुभवत असते. संकटात ती मला हजारो हत्तींचे बळ देते आणि जेव्हा निर्णय क्षमतेचा कस लागतो तेथे ही माझी आजी मला पुरीममधिल एशतरसारखी धाडसी निर्णय घेण्याची ताकद देते...

तीच्या त्या कॉटनच्या साडीचा उबदार स्पर्श मला अजुनही आठवतोय. कारण खऱ्या अर्थाने माझ्या आईवडीलांनी मला आजीच्या पदरातच टाकलं होतं. आई-बाबा कामानिमित्त बाहेर असायचे आणि मी

आजीच्या सावलीत... तेव्हा आम्ही एकत्रित कुटुंबात रहायचो... आजच्या काळात ही बाब दुर्मिळ होत चाललीय... एकत्रित कुटुंबात काय धम्माल असायची. खाण-पिणं, हसणं-रुसणं, दंगा-मस्ती... घरात उत्साहाचा धबधबा असायचा... आजी-आजोबा, आई-बाबा, काका आणि आत्या...असे हे गजबजलेले आमचं घर होतं आणि तरीही त्या घरात माजी आजी जीला मी 'माँ' म्हणून हाक मारायचे ती माझे जग होती... गजबलेल्या घरातील कणखर स्त्री हे आजीचं माझ्या स्मृतीपटलावर कोरलं गेलेला पहिला ठसा... केवळ निर्णय क्षमताचं नव्हे तर घराचा गाडा हाकण्याची महत्वाची भूमिका तीनं यशस्वी पार पाडली. त्यासाठी तीनं उभ्या हयातती अपार कष्ट केले. गरीबीला दुषणं देण्याएवेजी तीनं गरीबीलाच आपली ताकद बनवली. तीचा दिवस सकाळी पाचला सुरु व्हायचा. खानावळीतील डब्ब्यांसाठी नरम नरम चपात्या आणि फिश करीचा मसाला बनवण्याने ती सुरुवात करायची. सकाळी ९ वाजता डोंगरीच्या फिश मार्केटला धडकायची. मग दुपारी १२ वाजेपर्यंत आईच्या ममतेनं ती डब्बे बनवून मुंबईच्या डब्बावाल्यांच्या हवाली करायची... पुढे जावून मी व्यवस्थापनातील मास्टरकी मिळवली पण त्या व्यवस्थापणाचे धडे मी मात्र अशाप्रकारे वयाच्या चौथ्या वर्षापासून शिकत गेले. माझ्या व्यवस्थापन कौशल्याचे सारे श्रेय आजीला जाते. माझ्या वाढत्या वयात मी माझ्या आजीचे वलय पाहिले... समाजातील तीचा मानमरताब पाहिला... लोकांसाठी ती 'एशतरबाई' होती... सगळ्यांना माया लावणारी... दयाळू... तीची राहणीमाण अगदी साधी असायची... मगाशी सांगितल्याप्रमाणे काँटनची साधी साडी, दागिने नाही की मेकअप नाही... तीच्या त्या अशा साधेपणाने मी एक शिकले की समाजातील तुमचे स्थान हे तुमच्या दागदागिन्यांवर अथवा रहाणीमानावर नाही तर तुमच्या स्वभावावर, परोपकारी वृत्तीवर अवलंबून असते... दुसऱ्याप्रति सदभावना, आत्मियता, सदाचार हेच तर तुमचे खरे आभुषण असतात... आजीने तीच्या वर्तुणूकीतून हे आम्हाला

शिकवले...

आजी ही माझ्यासाठी एक असामान्य व्यक्ती होती... घरातल्या घरात वसलेले पाककलेचे ते जणू विश्वविद्यालयच... मी खात्रीनं नाही सांगू शकत की तीच्यातील ही पाककला गरजेतून आली की छंद म्हणून... मला वाटते दोन्हीमुळे असेल. मला आठवतेय, घरची आर्थिक स्थिती तेव्हा फारशी काही चांगली नव्हती. ज्या ज्या वेळी संकट आली त्या त्या वेळी तक्रार न करता पदर खोचून आजी त्याला निर्धाराने सामोरी गेली. अन् तेही चेहऱ्यावरील हासू न मावळू देता... आज मागे वळून पहाताना तीच्या त्या समजूतदारपणाचे मला नवल वाटते. कधीकधी गोष्टी बिघडायच्या... घरात तणाव असायचा, पण मी एक पाहिलंय, या संकटाच्या काळातही तिचा आत्मविश्वास कधी ढळला नाही. उलट ती त्या अडचणींना धीराने सामोरे जायची... क्षमतेच्या पलिकडे जाऊन काम करण्याचे लकब मी तीच्याकडून शिकले. त्या डोंगरीतील आमच्या आठ बाय दहाच्या घराची ती आधारस्तंभ होती. लक्षात घ्या मी अशा जमान्याची गोष्ट सांगतेय ज्यावेळी बायका या नवऱ्याच्या सावलीतच वावरल्यापाहिजे असा दंडक होता. त्यावेळी आजीने माझ्या आजोबांच्या खांद्याला खांदा लावून घरगाडा ओढला...

उद्योजकता आजीत जन्मताच होती... आपल्यातील पंचेंद्रियाचा वापर करून तीनं त्या छोट्याश्या घरातच उद्योग विश्व उभारलं होते. शेजारी रहाणाऱ्या पाच सहा बायकांना सोबतीला घेऊन तीनं हा उद्योग थाटला. कुणाच्या अंगणात पापड लाट, कुठे मसाला कुठला जायचा. कुणाच्यातरी घरी पाटा-वरवंट्यावर मसाला वाटला जायचा. तीच्यातील आनंद आणि उत्साह त्या पदार्थात उतरत असणार असं मला नेहमी वाटायचं म्हणूनच तर ते पदार्थ इतके लज्जतदार व्हायचे... त्या सगळ्या पदार्थांना खास आजी टच असायचा... खऱ्या अर्थाने ती आमची मास्टर शेफ होती. तीच्या पदार्थांच्या चवीत कमालीचं सातत्य असायचं. अगदी बिर्डा,

सांदण, कांदेपोहे ते लसणीची चटणी... या साऱ्या पदार्थांना खास बेने इस्रालयी पाककृतीचा स्पेशल टच असायचा... ज्याची चव आजही जिभेवर रेंगाळतेय...

सणासुदीला आजीने बनिविलेला मेथीचा हलवा हा बेने इस्रालयी समुदायात सर्वाधिक लोकप्रिय होता... केवळ ज्युईशचं नव्हे तर इतर समुदायातील लोकही आजीचा हातचा मेथीचा हलावा किलोने खरेदी करण्याठी गर्दी करायचे. तिने बनविलेल्या मेथीच्या हलव्याची चव काही औरच होती... मी आजही ती मिस करतेय. मला आठवतेय ती डायमंडच्या आकारात तो हलवा बनवायची. त्यावर ड्रायफ्रुटची पेरणी करायची. आणि प्लास्टिकच्या बॅगमध्ये तो पॅक करायची. ग्राहकाकडून आलेली पैसे ती आपल्या साडीच्या पदराला बांधून ठेवायची. संध्याकाळी झाली की मग जमलेल्या त्या पैशांचे तीन हिस्से व्हायचे. एक हिस्सा तीला मदत करणाऱ्या शेजारीनींना नफा म्हणून जायचा. एक हिस्सा ती घरातील एल्युमिनिअमच्या डब्ब्यात बचत म्हणून दडवून ठेवयाची. आणि एक हिस्सा दुसऱ्या दिवशी लागणाऱ्या जिन्नस खरेदीसाठी बाजूला काढून ठेवायची. व्यवसायातील अर्थशास्त्राचे बाळकडू अशाप्रकारे लहाणपासूनच मला आजीकडून मिळत गेले.

माजी आजी अन्नपुर्णा होती. तीच्या दारी आलेला कुणीही उपाशीपोटी गेला नाही. श्रीमंत-गरीब, स्त्री- पुरुष, ज्यु असोत अथवा इतर धर्मीय प्रत्येकाचा पाहुणचार करताना तीच्या चेहऱ्यावरून ओसंडून जाणारा उत्साह आणि आनंद मी जवळून पाहिलाय. कधीकधी पाहुण्यांचे आदरातिथ्य करताना स्वतः उपाशी राहताना मी तिला पाहिलय. पण घरची गरीबी पाहुण्यांच्या आदरातिथ्याच्या आड तीन कधीच येऊ दिली नाही. तिच्या याच गुणासाठी लोक तीला म्हणायचे की “हिच्या हाती बरकत आहे...” तीच्या याच दातृत्वामुळे तीला आयुष्यात काहीच कधी कमी पडल नाही. ज्युईश संस्कृतीचे संस्कार तीने माझ्या मनावर बिंबवले. ज्युईशपद्धतीने सण साजरे करणे मी तीच्याकडून शिकले. तीच्या त्या धावपळीच्या जगात ज्युईश सणांचे

कॅलेंडर तीच्या डोक्यात अगदी फिट असे.

जुईश धर्मातील सगळ्यात पवित्र सण 'योम किप्पुर'ला आमची चंगळ असायची. आजीने बनविलेल्या 'पदराच्या पुरीं'साठी आम्ही आसूसलेलो असायचो. अत्यंत तलमपणे ती त्या पुरीत सारण भरायची आणि मग सोनेरी रंग येईपर्यंत ती ते तळायची. मस्त फुललेली पुरी तोंडात टाकताक्षणीच विरगळून जायची.

पेसाच्या सणाच्या पंधरावडाभर आधी आमच्या गल्लीत तर जणू खाद्य जत्राच भरायची. आतासा फाईव्ह स्टार हॉटेलमध्ये फूडफेस्टीव्हल म्हणून जो कन्सेप्ट रुढ झालाय ना अगदी तसेच.... घरगुतीपध्दतीने बनविलेल्या 'कोशेर मात्झोट' म्हणजेच पेसाच्या भाकऱ्या खरेदी करण्यासाठी जुईश ग्राहकांची झुंबड उडायची. पारंपारीक चुलीवर सात ते आठ बायका या गरमागरम पेसाच्या भाकऱ्या बनवायच्या. गरमागरम भाकऱ्या घेण्यासाठी ग्राहक ताटकळत राहायचे. मग त्यांच्यासाठी आजी चहा आणि खारी टोस बनवून द्यायची, अन तेही फुकट. त्या ग्राहकांचे आदरातिथ्य करताना तिच्या चेहऱ्यावरील तो आनंद मी माज्या मनाच्या कुपीत जपून ठेवलाय. 'अतिथी देवो भवः' हे आपणाला सारेच शिकवतात. पण दारी आलेला 'ग्राहक देवो भवः' हे व्यावसायातिल परमोच्च नितीमतेचे तत्व आजीनं आमच्या नकळत आमच्या मनावर बिंबवले होते.

लहाणपणी तशी मी खोडकर होती. घरात माझा सर्वत्र संचार असायाचा. मला ती तेव्हा भाकरी आणि खजूर द्यायची. माझं काम असायचं या तळमळीने काम करणाऱ्या बायकांवर लक्ष ठेवण्याचे. आज मला कळतेय. सत्तरच्या दशकात आजीनं आपल्या भोवतालच्या गरजू कष्टकरी बायकांना आत्मसन्मानाने जगण्याचा मार्ग दाखविला. समाजातील गरजूंना मदत करताना त्यांच्यातील क्षमतेची त्यांना ओळख करुन देण्याचे संस्कार आजीनं अशाप्रकारे माझ्यावर बिंबवले.

फ्रेंच भाषेत एक चांगला शब्द आहे... “□व्हां गर्द” म्हणजे पहिल्या फळीतील सैनिक... आजी ही अशी होती. प्रत्येक आघाड्यांवर ही नेहमी पुढे असायची... लौकिक अर्थाने आजी काळाच्या खूप पुढे होती. ती फारशी शिकली नव्हती. पण आपल्या मुले आणि मुलींच्या शिक्षणाकडे तिने जातीने लक्ष दिले. गरजेच्यावेळी ती त्यांच्या मागे भक्कमपणे उभी राहिली. त्यांच्या अडचणीत तिने सोबत केली. त्यांच्या वेदना तिने सोसल्या. त्यांच्या आनंदात ती बागडली... त्यांच्या दुखात रडलीही... मुलांना समजून घेण्याचे संस्कार तिने आमच्यात रुजवले...

आज अशा अनेक आजींची आपल्या समाजात गरज आहे. एकत्र कुटुंबव्यवस्था लोप पावत आहे. पण खर सांगू आजी आजोबा हीच घरातील संस्काराची केंद्र असताना नाही का ? माझ्या आजीने केवळ माझंच आभाळ नव्हे तर तीच्या सानिध्यात आलेल्या प्रत्येकाचे आभाळ प्रकाशमान केलेय. तीची माया, तीचे लाड, तीची शिस्त, तीची कला, तीचे व्यावसायिक नैपुण्य आणि या सर्वांपलिकडे तिने स्वतात जपलेली माणूसकी मला सदैव प्रेरणा देत आलीय.

आजी तुझ्यातील चांगुलपणा, तुझ्यातील शहाणपणा, तुझी शक्ती, तुझ्यातील धैर्य आणि तुझे आशिर्वाद या साऱ्यांची मला गरज आहे. तुझा वसा चालवण्यासाठी त्याची गरज आहे... तुझी लाडकी नात... लेबाना

“Every house needs a grandmother in it.” —Louisa May Alcott

“A grandmother is a little bit parents, a little bit teachers, and a little bit best friends.” —Unknown

“If nothing is going well, call your grandmother.” —Italian Proverb

Our Bene-Israel was awarded “The Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar”

Mr. Ezriel (Viju) Penkar was awarded the Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar on Sunday for his exceptional contribution to the field of Sports in Maharashtra and India on 19 March 2023.



भारत श्री विजू पेणकर यांना जीवनगौरव पुरस्कार जाहीर

मुंबई

मुंबईच्या कै. मनोहर विचारे प्रतिष्ठान यांच्यातर्फे क्रीडा क्षेत्रात उल्लेखनीय कार्य करणाऱ्यांना मराठी गौरव पुरस्काराने सन्मानित करण्यात येते. कोरोनामुळे २०२२ आणि २०२३ चे पुरस्कार दिले गेले नव्हते. त्या दोन वर्षांच्या पुरस्कारांची घोषणा प्रतिष्ठानचे अध्यक्ष अजय विचारे यांनी केली. बुजुर्ग राष्ट्रीय कबड्डीपटू आणि महाराष्ट्राचे पहिले भारत श्री किताबाचे मानकरी असलेल्या विजू पेणकर यांना जीवनगौरव पुरस्काराने सन्मानित करण्यात येणार आहे. येत्या १९ मार्च रोजी सायंकाळी ५ वाजता पीएमटी येथील मुंबई मराठी पत्रकार संघाच्या लोकमान्य सभागृहात या पुरस्कारांचे वितरण करण्यात येणार आहे. पांडुरंग चाटे (आय.आर.एस.), प्रादेशिक निर्देशक, भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण, डॉ. नरेंद्र कुंदर, भारतीय खो-खो संघाचे प्रशिक्षक, शिवछत्रपती पुरस्कार प्राप्त आणि बुजुर्ग आंतरराष्ट्रीय बुद्धिबळपटू, द्रोणाचार्य पुरस्कार प्राप्त रघुनंदन गोखले यांच्या हस्ते पुरस्कार विजेत्यांना सन्मानित करण्यात येणार आहे. स्व. बाळकृष्ण तुकाराम साळवी यांच्या स्मृतिप्रीत्यर्थ हा पुरस्कार सोहळा आयोजित करण्यात आला आहे. सन्मान चिन्ह, सन्मान पत्र, शाल, श्रीफळ, भेटवस्तू असे या पुरस्काराचे स्वरूप आहे.



SABA you don't know anything / סבא אתה לא יודע כלום!

सबा तुला काहीच माहित नाही!

Leo Daniels



Lying on my large bed and watching children channel on TV with my grandsons, Asaf 6 years old and Ariel 3 years old on each side, I remembered soon it will be Asaf's birthday. So I made a mistake of asking Asaf what he would like as a birthday present.

Quickly he replied I want Sonic and all its manifestations. Ariel added "Saba also Shadow for me!"

What? I had no idea what he was talking about. I told him, I had no idea what he was talking about. As I said this, 3 year Ariel say "Saba you don't know anything".

Then forgetting the program on the TV both sat on my both side and started explaining with their small hands how the egg breaks and Sonic roles out and when he is weak he can manifest in to other forms that are more powerful. And Shadow who is new is still learning his new forms.

Still when I understood noting, Asaf took my phone (which is set in English) and tells me to write Sonic in the search area. As I wrote it ... oops.... a new world opened in front of me; "Sonic the Hedgehog".

Last thing I remembered with my children was Pikachu & Pokémon, the Japanese characters. So I proudly announced "Oh, you mean Pokémon". Silence! Both looked at me like I was an ET from some another world. Saba, they are all dead by now, replied Asaf!

When and how these new Japanese character of Sonic world reached our grandchildren? They know names of all of them and how they manifest in to different characters. Amazing.

So it is my advice to all grandparents; start getting familiar with the "Sonic the Hedgehog" and the expensive price tag on these toys.



Some of Sonic Family



God Too Wonders

We all sense a power that is with us. This is what was named as God in English. In Hebrew we are not allowed to take his name so we call him the creator of the world בורא עולם.

This is the same power that every human in this world feels and they have given it other names, Christ (son of God), Allah Vishnu and others. Not just the names are ^{different} but the paths to server this power is different. These paths have different names too; Judaism, Christianity Islam Hinduism and others. Each of these paths represents a different religion. Definition of a religion is a group a people who follow a common path and customs to serve their God. There is therefore no connection between any religion and their God. It is just a path. Each religion preaches their own way of serving their God, as per their preachers.

Is God even aware of these paths? Did he ever ask humans to serve him? He created earth and our solar system and our milky way; and hundreds of other milky ways. If really he would want humans to serve him, then all of the solar systems and all milky ways would be filled by humans.

Currently, in 2020, it was estimated that there are around 2 trillion galaxies in the observable Universe. Each galaxy is unique, ranging in size from 10,000 light-years to hundreds of light-years.

A creator of such a universe, you think he needs any one to serve him?



2 trillion galaxies (2020)

David Talagaokar Felicitated

David is all over in the Bene-Israel community. His love for the community is shown in his involvement with all the activities related to the Bene-Israel community; let it be synagogues, groups, cemeteries or Bene-Israel community activities during festivals and other occasions. He is also involved in running for the Eli Kadarooi school, smoothly.

Where ever he is involved he will make sure all the administration is accomplished within the guidelines, including holding elections on time.

David Talagaokar was felicitated for his wonderful work as the Hon. Secretary of the I.J. F. (Indian Jewish Federation) at the ceremony in Beth El synagogue when they received a new Safer Parash recently.

David is also one of our chosen **“Living Legend”** crown holder of the Jewish community, the respect that Shaniwar-Teli showers on our community members who serve our community in their own way.



Looking to 2023: A Degel Menashe Editorial

[Home/ Degel Menashe](#) / Jessica Thangjom

(Ideal Example how a NGO should be run to help their community and report)



DEGEL
MENASHE
דגל מנשה



(January 5) The start of 2023 also marks the start of the fourth year of Degel Menashe's activities. We were granted our Israeli NGO or amuta status by the Registrar of Non-Profit Organizations in Jerusalem at the end of 2019, and began to operate in January 2020.

We've come a long way since then. Although we're still a small organization, we've grown greatly. Our income, our budget, and the scope of our activities have expanded from year to year. We've accomplished much and hope to accomplish much more.

All this was spelled out at our annual Board of Directors meeting held in the last week of December. As presented to the board, our 2022 record was impressive. In Israel, it included our academic and vocational scholarship program that awarded grants to 21 winners, the highest number ever; our oral history project, which culminated in the publication last summer of the already much-acclaimed Lives of the Children of Manasia; the help extended by us, some of it openly and some behind the scenes, to members of the B'nei Menashe community in need of counseling and aid; and our active participation in events of the Indian Jewish community, which – in part due to our efforts -- now regards the B'nei Menashe as an integral component.

In India, we can point to our educational programs in Manipur and Mizoram, where Jewish schools, with our financial and administrative assistance, are now functioning for the first time on a daily basis; to our backing of Manipur's resuscitated B'nei Menashe Council, which once again, after long years of abeyance, has become a hub of communal activity; to our musicology project, which has been collecting traditional B'nei Menashe songs with an eye to issuing one or more CDs of them; and to our unwavering legal and moral support for Sarah Baite, whose battle against injustice, followed by the entire B'nei Menashe community, has made her a B'nei Menashe heroine.

All of this will be continued in 2023 with the addition, we hope, of additional projects, such as a leadership training program to provide young leaders for the B'nei Menashe community in Israel; a socio-economic survey of Israel's B'nei

All of this will be continued in 2023 with the addition, we hope, of additional projects, such as a leadership training program to provide young leaders for the B'nei Menashe community in Israel; a socio-economic survey of Israel's B'nei Menashe to pinpoint their problems and needs with an eye to developing government and private programs to deal with these; a "peace corps" of young Israelis who will travel to India to teach the B'nei Menashe Hebrew and other subjects while interacting with them and learning about their history and culture, and still other things.

This leaves for last our campaign for reforming and quickening the process of B'nei Menashe Aliyah and having it transferred from the hands of the private organization, Shavei Israel, that now has exclusive control of it to a public body, preferably The Jewish Agency, so that it can be administered fairly, expeditiously, and without the many abuses that have characterized it until now. 2022, a year which witnessed no B'nei Menashe Aliyah at all, saw a continuance of this campaign, culminating in a commitment obtained by us from the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration not to extend Shavei Israel's monopoly on the B'nei Menashe Aliyah process on the future. If the Jewish Agency does not step in, the Ministry promised in an official document, the process will be opened to competing organizations.

Now that 2023 has ushered in a new government, we have every hope that the Ministry, which is as new political administration, will honor its predecessors' commitments. Degel Menashe will do all it can to see that this happens and will continue to lobby with the Ministry, The Jewish Agency, and the Israeli Rabbinate to help press its campaign for B'nei Menashe Aliyah reform to a successful conclusion. A happy new year to all our readers!

Homosexuality in Bene-Israel Community

[\(13\) | הטור השבועי שלי - מאת סלים פינקר | indian group on facebook | מסאלה ישראל'צ](#)

During the month of February a post on facebook by Selim Penkar
(**Indian group on Facebook**- צ'אי מסאלה ישראל)

Hi Salim,

How are you? I thought hundreds of times whether to write to you, and in the end I gained the courage because you promised me it would be discreet and anonymous.

I'll tell a little about myself, I'm 35 years old resident of the center lives with single parents. They tried to lie to me several times and I even dated women, but I realized over the years that I've been in denial and I'm more interested in men than women, I have a boyfriend for 3 years and everyone thinks he's my friend, and doesn't know that we're a couple. The reason I'm still in the closet is the primitive parents of the old generation, like the parents of most of us here, who simply won't accept and won't even try to understand my situation.

I will tell you a slim story. Two years ago my married sister came to our house with her 2 little girls and was crying, we calmed her down and asked what happened? And she told my parents that I want a divorce, because her husband beats her and curses her and humiliates her, but my father's reaction killed us, he said that the moment you left the house you don't belong here, and see where she is wrong and try to please him, I was in shock. No one told her in our family we never get divorced. And she's poor, back home and living this sad reality. Sometimes there are new marks on her, and she has already forgotten to smile. So Salim tell me how do I explain to a father like this that I am like this. I don't know what to do help me thank you.



This provoked a lot of responses from the readers. The response advised him to first save his sister and help her get divorced and find a place to live for himself and his partner before coming out with the facts in front of their parents. Some advised him to take his own decision. Some expressed concern for the parents. Selim Penkar used an interesting picture where a half-eaten apple looks a full in the mirror. He wants the writer to be happy and his parents too to be happy. Frankly speaking the writer is indeed in a very challenging situation. He may have to need help of some family members who are close to his parents.

Professional Opinion:

Shaniwar-Teli took some professional opinion. We were told the writer to take help of area social worker for him and his sister. Further it is important stop living with parents.



Marathi Language Day

איחוד קהילתי יצוגי ארצי

Mr. Vinod Pawar, Director of Indian Cultural Center took the initiative to celebrate this day on a big scale together with Mrs. Eva Talegaonkar and the members from Keshet Ole Hodu who organized the programmer which was a great success and many elderly people came from all over Israel who had a wonderful time!

Marathi Language Pride Day 19 February 'Jagar Marathi' in Israel

27 February is the day of literature criteria poet Kavi Vi, birthday of VA Shirwadkar alias Kusumagraj, poet, literary & dramatist . This day is celebrated as Marathi Language Pride Day in entire Maharashtra. Similarly, it is now celebrated beyond seven seas and abroad with great pride and enthusiasm.

This year 2023 in Israel was no exception. The Bene Israeli community from Maharashtra resident in Israel who has not yet given up Marathi celebrated Marathi Language Pride Day with great enthusiasm in the city of Ashdod with the help of the 'Indian Cultural' Centre of the Embassy in India in Israel.

On this occasion, Mrs. Iva Talegaonkar, who is working to spread and promote Marathi by Indian Cultural Center and introduce Marathi to the new generation of Indian origin. With the help of the organization 'Keshet Ole Hodu' took a major initiative to celebrate Marathi



Official Language Day at 'Adman Safra Community Center' in Ashdod.

As the chief guest on the occasion, Mr. Noah Mussel, who is the editor of Mayboli magazine for the last 10 years, and the quarterly of Marathi to be famous from Israel.

Also Mr. Eli Nakt, Deputy Mayor of Ashdod City was also present. Chief Mr. Vinod Pawar, Shri Vinod Kole, Yogaguru Darshana Rajpurohit and Sera Penkar from Indian Embassy. So in this remarkable program, Dr. Dhanashree Mundhe who has come to study at Tel Aviv University, he read two poems 'Kana' and 'Gabhara' of Kusumagraj in a very beautiful way. Mr. Vinod Pawar also proposed which was amazingly beautiful. The program was very diverse with the educative.

Indian origin actors Sophia and Samuel made the audience to take contract on various Marathi songs. Various types of Ovi, Bharud, Lavani, Koligeete, Badbad songs were celebrated. Student group of Talegaonkar received receipt of appreciation from everyone in Marathi as a prayer.

So, this innovative Marathi Pride Day was celebrated in Israel with great enthusiasm and not only Marathi speakers but also received great response from other linguistic audience. Marathi Language Pride Day went well with the cooperation of Israeli organization Keshed Ole Hodu.

The programmer ended with Shri Amitabh Bachchan's Pasaydan. Also celebrated happily by eating Indian food samosa and potato vada.

Indian Embassy and Indian Cultural center, Israel Celebrated Marathi Bhasha Diwas in Israel on 27/02/2023

(Printed as is. Not edited)

Eva's students learning Marathi on zoom every week were present with great enthusiasm and sang three Marathi songs which were appreciated by the all the people present.



איחוד קהילתי יצוגי ארצ had also originated a Purim party in Matnas Uziel in Ashdod.

Donation of PARASHA SEFER TORAH to Beth-El Synagogue in Panvel.

Nigrakar's Family is donating, in memory of their late parents are donating a new Parasha SEFER TORAH to Beth-El Synagogue in Panvel.

Three of the brother and some of their children will be going to India with the Torah.



Mr. Kobbi Shoshani

Consul General of Israel to Midwest India

www.jewishroute.in



Meet amazing Kobbi by
visiting his site:

www.jewishroute.in

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(20+) [Kobbi Shoshani](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Never seen a Consul
General so dynamic!**



Kobbi Shoshani

1d · 🌐

אתמול הקהילה היהודית של מהרשטרה, חגגה 137 שנים להקמת בית הכנסת "תפארת ישראל". בשנת 1886 אנשים טובים בנו אותו ליד כיכר ג'ייקוב סירקל במומבאי ועד היום מתפללים בני קהילת "בני ישראל" ללא חשש או הפליה. וכן, בית הכנסת הוא חלק מהנתיב היהודי שלנו שיושק בקרוב.

צילום: [Solomon Pinhas Talkar](#)

The Jewish community of Maharashtra celebrated 137 years since the establishment of the "Tipherth Israel" synagogue. In 1886 good Jews built it near Jacob Circle in Mumbai. Even today, Jews pray there without fear of persecution. And yes, the synagogue is part of our Jewish route that will be launched soon.

#קהילת_יהודי_הודו

Israel in Mumbai

Mumbai Jews

www.jewishroute.in



Celebrating the Jewish route in Mumbai

THE Consulate General of Israel is promoting the Jewish Route, a project under which they have selected 22 Jewish sites in and around the city of Mumbai like Magen Hassidim Synagogue in Byculla, Sha'ar HaRahamim synagogue near Masjid Bunder and David Sasson Tomb in Pune. Not



only are they documenting them, but are also making these heritage sites a part of sightseeing for travellers and tourists coming to India. "The basis for the path was the impressive book [Author of Bombay: Exploring the Jewish Urban Heritage] by Professor Saul Sapir, a Jewish who was born in Mumbai and

knew every stone and alley in the city. He has done the most impressive research on the community," said Kobbi Shoshani, Consul General of Israel to Mid-West India in Mumbai, adding that the Jewish community has lived in India for over 2,000 years and have integrated with the public here, while also maintaining their Jewish lifestyle.



आमच्या ज्यू मार्गावरील साइट्सपैकी एकाचा एक छोटासा स्वाद: सुमारे दोन हजार वर्षांपूर्वी, एक ज्यू व्यापारी / स्थलांतरित बोट, भारताच्या किनारपट्टीवर कोठून आली हे स्पष्ट नाही. जहाजातील प्रवाशांचा बुडून मृत्यू झाला. जहाजातील सात पुरुष आणि सात महिला वाचलेल्यांना नवेगाव समुद्रकिनारी पोहोचण्यात यश आले. तेथे त्यांनी ज्यूंची ओळख राखली, शब्बत, कोशेर आणि बरेच काही पाळले. त्यांचा व्यवसाय मुख्यत्वे तेल उत्पादन होता आणि त्यांना "शनवार ताली" म्हणून ओळखले जात असे, शब्बातचे तेल जिंकणारे. ही समाजाची पहिली ऐतिहासिक नोंद आहे आणि गावातील स्मशानभूमी ही कदाचित पहिली ज्यू स्मशानभूमी आहे. बहुधा इथूनच समाजाची संपूर्ण कहाणी सुरू होते. तर भेटू मुंबईत... ज्यू मार्गावर (वेबसाईट लवकरच येत आहे). *जर तुम्हाला एखादी चूक किंवा चूक आढळली असेल तर आम्हाला ऐकून आनंद होईल. T.L.H चित्र: वीकेंड वृत्तपत्रातील आमच्या मार्गाबद्दल आणखी एक लेख: मिड डे वृत्तपत्रातील हीना खंडेलवाल

טעימה קטנה מאחד האתרים בנתיב היהודי שלנו: לפני כאלפיים שנה סירת סוחרים/מהגרים יהודים שלא ברור מהיכן הגיעה, נטרפה מול חופי הודו. יושבי הספינה טבעו אל מותם. ניצולי הספינה, שבעה גברים ושבע נשים, הצליחו להגיע לחוף נאוגאו. שם הם שמרו על צביון יהודי, הקפידו על השבת, כשרות ועוד. עיסוקם היה בעיקר ייצור נפט והם נודעו בשם "שנוואר טלי", כובשי השמן של שבת. זהו התיעוד ההסטורי הראשון של הקהילה, ובית הקברות בכפר הוא ככל הנראה בית הקברות היהודי הראשון. כאן כנראה מתחיל כל הסיפור של הקהילה. אז להתראות במומבאי... בנתיב היהודי (בקרוב מאד האתר). *מצאתם שגיאה או טעות נשמח לשמוע. ט.ל.ה.

בתמונה: כתבה נוספת על הנתיב שלנו בעיתון סוף השבוע כתבת Heena Khandelwal מהעיתון MiD DAY

A small taste of one of the sites on our Jewish path: about two thousand years ago, a Jewish merchant/immigrant boat, it is not clear where it came from, was wrecked off the coast of India. The occupants of the ship drowned to their deaths. The survivors of the ship, seven men and seven women, managed to reach the Navegao beach. There they maintained a Jewish identity, observed Shabbat, kosher and more. Their occupation was mainly oil production and they were known as "Shanvar Teli", the oil conquerors of Shabbat. This is the first historical record of the community, and the cemetery in the village is probably the first Jewish cemetery. This is probably where the whole story of the community begins. So see you in Mumbai... on the Jewish path (website coming very soon). *If you have found an error or a mistake, we will be happy to hear. T.L.H Pictured: Another article about our path in the weekend newspaper by: Heena Khandelwal from Mid-DAY newspaper



Ululation olouolouolouolouol

Ululation ([/ˌjuːljʊˈleɪʃən, ʌl-/](#) ([listen](#))), from [Latin *ululo*](#), is a long, wavering, high-pitched vocal sound resembling a [howl](#) with a [trilling](#) quality. It is produced by emitting a high pitched loud voice accompanied with a rapid back and forth movement of the [tongue](#) and the [uvula](#). Ululation is commonly used in Middle Eastern [weddings](#). In the [Arab world](#), *zaghārīt* (Arabic: زغاريت) is a ululation performed to honor someone. In ancient Greece ululation or ([Greek](#): ὀλολυγή, [romanized](#): *ololuge*) was normally used as a joyful expression to celebrate good news or when an animal's throat is cut during sacrifice.



Israeli – Bene-Israel: With mingling of various Israeli immigrants cultures, many of our Bene-Israel women have become experts in uvula. They use it during all the celebrations they attend. It has become a representative of celebration.

Bengalis call it **ulu-uli** and they use this during weddings and other festivals. Odias call it Hulahuli or Huluhuli. In Odisha, ululation is used to cheer during weddings, cultural gatherings and celebrations. [citation needed]
Assamese call it uruli.

In Tamil, it is known as kulavai (Tamil:குளவை).



Haath Boshi

[\(20+\) מרכז למידה 'יהודי' הודו - Heritage of Bene Israel Indian Jews - Posts | Facebook](#)

Did you know that “Haath Boshi” is a tradition only in the Bene-Israel community? You will not find this way of greeting in any other community. Not even other Jewish communities. If you will search not a single image in internet on Haath Boshi. It is typical of Bene-Israel men holding the four corner threads of their Tallit and giving hand to other men in the synagogue who will do the same.



Rebecca Reuben Nowgaokar

(September 18, 1889 – November 16, 1957)

A Bene Israel of Mumbai : Pioneer, Scholar, Community Leader and Educationist

[Rebecca Reuben Nowgaokar - Wikipedia](#)

Rebecca Reuben Nowgaokar (September 18, 1889 – November 16, 1957) was a Jewish-Indian writer and educator. She was the director of the School Committee Bene Israel in Mumbai from 1922 to 1950.

Rebecca was born in Shimoga in the state of Karnataka in British India in 1889, into a family that led a congregation of Bene Israel. She attended the local girls' boarding school in the city of Pune, which conducted classes in three languages: Marathi, Sanskrit and English.

Born	September 18, 1889 Shimoga, Karnataka, India
Died	November 16, 1957 (aged 68) Bombay, Maharashtra, India
Nationality	India
Occupation(s)	Writer, Educator
Known for	Pedagogy

Pedagogy: the act & art of teaching.

She went to study in England and studied pedagogy at the [University of London](#) and Hebrew and Jewish Studies in [Cambridge University](#) under Prof. [Israel Abrahams](#). Reuben has authored a series of English language textbooks called *Ashok* which have been very successful in India and have been used in schools across the [Maharashtra state](#). It was initiated by the publication of monthly educational called *Nofet* ([Hebrew](#): נופת meaning *innocence*) for [Jewish](#) children, and during 1917–1920, edited the Bene Israel Year Book. She has published scholarly papers on the Commission "Children of Israel" in Hebrew and English on various platforms, including a booklet on community in Mumbai, published by [Cambridge University Press](#) in 1913.

Shaniwar-Teli: The school changed its name in the early 1920s, and was renamed after the Jewish [philanthropist](#) Sir [Elly Kadoorie](#), after in a meeting between him and Reuben in London. She managed to persuade him to donate a sum of about 150,000 rupees to the school. This school deserved the name of its original builder as "Haeem Samuel Kehimkar School"

Rebecca Reuben Nowgaokar



Rebecca Reuben visiting during the establishment of the [HaOgen](#) settlement, 1947

Bene-Israel History on Records in Israel's Chief Rabbi's office in Israel

Shaniwar Teli is publishing this **derogatory** article in English that was first published in Hebrew and was translated by Mr. Samuel Kurulkar for "National Union for Bene-Israel Community in Israel" lead by Moshe Sogogkar. It is important for our community to know this history for which the Chief Rabbi of Israel has apologized on a video.

Derogatory Article Translated by Samuel Kurulkar

Page 1-----

However, the chief rabbis of Israel, Rabbi Uziel (words of Uziel chapter ס'ו' ס'ו') and Rabbi Herzog (hachal ihkak י'ג' י'ו') wrote that they are of the seed of Israel, and the permitted them to mix with other Jews community, whatever, there is no Fear of bastards, provided they can keep doing Torah and mitzvot.

Rabbi Ovadia Hadaya (יackil ahadi ט'ו' ח' אה"ע ס'י א' וח"ח אה"ע ס'י ט') offered to come in the other Jews community, except Cohanim (priests), provided that they pass strict conversion.

Rabbi Unterman (Tribe of (Judah לו' טס'י' יו"ד ח"ב) wrote similar to this.

In the year 1961-1962 (Hebrew year תשכ"ב), ten rabbis gathered at Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim's house for a special discussion on the subject, among them Rabbi Ovadia Hadiya, Rabbi Yaakov Adas, Rabbi Shaul Israeli, Rabbi Bezalel Jolti, Rabbi Goldschmidt and more, and after careful consideration they decided that they were concerns religious laws about marriages and divorces used in the community, and thus ordered the Marriage Registrars offices to investigate and demand the couples who wanted to marry and be sure that that there is no problem.

(Remark by me: reference to Rabbi Ovadia Yosef who is always called as מר'ן זצ"ל)

Rabbi זצ"ל מרן our master, righteous man for blessing

(File to Israel and page 308 חארהפטיג) permitted the community of the "Bene Israel" [and this is his language in the letter of the 10th of month Shebat 5788 : Before you, let me clarify this Torah opinion, that the community of the Bene Israel, who came from India, are kosher Jews in all respects, and are allowed to come in a congregation and marry with all the communities of Israel Like the religion of Moses and Israel without any doubt, and without any need for tests and inquiries, and a great commandment to adhere to them and bring them to the Torah educational institutions for the observance of the Torah and mitzvot, and to accept them into the Torah educational institutions, Torah, Talmud and yeshivas, all of whom are endowed with good teachings and a pure heart, and love to get closer to the Torah. The Torah and the subjects of its standards.)

Rabbi Shmuel Rosovsky (Sefer Bene Israel ח"א page 47) also wrote an article refers as sanction and accepting them (Bene Israel) in the

community. At that time, his father-in-law was Rabbi Frank, and he asked the chief rabbis to appoint him as a judge at the Great Court, so the rabbis appointed, not the Minister of Religions(gov) or the subscription committee(gov). But at Bnei Barak, they were angry with Rabbi Shmuel who permitted the "Bene Israel" sect, and thus Rabbi Shmuel took his word back on it, and published a clarification that his intention was not to write the answers to Halacha and practice, but only by way of gossip, as a general lesson in Ponobiz says... In any case, today we permit them, and all the more so The Cochins, as well as the Ethiopians, which Maran Bivia says (חאה"ע סי' יא) determined that they were Jews, according to the words of the (הרדב"ז) Radbaz (in the שו"ת of David's words sign 5, and in the ח"ד signשו"ת) and his student Mahrikash (בשו"ת דברי דוד סימן ה), (ובתשו"ת ח"ד סימן ריט) and more. Except for a minority of the minority who inter-married with the Gentiles (non Jews) and learned from their actions, and where there is doubt they do genealogy test. I recently had a delegation from the "Bene Israel" community, and their rabbi studied under my brother, Rabbi Yaakov, and was authorized to teach by him. I talked to him and saw that he was a master of Halacha, son of Purat Yosef. Therefore, rather, we should bring them closer and accept them.

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By the way, the law of the "Bene Israel" was controversial, the opinion of many of the great generation that those who come from the Bene Israel sect are not Jews and should undergo a complete conversion, and in India the other denominations would not marry the girls of this sect, since they held them as non-Jews. And as early as one hundred and eighty years ago in the year 1842-1843, the "Calcutta" jews community turned to the rabbis of Baghdad to find out about the sect(bene israel), and Rabbi Yaakov ben Rabbi Yosef Chaim joined the jew religious high court (בד"צ) of Baghdad to prohibit bene israel with other jews (Baghdadi jews) from the reason and fear of Basterds (File Bene Israel ח"א p.21)(and the question from the same community: It has been several years since a man and his wife and their sons from the Jews known in our places "Bene Israel" etc. came to our house from Bombay. And now their sons have grown up and reached the marriage stage And they want to marry the daughters the Israeli community, and our souls came to ask if we could give them our daughters and take their daughters, etc. And in the month of Shebat 1913-1914 subscriber of high religious court of Sephardim, the Gaon Rabbi Avraham Azriel, the Gaon Rabbi Chaim David Soranaga and the Gaon Rabbi Shimon Asheriki(בזה"ל): about the matter of the Bene Israel to forbid them to marry them and strong prohibition until the Redeemer(messiah) comes. In the same year, the Deubi Court of Justice in Baghdad issued a sentence in the 19th century: Therefore, these Bene Israel who are in the

cities of India, they read the law with him and it is forbidden to marry them, since they also sanctify according to the Torah and they do not have divorce.

These are the words of youngsters who sit on madin flock po ovi Bagdad יע"א and is simple and clean and the son of the son of Ish Chai, Rabbi Yaakov, Rabbi Yosef Chaim, published and wrote: I, too, a servant of God, saw the following question from the Bible, and what was derived from above in the Bible, and the Bible as solid proofs directed at the truth According to scribes and books, the first and the last, therefore it is forbidden according to the Torah to marry them(bene israel) and take their bastards sons from them. And this is simple and there is no need to fear,

, and those who hears us will surely dwell. These are the words of the young slave Jacob, Rabbi Yosef Chaim and the Sephardi sages of Safed in the year 1869-1870 referred to this sect, and wrote: Aware of the intelligence that shone and shone toward us once in writing, from our friend Dr. Ma'aik Jerusalem תובב"א, Maggid says that some of the people from their communities ons woke up to shun the people called the Bene Israel, not to join with them in the ten (minyan), and not to raise them to Sefer torah and also forbid them from oral and practice mitzvot of htc... and demanded to investigate the class of these people(bene Israel) and here after investigating and demanding rabbi הנ"ץ הי"ץ according to his opinion, these people are the refuges from the time of the First Temple, and according to the many years they were assimilated among the nations, they were mixed with the heathens of the land, worshipers of idols, and witness to what is brought in the verse of the covenant that when Columbus went to the cities of India, and attacked in Cochin , he found Many people called Bene Israel, and the customs of their ancestors are in their hands, in what details do the people of Bene Israel dominate, (My remarks Christopher Columbus wanted to reach India and by confusion landed in America .the writer write fake history)





Our Rabbi Joshua Kolet decided to understand the issues behind the above matter and therefore called the meeting (see the letter below).

During this meeting

Date: 5th Shevat 5783

**To,
Honorable Rabbis and Community Representatives of
Indian Jews in the Holy Land**

Shalom,

Subject: Assembly of Representatives

In recent weeks we have been hearing complaints from community representatives about the rabbinate asking grooms and brides from the community who want to marry, whose cases are sent to the courts to ascertain their Jewishness and this causes them and their families great suffering. In this regards a meeting will be held with the Rabbis of the community and Representatives of the community to discuss and clarify the issue.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, 10th of Shebat 5783 - 1/02/2023 at 16:00 PM at the Regional Court, 4 Am VeOlam St., Jerusalem.

For the sake of security in the court building, participation in the meeting is subject to pre-registration by the 8th of Shebat - 01/30/2023. Register by sending your full name and phone number on SMS or WhatsApp to 0526060394 or email: rabbijkolet@hotmail.com.

The Synagogue Committees of the Bnei Israel Community, the Chairman of the National Organization of the Bnei-Israel Community or the President of the International Organization of the Bnei-Israel Community may decide which representatives they wish to send.

**Rabbi Yehoshua ben Ezra Kolet
Hazon E-li Foundation
For the Bnei-Israel community in India and Israel.**

בס"ד

תאריך: ה' שבט תשפ"ג

לכבוד רבני ונציגי הקהילה הי"ו

יהדות הודו בארץ הקודש

שלום וברכה,

הנידון: אסיפת נציגים

בשבועות האחרונים אנו שומעים מנציגי הקהילה תלונות על הרבנות שמבקשים מאלו חתנים וכלות מהעדה שרוצים להינשא, שתיקיהם נשלחים לבתי הדין לבירור יהדותם והדבר גורם להם ולמשפחותיהם סבל רב. בעקבות כך הריני מקיים אסיפה עם רבני הקהילה ונציגי העדה כדי לדון ולהבהיר על הנושא.

המפגש יתקיים אי"ה ביום רביעי י' שבט תשפ"ג - 1/02/2023 בשעה 16:00 אחה"צ בבית הדין האזורי רח' עם ועולמו 4, ירושלים.

למען הבטיחות בבניין בית הדין ההשתתפות באסיפה מותנית בהרשמה מראש עד לתאריך ח' שבט - 30/01/2023. יש להירשם על ידי שליחת השם המלא ומספר הטלפון לרב יהושע קולט - 0526060394

שמות הנציגים ייבחרו על ידי וועדת בית הכנסת של קהילת בני ישראל, יו"ר ארגון איחוד ארצי קהילת בני ישראל, נשיא הארגון הבינלאומי של קהילת בני ישראל.

הרב יהושע בן עזרא קולט

מכון חזון א-לי

למען קהילת בני ישראל בהודו ובא"י

Shalom and Blessings to all the members of the Bnei Israel community in Israel and the diaspora. We would like to share with you the results of the meeting that took place at the Rabbinical Court in Jerusalem on the 1st of Feb 2023. The meeting was initiated by Rabbi Yehoshua Ezra Kolet. The meeting was attended by the following representatives of the Bene Israel community who thought that the issue was important to our community : 1. Rav Eliyahu Dighorkar- community Rav of Shomerei Gachelet synagogue, Ramle. 2. Rav Shimson Mordechai - Rav of Magen Hassidim Synagogue, Ezor Gimel, Ashdod. 3. Rav Aharon Galsulkar - Rav from Jerusalem. 4. Rav Reuben Garsulkar - Rav from Bene Israel community of Ashdod. 5. Rav Sharon Garsulkar from Bet Shemesh. 6. Mr. Menachem Kharilkar- President of Yachad Shiftei Israel Synagogue, Ezor Yod, Ashdod. 7. Ms. Yaffa Samson Gupte - President of International Organisation of Bene Israelis (IOBI). 8. Mr. Ephraim Shir Founder of Petach Tikva Synagogue. 9. Mr. Aharon Khanowker President of Magen David Synagogue, Ezor Aleph , Ashdod 10. Mr. Saul Aptekar, representative of IOBI	And 11. Mr.Abraham Moses representative of IOBI Two representatives from the Chief Rabbinate, Rabbi Eliyahu Maimon, director of the department of Birur Yahadut and Rabbi Asher Ehrentreu, Director of the department for Agunot, addressed the representatives. When inquired about Rabbi Yehoshua's role we were informed that on behalf of the Chief Rabbinate, he has been carrying out the clarifications required in accordance with the requests that the Rabbanical court asks of him with regards to our Bene Israel community members. They clarified that he is not their salaried staff. When asked why the issue of the Jewishness of certain couples who are coming to register for marriage in the regional Rabbanut office is even raised, they explained that in recent years there is a computerized Artificial Intelligence program that connects all the information of all Jews throughout Israel in the past and present and if it finds a certain person who needs to clarify their paperwork for Jewishness, these cases are sent to Birur. They informed us that Conversion that were done by any Bet Din both in Israel or abroad, that is not recognised by the Rabbinate were not acceptable and hence those that were done in the past and that are presently done in India are not accepted according to Jewish law here in the Rabbinate. Therefore they must undergo conversion in order to receive an acceptable confirmation of their
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Judaism so that these couples can be approved to marry according to the religion of Moses and Israel.

They urged that “please don't conclude from the above that, God forbid, the Rabbinat cast doubt on the Judaism of our entire community.” On the contrary, they consider us holy and pure Jews like all other communities in Israel, who also at times have some of their members go through the birur process as it just seeks to preserve the purity and uniqueness of the community, since those people who converted in India did not undergo an orderly and in-depth training in the fundamentals and rules of Judaism which are the ones that protect us over the years. Therefore, it is in the interest of all of us that those families take it upon themselves to go through a proper conversion process so that they do not encounter unnecessary obstacles. They also said that the Rabbinat is trying to help us in this task and requested that members of the community who may be converted in India or may have a converted parent or grand parent should voluntarily approach Rabbi Kolet and not wait till before the children reach the marriage registration process.

They told us that Rabbi Yehoshua Kolet, who has been helping these families for years, is now, even given the authority to help go through the process with the Rabbinat, so that if they have difficulty with the language, he can explain it to them in the Indian language very easily. In fact Rabbi Kolet will coordinate over zoom, classes to help with conversions free of cost.

We request the whole Bene Israel Community leadership to work hand in hand with Rabbi Kolet for this important task preserving the purity of our people and clear doubts for any such families from the records of the Rabbinat of Israel.

Prepared and Signed by some who were present:

Mr. Menachem Kharilkar,
Rav Reuven Garsulkar,
Rabbi Yehoshua Ezra Kolet.

Remarks from Shaniwar-Teli Team

Shaniwar-Teli e-newsletter constantly receives requests from India from youngsters who claim their grandparents were Bene-Israel or one of their parents are Bene-Israel. There are cases where one of the partners is a Bene-Israel and other has converted.

These are all complicated cases that need professional guidance. We suggest all such cases be forwarded to

Rabbi Yehoshua Ezra
Kolet
+972526060394
E-mail:
rabbijkolet@hotmail.com



הם הודיעו לנו שגורים שנעשו על ידי כל בית דין בארץ או בחו"ל, שאינם מוכרים על ידי הרבנות אינם מקובלים ולכן אלה שנעשו בעבר ונעשים כיום בהודו אינם מקובלים על פי ההלכה היהודית כאן ברבנות. לכן עליהם לעבור גיור על מנת לקבל אישור קביל על יהדותם, כך שניתן יהיה לאשר לזוגות אלה להינשא על פי דת משה וישראל. הם הפצירו בבקשה לא להסיק מהאמור לעיל שחס וחלילה הרבנות הטילה ספק ביהדות של כל הקהילה שלנו. להיפך, הם רואים בנו יהודים קדושים וטהורים כמו כל הקהילות האחרות בישראל, שגם הם לעיתים גורמים לחלק מחבריהם לעבור את תהליך הבירור מכיוון שהוא רק מבקש לשמור על הטהרה וייחודה של הקהילה, שכן אותם אנשים לא עברו הכשרה מסודרת ומעמיקה ביסודות ובכללי היהדות שהם אלה שהגנו עלינו לאורך השנים. לכן, האינטרס של כולנו הוא שאותן משפחות ייקחו על עצמן לעבור תהליך גיור תקין כדי שלא ייתקלו במכשולים מיותרים. הם גם אמרו שהרבנות מנסה לעזור לנו במשימה זו וביקשו מחברי הקהילה שעשויים להתגייר בהודו או שאולי יש להם הורה או סבא שעבר גיור, לפנות מרצונם לרב קולט ולא לחכות עד לפני שהילדים יגיעו לתהליך רישום הנישואין. הם סיפרו לנו שהרב יהושע קולט, שעוזר למשפחות האלה כבר שנים, מקבל עכשיו, אפילו את הסמכות לעזור לעבור את התהליך עם הרבנות יד ביד, כך שאם יש להם קושי עם השפה, הוא יכול להסביר להם את זה בקלות רבה. למעשה הרב קולט יתאם בזום, שיעורים ללא עלות. אנו מבקשים מכל הנהגת קהילת בני ישראל לעבוד יד ביד עם הרב קולט למשימה חשובה זו של שמירה על טוהר עמנו וספקות ברורים לכל משפחה כזו מרישומי רבנות ישראל. הוכן ונחתם על ידי כמה מהנוכחים: מר מנחם קרילקר, הרב ראובן גרסולקר, רבי יהושע עזרא קולט ות.	שלום וברכות לכל חברי קהילת בני ישראל בישראל ובתפוצ. ברצוננו לשתף אתכם בתוצאות המפגש שהתקיים בבית הדין הרבני בירושלים ב-1 בפברואר 2023. את הפגישה יזם רבי יהושע עזרא קולט. במפגש נכחו הנציגים הבאים של קהילת בני ישראל שחשבו שהנושא חשוב לקהילה שלנו: 1. הרב אליהו דיגורקר - רב קהילת בית הכנסת שומרי גחלת, רמלה. 2. הרב שמשון מרדכי - רב בית הכנסת מגן חסידים, אזור ג', אשדוד. 3. הרב אהרן גלסולקר - רב מירושלים. 4. הרב ראובן גרסולקר - רב מקהילת בני ישראל באשדוד. 5. הרב שרון גרסולקר מבית שמש. 6. מר מנחם קרילקר - נשיא בית הכנסת יחד שבטי ישראל, אזור י' אשדוד. 7. גב' יפה שמשון גופטה - נשיאת הארגון הבינלאומי של בני ישראל (IOBI). 8. מר אפרים שיר מייסד בית הכנסת פתח תקווה. 9. מר אהרון חנווקר נשיא בית הכנסת מגן דוד, אזור א', אשדוד. 10. מר שאול אפטקר, נציג IOBI. 11. מר אברהם מוזס נציג IOBI. שני נציגים מהרבנות הראשית, הרב אליהו מימון, מנהל המחלקה בבירור יחדות, והרב אשר ארנטראו, מנהל המחלקה לעגונות, דברו אל הנציגים. כאשר נשאלנו על תפקידו של רבי יהושע התבשרנו כי בשם הרבנות הראשית הוא מבצע את ההבהרות הנדרשות בהתאם לבקשות שבית הדין הרבני מבקש ממנו ביחס לחברי קהילת "בני ישראל". הם הבהירו כי הוא אינו עובד השכיר שלהם. שנשאלו מדוע בכלל עולה סוגיית יהדותם של זוגות מסוימים שבאים להירשם לנישואין בלשכת הרבנות האזורית, הם הסבירו כי בשנים האחרונות קיימת תוכנה ממוחשבת לאינטיגנציה מלאכותית שמחברת את כל המידע של כל היהודים ברחבי ישראל בעבר ובהווה ואם היא מוצאת אדם מסוים שצריך לברר את הניירת שלו ליהדות, מקרים אלה נשלחים לבירור..
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Fury of Nissim Moses

The issue of **derogatory** article (discussed above) upset Nissim Moses and he wrote a furious letter blaming Rabbi Yehoshua Ezra Kolet on starting this issue and taking it to the Jerusalem Rabbinical court when the issue is closed, dead and buried decades ago.

Why not let “sleeping dogs lie” Nissim wrote (avoid interfering in a situation that is currently causing no problems but may well do so as a result of such interference).



Our Bene-Israel Ancestors Did Much More than what we know

[The contribution of Indian Jews to Israel - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](https://jpost.com)

We already know that in 1850 Bene-Israel Jews sent money to Israel to build the grave of Rachel in Jerusalem. It is mentioned at the site.

Little do the people of Israel and world Jewry know that the Jews of **India**, known as **Bene Israel**, were actively involved with fructifying their dream of a return to Zion way back from about 1830.

The Bene Israel played an important role in the creation and development of modern Israel from before the establishment of the state in 1948. They participated in activities in support of Jews suffering during the pogroms in Czarist Russia. (*Pogroms in the Russian Empire (Russian: Еврейские погромы в Российской империи) were large-scale, targeted, and repeated anti-Jewish rioting that began in the 19th century.*)

They were also the first to revive the teaching of spoken Hebrew as a second language at the matriculation and collegiate level in India, way before Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, who started in only 1880.



1881 pogrom in Kiev

Meet Florabelle Moses Talkar

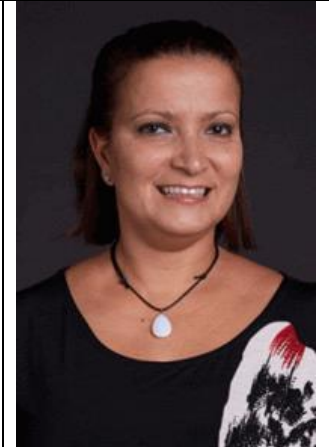
[Florabelle Moses](#) | [Eugene Ballet](#)

Florabelle Moses (Nissim Moses's daughter was born in Israel and trained at the Bat-Dor dance school in Israel where she obtained six levels of dance certifications from the Royal Academy of Dance in London. She studied at the Rubin Academy of Music and Dance in Jerusalem, affiliated with the Hebrew University. After receiving her Bachelor in Dance and Dance Education in 1991, she moved to Eugene and received her Master's in Dance from the University of Oregon in 1993.

Our Bene-Israel community members have excelled everywhere in their profession. From painting to leading orchestras and now Florabelle as an artist.

See her facebook at :

[\(20+\) Florabelle Moses](#) | [Facebook](#)



The Sleeping Beauty



The Nutcracker



Petrushka



BOLD

Raigad Jewish Association (RJA) Honored Teachers

Herzl Bhonkar



RJA respected the four representatives sent by Rabbi Daniel Talkar from Ashdod at Magen Aboth Synagogue at Alibag on Jan 1, 2023 for teaching the local Bene-Israel various kosher procedures and traditions. Below you can also see the teaching in process in Alibaug.



Preservation of our only Monument in India Moshe Sogaokar

President - "A National Union for Bene-Israel a Community in Israel"



Repairs, Maintenance and Preservation of this only Bene-Israel monument in India should be the responsibility of the Government of India.

We preserve and maintain the monument in Haifa at the expense of the Israeli state.

This is my sincere opinion and we are going to work on this logical argument to preserve and maintain the only monument build in India with the funds from the Bene-Israel community.

תיקונים, תחזוקה ושימור של אנדרטת בן-ישראל היחידה בהודו צריכים להיות באחריות ממשלת הודו.

אנו משמרים ומתחזקים את האנדרטה בחיפה על חשבון מדינת ישראל.
זו דעתי הכנה ואנחנו הולכים לעבוד על הטיעון הלוגי הזה כדי לשמר ולתחזק את האנדרטה היחידה שנבנתה בהודו בכספי קהילת בני ישראל.

भारतातील या एकमेव बेने-इस्त्रायल स्मारकाची दुरुस्ती, देखभाल आणि जतन ही जबाबदारी भारत सरकारची असली पाहिजे.

आम्ही इस्त्रायली राज्याच्या खर्चाने हैफामधील स्मारकाचे जतन आणि देखभाल करतो.

हे माझे प्रामाणिक मत असून बेने-इस्त्रायल समाजाच्या निधीतून भारतातील एकमेव वास्तूचे जतन व देखभाल करण्यासाठी या तार्किक युक्तिवादावर आम्ही काम करणार आहोत.

**Need \$100,000
For restoration**

**Contact Raigad Jewish
Association
+91 98224 11110**

Bene-Israel Synagogue in Kiryat Gat Robbed

(17) Facebook

A robber entered the premises of a Bene-Israel synagogue in Kiryat Gat in Israel. He was caught on the CC cameras.

<https://www.facebook.com/wbwo.daniels.1/videos/541251971247307>

The thief took 6000NIS cash 70,000 NIS in cheques and a mobile phone. Police send a message on the missing mobile phone and the thief replies asking for 10,000 NIS in Crypto currency to return the cheques and the phone. The thief did not realize he was being traced through the stolen phone and was traced and arrested. All the items were returned to the synagogue.



Malida- In A Different Way

I was a child then when, on some Saturdays our parents took us to a Wadauvkar family, who lived at Dadar TT, to attend Malida ceremony.

They use to have a Malida every Saturday in the family and it was always open to the community, who ever could and would like to attend.

What was unusual with them was that their Malida did not use Poha (Rice flakes) as is used in traditional Madia preparations. They would have cut coconut pieces with sugar sprinkled on the coconut.

The prayers would be the same traditional prayers but Malida itself was prepared in a different way. They would also not have fruits.

Are there other families too that followed this way of Malida preparation?



Shulmith Charikar (our Editor) remembers her father's mother performing malida with coconut and sugar. She was from Pakistan. Shulmith says she remembers the wonderful taste of the freshly cut coconut. Shulmith further thinks families living on Pakistan mainly preformed this Malida due to lack of Poha in Pakistan.

Herzl Bhonkar (RJA –President) updates that in Alibaug synagogue for many years, after Saturday evening prayers distributed coconut and sugar. Malida is basically offering to God from our income. So those who had coconut plantation and paddy field offered a coconut & poha malida. While those who had only coconut plantation, offered coconut & sugar malida.

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award



The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) is the highest honour conferred on overseas Indians. PBSA is conferred by the Honourable President of India as part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention on Non-Resident Indians, Persons of Indian

Reena Vinod Pushkarna ... Read more at: <https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/17th-pravasi-bharatiya-samman-award-2023-announced/>
The whole Indian community in Israel knows Reena and her husband Vinod and her warm reception every time we visit her Tandoori restaurants. India chooses her business, along with 27 other world businesses around the world that help developed the culture of India. 9 Jan, 2023

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman (PBS) is conferred for outstanding contributions in any of the following areas.

"Social and humanitarian causes in India or abroad" "Better understanding of India" "Support to India's causes and concerns in a tangible way" "Social and humanitarian causes in India or abroad" "Better understanding of India"	"Support to India's causes and concerns in a tangible way" "Building closer links between India, the overseas Indian community and their country of residence;" "Welfare of the local Indian community" "Philanthropic and charitable work".	"Eminence in one's field or outstanding work, which has enhanced India's prestige in the country of residence; or" "Eminence in skills which has enhanced India's prestige in that country (for non-professional workers"
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Should Bene-Israel Community Do This?

Pre released in the interest of the community



Should Bene-Israel community make a major sacrifice?

The only memorial of the Bene-Israel in Navgao is rotting and needs repairs and restoration. The community does not have \$100K to \$200K needed to repair it.

Some are of the opinion to discard the old monument and make a new, a more Jewish monument instead, like a Menorah, the symbol of the state of Jews; Israel. When you look at the present monument, no where you get an impression of it being a Jewish Landmark. This new monument too could cost about \$100K to \$200K and you will get a real Jewish symbol, as it should be meant to.

In either case nothing can be done unless funds are available either for repairs or for new monument.

On the other hand, there is a need for road expansion in Bandra and our old un-used Bene-Israel graveyard can become part of this future expanded road.

Should the community give up the old graveyard and use the money for the repair or building a new monument in Navgao?



Send your thoughts to email shaniwarteli@gmail.com

Protests push BMC off Bandra cemetery land



The Catholic community protested BMC's circular issued on Thursday to take over part of the cemetery for road work.

Yogesh Naik

yogesh.naik@broadbandindia.com

MUMBAI: Following protests from the Catholic community, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has stayed the circular that was issued to take over part of the Catholic cemetery at Kadeshwari Mata Mandir Marg in Bandra West for road expansion. The cemetery is attached to St Peter's Church and close to the Bandra side of the Worli-Bandra sea link.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) raised the issue following the community's protests. Bandra West MLA Ashish Shelar, who is also the city BJP chief, approached the BMC seeking reconsideration of the move. Consequently, on Friday, the assistant commissioner of H West ward sent a letter to the representatives of the cemetery and the local church, informing them that the circular issued earlier stood suspended.

The letter also says that though the representatives operating the cemetery were aware of the move, they did not submit objections within the stipulated time. The appeal by the church representatives has now been

sent to the competent authority, and till then the notice stands suspended. Father Mascarenhas, the parish priest of St Peter's Church, had told HT on Thursday that the move was something that impinged on the sentiments of the Catholic community. Emphasising that graves and cemeteries had religious and emotional connotations which no one should hurt, he had pointed out that there was a road parallel to Kadeshwari Mata Mandir Marg which the BMC could acquire for its road-widening. H West ward office had issued a notice to the owners of 12 structures to surrender their land for road-widening, among these a Catholic cemetery and a Bene Israeli Jewish cemetery. A BMC official had said that only 3.93 feet would be taken from two corners of the Bene Israeli Jewish cemetery and only one corner measuring 3.93 feet from the Catholic cemetery, and the graves would not be touched. However, the move had the Catholic community up in arms.

A civic official from H West ward who served the notice had said that Kadeshwari Mandir Marg was extremely narrow, which necessitated the move.

האם קהילת בן-ישראל צריכה לעשות זאת?

פורסם מראש לטובת הקהילה



האם קהילת בן-ישראל צריכה להקריב קורבן גדול

האנדרטה היחידה של בני ישראל בנבגאו נרקבת וזקוקה לתיקונים ושיקום. לקהילה אין 100 אלף עד 200 אלף דולר הדרושים כדי לתקן אותה.

יש הסבורים להשליך את האנדרטה הישנה וליצור במקום זאת אנדרטה חדשה, יהודית יותר, כמו מנורה, סמל מדינת היהודים; ישראל. כשאתה מסתכל על האנדרטה הנוכחית, לא שם אתה מקבל רושם שהיא ציון דרך יהודי. גם האנדרטה החדשה הזו יכולה לעלות כ-100 אלף דולר עד 200 אלף דולר ותקבלו סמל יהודי אמיתי, כפי שהוא אמור להיות.

בכל מקרה לא ניתן לעשות דבר אלא אם כן יש כספים זמינים לתיקונים או לאנדרטה חדשה.

מצד שני, יש צורך בהרחבת כבישים בבנדרה ובית הקברות הישן שלנו בבני ישראל שאינו בשימוש יכול להפוך לחלק מהכביש המורחב העתידי הזה.

האם הקהילה צריכה לוותר על בית הקברות הישן ולהשתמש בכסף לתיקון או לבניית אנדרטה חדשה בנבגאו?

?

שלח את מחשבותיך לדואר אלקטרוני
shaniwarteli@gmail.com

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बेने-इस्रायल समुदायाने हे करावे का?

समाजाच्या हितासाठी प्री रिलीज



बेनी-इस्राएल समाजाने मोठा त्याग करावा का? नवगावमधील बेने-इस्रायलचे एकमेव स्मारक सडत चालले आहे आणि त्याची दुरुस्ती आणि जीर्णोद्धार करण्याची गरज आहे. ते दुरुस्त करण्यासाठी आवश्यक असलेले १०० हजार ते २०० हजार डॉलर्स या समुदायाकडे नाहीत.

जुनं स्मारक टाकून त्याऐवजी ज्यूंच्या राज्याचं प्रतीक असलेल्या मेनोरासारखं नवं, अधिक ज्यू स्मारक करावं, असं काहींचं मत आहे; इस्रायल। जेव्हा तुम्ही सध्याच्या स्मारकाकडे पाहता, तेव्हा ते ज्यू लँडमार्क असल्याचा भास तुम्हाला कुठेही होत नाही. या नवीन स्मारकाची किंमतही सुमारे १०० हजार डॉलर्स ते २०० हजार डॉलर्स असू शकते आणि आपल्याला एक वास्तविक यहूदी चिन्ह मिळेल, जसे की ते अभिप्रेत असले पाहिजे.

एकतर दुरुस्तीसाठी किंवा नवीन स्मारकासाठी निधी उपलब्ध झाल्याशिवाय काहीही करता येणार नाही.

दुसरीकडे, वांद्रे येथे रस्ता विस्तारीकरणाची गरज असून, आपले जुने वापरात नसलेले बेने-इस्रायल स्मशानभूमी या भविष्यातील विस्तारित रस्त्याचा भाग बनू शकते.

समाजाने जुन्या स्मशानभूमीचा त्याग करून हा पैसा दुरुस्तीसाठी वापरावा की नवगावात नवीन स्मारक बांधावे?

? आपले विचार ईमेलवर पाठवा shaniwarteli@gmail.com

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Yogesh Naik

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MUMBAI: Following protests from the Catholic community, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has stayed the circular that was issued to take over part of the Catholic cemetery at Kadeshwari Mata Mandir Marg in Bandra West for road expansion. The cemetery is attached to St Peter's Church and close to the Bandra side of the Worli-Bandra sea link.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) raised the issue following the community's protests. Bandra West MLA Ashish Shelar, who is also the city BJP chief, approached the BMC seeking reconsideration of the move. Consequently, on Friday, the assistant commissioner of H West ward sent a letter to the representatives of the cemetery and the local church, informing them that the circular issued earlier stood suspended.

The letter also says that though the representatives operating the cemetery were aware of the move, they did not submit objections within the stipulated time. The appeal by the church representatives has now been

sent to the competent authority, and till then the notice stands suspended. Father Mascarenhas, the parish priest of St Peter's Church, had told HT on Thursday that the move to take over part of a cemetery was something that impinged on the sentiments of the Catholic community. Emphasising that graves and cemeteries had religious and emotional connotations which no one should hurt, he had pointed out that there was a road parallel to Kadeshwari Mata Mandir Marg which the BMC could acquire for its road-widening. H West ward office had issued a notice to the owners of 12 structures to surrender their land for road-widening, among these a Catholic cemetery and a Bene Israeli Jewish cemetery. A BMC official had said that only 3.93 feet would be taken from two corners of the Bene Israeli Jewish cemetery and only one corner measuring 3.93 feet from the Catholic cemetery, and the graves would not be touched. However, the move had the Catholic community up in arms. A civic official from H West ward who served the notice had said that Kadeshwari Mandir Marg was extremely narrow, which necessitated the move.

Our always wonderful Bene-Israel Ladies **Mrs. Seema Jhirad Felicitated**

Rahel Bhonkar



We already know Seema Aunty from our volume 11 (left).

Now at the age of 72 she won the 3rd prize in marathon in BKC - Bandra Kurla Complex.



Bandra Kurla Complex

Our always wonderful Bene-Israel Ladies

Mrs. Seema Jhirad Felicitated

Rahel Bhonkar



Mrs. Seema Jhirad was blessed by "Rashmi Joshi", the environmental woman in the Maharashtra region, on Sunday, May 29th, 2022. This ceremony was organized by Mumbai women welfare forum at "Yishvant Natia Garva Dadar Matonga". Mrs. Seema Jhirad was felicitated by Rashmi Joshi Environmentalist Maharashtra Rajya on Sunday, 29th May 2022.

Our representative Rachel contacted Seema on our behalf and Seema was kind enough to write a few words about herself which we are presenting on next page. We have no way to get matter typed in Marathi so we are presenting the original hand written matter. Please join us in congratulate Seema, a dedicated social worker for years



How IOBI managed to destroy the trust of the Bene-Israel Community World Wide for selfish reasons.



Notice: After we issued our “What to Expect in this ST” page, a lot of pressure was put on us not to include this article. But we decided to keep it as a community member has written it and has put trust in us to publish it. If we suppress their voice than what are we doing? We also realize that the writer only wants that the group keep the promises for with it was formed. Helping Bene-Israel and repair the Monument

Past six years I am a member of IOBI, since 2018. How excited we were when the international Bene-Israel meeting was held in Mumbai. John-Perry announced that there was no one to help him when he was an immigrant, but now he is forming IOBI that will help every immigrant and help every Bene-Israel who needs help. They will repair and restore the only monument. They will get donations from around the world for this purpose.

Now six years later there is not a single example of IOBI helping any Bene-Israel in problem. Jewish Agency closed their office in Mumbai that disturbed life's of many, but IOBI did not help. There were issues in Israel of Rabbinate not approving some Bene-Israel marriages, IOBI did not help. The Memorial is crying for repairs that IOBI had promised. Six years is not enough time to start repairs on our only monument? What happened to all big talks and promises?

So now I wonder what the reason was we formed IOBI. IJF was doing the job. Why did we need IOBI? In 2020 I was very angry when Leo Daniels called the group an impotent chat group and nothing more. But we now seem to agree with him. I think now most of the members of IOBI agree with Leo. IOBI is doing nothing. Not in India, Canada, USA, UK; so why call it International? In Israel Gupte is attending events organized by others and calls it IOBI event. Singing Jana Gana Mana for the embassy was not what IOBI was created for.

I request the respectable members of IOBI, who have all realized that in six years IOBI has only proven to be a napunsik group that did not achieve a single aim of the purpose of it being formed; to take up the matter and change the leadership to someone Jewish and more concern about common Jewish Bene-Israel community of the world. Let not the monument cry



Where is my Money? The Community asks?



We Shaniwar Teli **tried three times** but failed each time to initiate the repairs of our Navgao monument during last two years. Main reason was that community members claimed that they have already tons of money for this purpose, but no one knows where it is.

First Attempt:

Along with RJA and IJF during Dec. 2019 a meeting was initiated by Herzl Bhonkar and 16 major community members met in Jonnathan Solomon's office. Each promised to give 100,000 NIS by the end of the month to start getting estimates of the repairs. Ruth Greenfeild had already paid 50,000 Rs. and this amount would be added (as per her wish).

However only 3 people paid. Herzl Bhonkar, Leo Daniel and Shimshon Galsurkar. Everyone else absconded. Only God knows why. Everyone is in good financial position but just that the community seems in their least priority. Finally waiting for the payment for two years, Herzl returned the money to Leo Daniels and David Galsurkar in Dec.2022. First failure. (People may not have paid for the same reason as you will read in third attempt.)

Second Attempt:

Our Australasia Bene-Israel community representative of Shaniwar Teli promised to make an effort to get together \$ 100,000. This effort too was started a while ago but there has been no response since. We assume it must have not gone through. As we understand they have heard of IOBI pocketing the money collected by the community for this purpose and the community has lost trust. IOBI have never submitted the accounts nor repaid IJF and Eli Kadoori Trust for all the expenses incurred in India on food, travel, and entertainment etc. in 1918.

Read on to better understand the gimmick IOBI played in making the whole community scape-goats for personal advantages of few.



Third Attempt

Recently we tried to collect \$ 100,000 for RJA from our community, worldwide.

At this stage we were surprised to receive messages and phone calls asking us what had happened to the money that was already donated....!!??

Story that we understand:

Though there is IJF, some seasoned thief came up with an idea to form a new group, IOBI. So an international meeting of Bene-Israel leaders and community was called in 2018. This meeting was arranged by IJF to form IOBI (***IJF should have objected, when IJF existed, forming a new group was fruitless as we witness after 6 years***) along with the Eli Kadoori Trust funds.

As it was a three days program it was managed by the committee members of Elly Kadoorie School. ***The expenses for the functions, decorations, artistes, lunch, dinner, tea and refreshments, were borne by IJF.*** IJF also arranged for travel by water launch free of charge to Alibaug, to the monument.



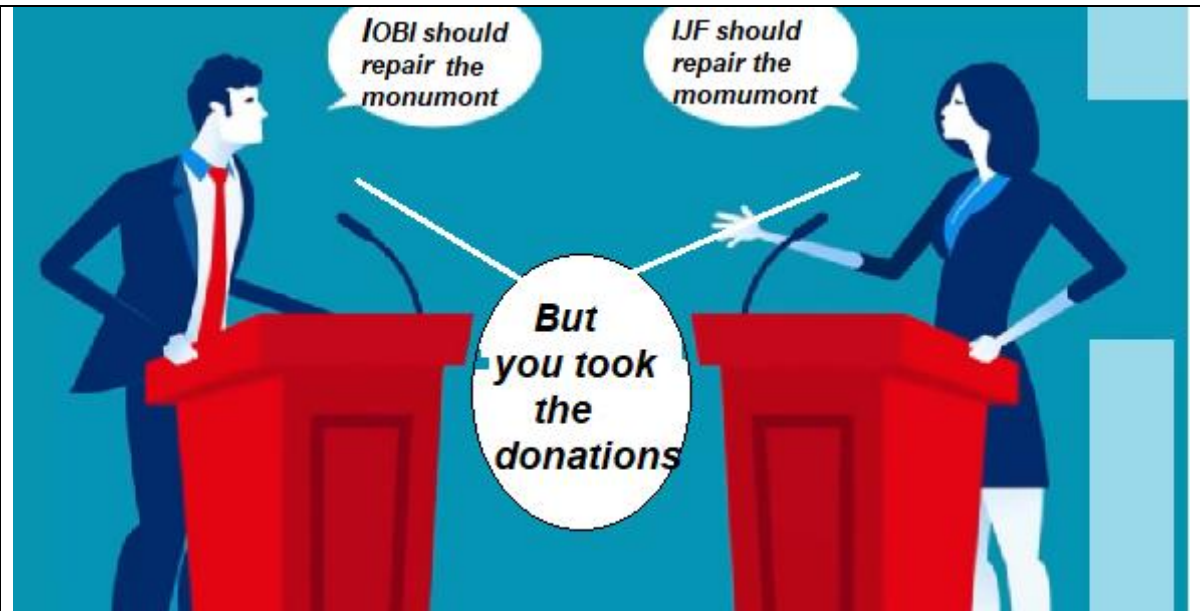
IJF confirms that there were lots of promises made by IOBI individuals to collect donations. But nothing materialized. IJF also confirms they did not collect monies for the memorial repair purpose but towards the expenses for this meeting. ***It was then decided that the memorial will be developed under the banner of IOBI.***

IJF collected monies only for the expenses towards the celebrations and functions during these three days celebrations. IJF had called upon IOBI to declare whatever they have collected. But when Bene Binyamin resigned and Gupte took over the reins of IOBI and she submitted no accounts. Why?

In fact, IOBI-India submitted the accounts to IOBI- Israel, with a condition that they will submit their list of donations collected. There were no expenses borne by IOBI. All the expenses of the function, decorations, artistes, lunch, dinner, tea and refreshments, were borne by IJF.

Further, IJF was surprised by the way IOBI functions. David Talagaokar was the Vice President of IOBI, representing the Indian Bene Israel Community. But David was never informed by IOBI as to when he was not to function as the Vice president and some other person was appointed on his behalf. It looks like David could have been a hindrance in pocketing the money so he was quietly removed. Other too who asked questions were quickly removed. All scapegoats and were kept on. ***"Appo Deepo Bhava" means "I am the light. Be surrendered to me. What ever I say, never doubt it"*** Let me pocked the money. Don't ask questions.(Jew-Hindu-Budha)

We were not able to understand who collected the money on behalf of IOBI. The people who made the list and formed the IOBI WhatsApp group were also involved in collecting the money, we were told. No receipts were issued and were promised after the stationery was ready. No one received any receipt. On enquiring we were told the WhatsApp group was formed by Gupta who is the administrator from the very beginning (2018) and therefore she should have collected the money or should know who collected the money. But IOBI have said nothing on this collection. Where are all the donations given for Memorial repairs.



Where is the donated money to IOBI for repairs of the monument?

John Perry takes the entire credit of forming the IOBI as per his interview given to some TV channel. As always he likes to take fake credit. Does nothing but takes credit on other people's work. It was the work of IJF and EK School Trust made this possible. With the leadership of IOBI in Gupta's hand the group became an impotent group that did nothing in six years for the community.

It seems the formation of IOBI was not really for the benefit of few dishonest Bene-Israel self-appointed leaders. Forming an impotent NGO to collect donations from USA in the name of Bene-Israel and pocket the money by these few. Still no accounts are shown by IOBI Israel. As told to us by an IOBI member in Israel. (Read the last 3 months activity of IOBI in Israel to understand what community says).

In conclusion, John Perry (who calls every one Bastard who does not agree with him) managed to fool all the Bene-Israel into forming an **unnecessary group** IOBI and making it an impotent group by blocking all the accounts. IOBI shows 200+ long list of membership in USA to get their donations that never reaches community people. **IJF should never have allowed a second body to be formed.** At the most they could have allowed an IJF – foreign member's wing (as this IOBI idea was created by Bene-Israel's living outside of India).

Situation Today: Now our people don't trust both; not IOBI nor IJF and refuse to donate again.

Who collected the money? Where is the money? Where is the donors list and amounts? Who pocketed it? In this game of "The Thief of Bagdad" the biggest loss is of our community. People will not give donations for same reason again and again and again. There may be another "The Thief of New Jersey" waiting around the corner.

If members who are still in IOBI realize the amount of damage IOBI has done to the community, and how we have been cheated by IOBI, please leave the group and join IJF.

We asked few respectable leaders about the donations.

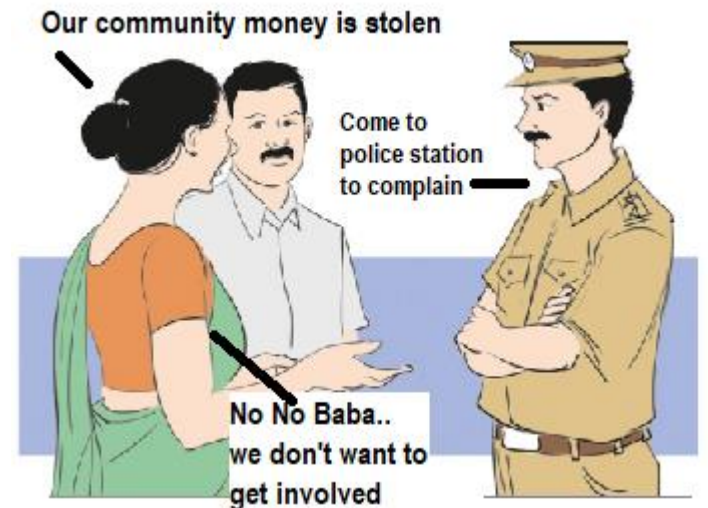
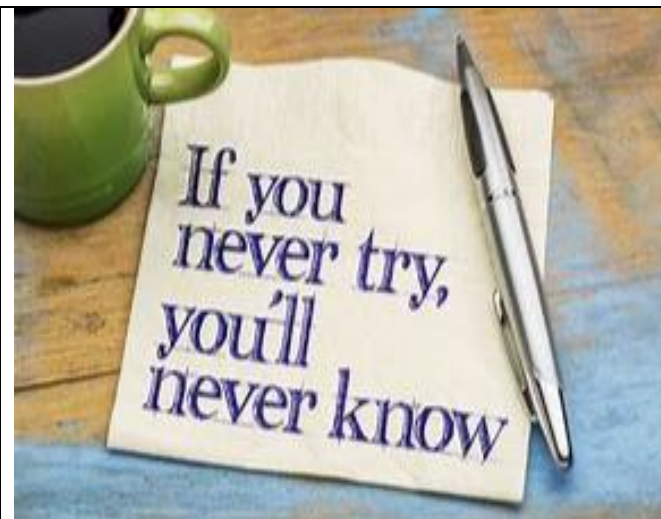
Mr. Nissim Moses: My mouth is shut. Don't ask me. (he was present in the 2018 meeting and had made a donation)

Mr. Elijah Jacob: I know I made a donation for the repairs of the monument in 2018 but no repairs were done.

Mr. David Talagaokar: I was traveling to USA in those days so have no idea about donations.

Mr. Herzl Bhonkar: As my mother had passed away, I did not attend these meetings. No one approached me for any repairs.

Our above conclusions are based on the information that we have received. If others have more / different information, please send it to and we will publish that too.



IJF & IOBI and the Navgao Memorial Moneyin Lacs. Where is it?

During 1918 IJF and Eli Koodari School Trust bore all the local expenses, when leaders of Bene-Israel community met in Mumbai and decided to form an additional group; IOBI.

They were also taken to Navgao Memorial. At this point many IOBI leaders committed to collect funds for the repairs of the monument and it was decided that IOBI would be responsible for the repairs of the Monument. The local political leader Mr. Patil was to add to the funds collected by IOBI.

Donations were collected, but no one has any idea where these donations are? Who took them?

We have asked both IOBI and IJF to give us a list of donors. Let us see what response we get. Here too we are requesting both IJF and IOBI to give the doner's list so that this confusion is cleared and the community can re-trust. Lacs of rupees have been donated. Some donors have given details. Where is the money?



There was no reason to form IOBI when IJF existed. However it was created in the name of doing pending heritage projects for the Bene-Israel community, starting with the Monument in Navgao. 1918 to 1923; 6 years and nothing has been done. Who Took The Money? Thief of Bagdad?

Could we Bene-Israel be from the Benjamin Tribe?

Yafeth Uziel Elijah Pingle, Ashdod Israel



ט"ו

Shalom Everybody,

I would like to share some views about the Pillar which is also known as Stambh the Memory of our Jewish Bene Israel (Sons Of Israel) Monument in Navgao (Maharashtra, India). This story was told to us by Mr. Mordekhai Ghosalkar from Ahmedabad who later lived in Lod and passed away in Lod.

As written in the book of Shoftim there was a serious war between the 12 tribes of the sons of Israel which is known as milkhemet Ha Akhim (War of Brother/tribes) where all the eleven tribes were against tribe Binyamin after the end of the war all the tribes came together in the place called shillo. All the tribes came back but the last ship of Binyamin did not return so it is assumed that that ship came to India at this Navgao sea shore.



When this ship came to the Navgao shore the Jewish people were fainted (unconscious) because of certain reasons like lack of food and water etc..... The citizens of Navgao thought that they were dead and tried to burn then because they didn't know that they were Jews. As the fire was lit the Jews woke up and their lives were saved and so the local people started calling them Chit Pavan Lok which means they were brought to life by their fire of Gods.

We Bene Israel (Sons of Israel) were also known as Shanivar Teli. Then the Jews started doing the Torah study and the study of Halakhot and also of Shulkhan Arokh. In their remembrance the pillar was made in 1960's. Now the question is that are we Sons of Binyamin. If yes then how come we have the DNA of Cohan???

There is no perfect proof of that. As we also know that the strongest Tribe in all 12 tribes was the Yehuda (Judah) tribe which fought lots of battles and never lost a single. The Judah's tribe also helped lots of non-Jewish kings to win their battles because of that it is assumed that we Jews were called as Yehudi on Yehuda's name.

According to Bene-Israel Wikipedia it is written;

The history of the Jews in India dates back to antiquity. Judaism was one of the first foreign religions to arrive in India in recorded history. Indian Jews are small religious minorities who have lived in India since ancient times. They have experienced very sparse instances of anti-Semitism from the local non-Jewish majority.

The better-established ancient Jewish communities have assimilated many of the local traditions through cultural diffusion. While some Indian Jews have stated that their ancestors arrived during the time of the Biblical Kingdom of Judah, others claim descent from the Ten Lost Tribes of the pre-Judaic Israelites who arrived in India earlier. Still some other Indian Jews contend that they descend from the Israelite Tribe of Manasseh and they are referred to as the Bene-Menashe.

The Jewish population in British India peaked at around 20,000 in the mid-1940s according to some estimates, with others putting the number as high as 50,000, but the community declined rapidly due to emigration to the newly formed Israel, after the Partition of Palestine at the end of British Mandate in 1948. The Indian Jewish community is now estimated to count no more than 5,000 People in India.

The Bene Israel (Sons of Israel) also referred to as the Shanivar Teli (Saturday oil-pressers) or Teli Jew as their caste, as Teli is a community in India. It has been suggested that they are the descendants of one of the Ten Lost Tribes via their ancestors who had settled there centuries ago. In the 19th century, after they were taught about normative (Ashkenazi and Sephardi) Judaism, they migrated from villages in the Konkan region to nearby cities throughout British India—primarily to Mumbai, but also to Pune, Ahmedabad, and Karachi (now in Pakistan), where they gained prominent positions within the British colonial government and the Indian Army.

I hope you all enjoyed being with me for some time. If I have hurt anyone or anybody's feelings Please spare the unpleasanties.

I wish you all a pleasant Khag Tu Bi Swat Sameach May Hashem

Bless you all..... Amen Be Happy Be safe

Yours Faith Fully,

Yafeth Uziel Elijah Pingle

Ashdod Israel

20.January 2023

What happened in 175 BCE that brought Jews to India?

Yafeth Uziel Elijah Pingle, Ashdod Israel



Shalom Everybody

According to the *Book EVOLUTION of the BENE ISRAEL and their SYNAGOGUES in the KONKAN* Written by Dr. Irene Judah
Chapter 1 and Chapter 11

History (Chapter 1)

Historical evidence which is available, states that the ancestors of the Bene-Israel's fled from Northern Galilee during the persecution instituted by foreign enemies, chief amongst them Antiochus Epiphanes who invaded the land around 175 BCE, and which had finally lead to the Maccabian Revolt and Uprising.

History has recorded that Antiochus Epiphanes (a Greek Hellenistic king- 175 -164 BCE) in 175 BC planned to exterminate the religion of the Hebrews. He killed 40,000 Jews in just 30 days, sold a similar number as slaves, took some thousands as slaves for himself, defiled their temple, pillaged their treasure and collected a large bounty for himself. However, in spite of that, some Jews did manage to escape.

The flight of the Bene Israels occurred before the Maccabian uprising. This is based on the religious observances of various holidays, fasts, birth, marriage, burial and sacrificial rites that the Bene Israels observed. They did not celebrate Hanukah, which commemorates the incident after the Maccabees liberated the temple. Also the Bene Israel's were not aware of the destruction of the second temple by Titus.

[Evolution of The Bene Israels and their Synagogues in The Konkan: Dr. Judah, Irene: 9789385665561: Amazon.com: Books](#)

Jews in India, mainly those in Maharashtra are called Bene Israels, which in Hebrew means 'Sons of Israel'". The author goes into their history, starting from the Galilee, going into details about the various possibilities about their journey, where, what, and how did they come, starting from their land of origin to their landing on the shores of India, more than 2000 years ago. Then what happened over the years to their language, customs, culture, mode of dress, professions, prayers etc. Why did they choose the name Bene Israel for themselves, their own names, surnames with associated causes and references. Their historical background over the last 2000 years up to the present ie 2016. In this book the author has written about the Synagogues in the Konkan area, going into their history, background with several anecdotes and experiences she encountered on her visits to the Synagogues, going into their evolution over the years, while visiting some of these Synagogues as a child and her memories of those Synagogues. Then visiting those Synagogues as an adult several times and documenting them. Some in 1985 (few of them), then in 2000, again in 2006, some in 2009, then again most of them in 2014, and as recent as 2015, documenting their state of affairs, earlier and now, with photographs wherever possible.

Thus began the journey of the Bene Israels, travelling the routes opened by King Solomon for trade with India and other countries of the east. This small group of fleeing Jews in boats, reached or rather got shipwrecked on the western coast of India, in the Konkan region about 15 miles from Cheul. The Cheul creek is between Bassein and Mahad creek. Cheul was the chief port of trade in year 2 BCE.

This theory gains credence, because Cheul was a flourishing trade center at that time. Their destination was Cheul, but while in the Cheul creek, their ships were caught in a storm and they were shipwrecked near the Henery Kenery islands. The shipwreck was either due to a storm or their ignorance of navigation along the Konkan coast, which is treacherous and very rocky. The total number of Jews who were shipwrecked is not known, nor the number of boats in which they were travelling. What is clearly known is that 14 people, 7 men and 7 women of the group survived. Also it is not known nor documented, how only 7 men and 7 women of the group survived. Also, it is not known how only 7 men and 7 women and not any other odd number survived, seems miraculous though odd. Also it is not known whether these 7 men and 7 women were husband and wife, and if so how many of the couples were really couples.

When they landed in Nawgaon, they were lying unconscious on the beach. Local fisher folk gave them resuscitation, took them to their residences, fed them and made them strong. In other words, helped them in every possible way. Further, they helped them settle in Nawgaon and later on as their numbers increased, helped them settle in the neighboring villages and helped them support themselves. Oil pressing, coconut and betel nut farming, animal husbandry and carpentry became their professions.

The survivors took refuge in the village of Nawgaon, where they buried their dead co-travelers and that spot is there till today, though not clearly marked but is visible, sort of, as mounds of stone. A memorial has been built there to commemorate this event.

Thank You very much
Yafeth Uziel Elijah Pingle
Ashdod Israel



Story of the Bene-Israel Monument in Navgao

Yafeth Uziel Elijah Pingle, Ashdod Israel



Shalom Everybody

According to the *Book "EVOLUTION of the BENE ISRAEL and their SYNAGOGUES in the KONKAN"*

Written by Dr. Irene Judah

Chapter 1 and Chapter 11

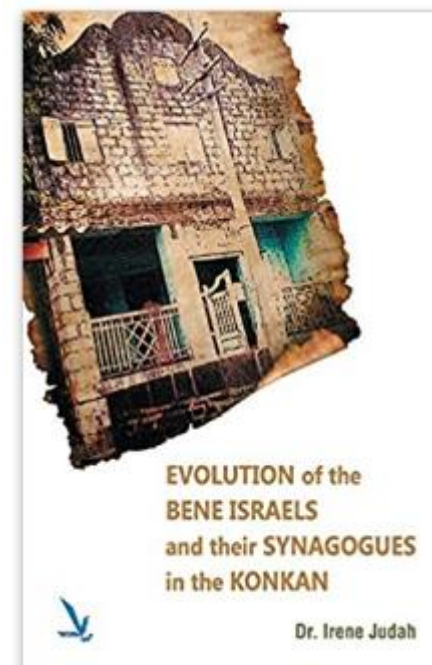
Monument to the Bene Israel Ancestors at Nawgaon (Chapter 11)

This symbolic memorial was built in 1964 and later replaced in 1985 by a pillar. The project for making a monument at Nawgaon and how this project was initiated makes for an interesting story. The Government of Maharashtra offered to build a public water reservoir in the town of Talla, provided its citizens would raise Rs 96,000/- as part funding towards the cost of construction. The fifty members of the Bene Israel congregation of the Knesset Israel Synagogue of Talla managed to raise Rs 16,000/-, one sixth of the money that had to be raised by all the residents of Talla. They contributed this amount to the authorities.

Subsequently, to show their appreciation for this splendid contribution by the congregation of the Knesset Israel Synagogue, the other residents wanted to erect a suitable memorial at Talla, for them. However, the Bene Israel congregation offered another an alternative, requesting their help in the erection of a suggestion, monument to their ancestors at Nawgaon. This struck a responsive cord. Donations were collected and though everything lagged behind the original schedule, ultimately things fell into place.

All the Bene Israels made a concerted effort to construct a monument at Nawgaon in memory of their ancestors, lest posterity forget their story. Bene Israels within as well as from outside India supported the project and sent donations. A lot of non-Jews like the residents of Talla donated.

BOOK:



[Evolution of The Bene Israels and their Synagogues in The Konkan: Dr. Judah, Irene: 9789385665561: Amazon.com: Books](#) \$ 17.69

A committee was formed under the sponsorship of the Tiphereth Israel Synagogue in Mumbai (Bombay), chaired by Mr Shellim Samuel, Advocate High Court, with representatives from all the Bene Israel synagogues and prayer halls in Bombay, Thane, Poona (Pune), Talla, Alibagh, Revdanda and others. Their first meeting was held on 19th August 1973. The aim of the memorial project was not only to construct an impressive monument but also to provide a proper road leading up to the cemetery, put up a proper sign board and getting the road renamed after the Nawgaon cemetery, with proper fencing and providing a rest house near the cemetery. The committee also proposed to approach the Archeological Society of India and enter into an agreement for the preservation of the cemetery and get it recognized as a monument of historical significance.

The design for the monument was created by a Bene Israel architect, late Joshua Benjamin of Delhi. The design is based on the traditional Jewish symbol, the shield of David (a six pointed star), which would be the base of the six-sided pillar about 17 feet high. Appropriate Hebrew, English, Marathi inscriptions were to be written on the sides of the pillar to commemorate the landing of the first group of Bene Israels at Nawgaon. The base of the pillar was to have six black Kaddapa stones on which donor names would appear.

By 1985, though the monument was complete, due to lack of funds the peripheral wall around the cemetery could not be built nor is it built till today i.e. up to 2016. As of today, everything is in shambles, there is no peripheral wall and the monument is in a dilapidated state requiring urgent repairs. The wordings are faded and cannot be read properly. Currently, the cemetery is being used for burials and is being maintained to the some extent by the committee of the Magen Aboth Synagogue in Alibagh.

The Bene Israel congregation of Jerusalem built the “**Jerusalem gate**”. When I asked one of the committee members of the Magen Aboth Synagogue as to why it was named Jerusalem Gate, since the name did not seem appropriate or relevant, nor did it make any sense, he got livid, really, really angry. He told me that nobody took permission or consulted the managing committee and just did it on their own, hurting their sentiments, as if it all belonged to only them.

I asked a few non-Jewish villagers in and around that area as to what was their reaction to the entire project. Most told me that they were happy with the fact that a memorial to the Bene Israel ancestors had been built. But not a single person was happy about the naming, position and design of the gate. They said that this is Maharashtra, in India and represents the Bene Israel's of Maharashtra. So it should have been named accordingly. I asked them what name would they have liked, the unanimous reply was “**Nawgaon Gate**”.

Thank You very much, Yafeth Uziel Elijah Pingle, Ashdod Israel

About Late Rabbi Avraham Ashtamker in his own words

[https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100041371014591&_cft__\[0\]=AZVBBG92RWDiPWTDpBggyEABC7oH3tkjmRh_KU56XRBri6GqgwNip95-nP7fjkXxl4X8R0kGqih4oPC3EWDCXHo4HS8EsfRcS94YU2_Bqeg2BL4G3-b44GbeobTsHzAy-A9zKnaxzTwfZO9A6EYL4B2&_tn=-UC%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100041371014591&_cft__[0]=AZVBBG92RWDiPWTDpBggyEABC7oH3tkjmRh_KU56XRBri6GqgwNip95-nP7fjkXxl4X8R0kGqih4oPC3EWDCXHo4HS8EsfRcS94YU2_Bqeg2BL4G3-b44GbeobTsHzAy-A9zKnaxzTwfZO9A6EYL4B2&_tn=-UC%2CP-R)



English and Marathi is Google Translation. Hebrew is the original.

The rabbi of the Indian community and the rabbi of the "Magen Shlomo" synagogue - Yavne-

I was born in 1958 in the village of Tala, in a region called Maharashtra in India, to a religious family with all the members of the family living together in harmony: grandparents, fathers, brothers, uncles, uncles, uncles and their companions.

It is said in the family that my father Mori used to serve as an escort to his uncle, Rabbi Avraham Ashtamker z"l, and in his old age he blessed my father to have a son who is a wise student.

After the passing of Rabbi Avraham, my father's uncle, I was born. From the day I was born a week or more, I refused to drink milk and only after my grandmother Rachel Gha

Giving the name of the deceased Avraham Ashtamker, my father's uncle, I started drinking milk. I grew up on the lap of my grandfather Murray Moshe A.H. I remember even childhood poems adapted for us for school in the pot: "Fetat Huta Sawira Uguito ", interpreted as when dawn breaks the sun rises and the rooster calls and wakes the children to school. All the kids I learned and played these local games "Kabadi", (ho ho character) and a game called "Viti Danda". Tela Cemetery- My ownership of the country .

In 1969, I studied at the Mamad Raban Gamliel school, and in middle school. The game I was attached to was football. At school, because of the language problem, I moved to the working and learning youth until I enlisted to live 18 in the IDF for compulsory service. I married my partner Pnina Shakhi and we had three children, two sons and a daughter. I blessed them with grandchildren. At the end of my military service, I was trained by Rabbi Eliyahu Ashtamkar 11 in prayers, and Rabbi David Hajaj 11 in the mitzvot of circumcision.

And Rabbi Yaakov Faberker zt"l in the mitzvot of responsa, and the rabbis of the city of Yavneh and the rabbi Yosef Abuhatzira zt"l and the rabbi, Avraham Kreuzer zt"l, who helped me a lot in all matters related to Halacha and teaching.

Today I am in contact with the local rabbi, Rabbi David Abuhatzira Shlita, the son and successor of the late rabbi. Today I work as the community rabbi and the rabbi of the "Magen Shlomo" synagogue for the immigrants of India in Yavne, T.V. provides the services to the community and to anyone who requires all religious needs: in the preparation of chuppahs and kiddushin, circumcisions, all religious needs throughout the country and abroad, they are in prayer arrangements of holidays and Sabbaths, etc. .



Wedding-

When I reached old age, I will always remember the years that have passed when I remember my place of residence "Tala in India" how we were raised and educated in the ways of the Torah by our parents and teachers, and we were strongly connected with the synagogue in our place of residence, which also served as a local and regional rabbinate. Therefore, I decided that the name of the synagogue on the prayer books should be mentioned as the name of the synagogue "Knesset Israel". The Jews of the place were called by the residents "Shabat Tali" ("The Treasures of Your Name Shabbat") after the daily occupation on weekdays of producing oil from sesame in and various species, returning from their work on the Sabbath day and being gathered in the "Knesset Israel" synagogue for prayer and Torah lessons, large and small. To approach a holiday and a club, also learn the style of prayer and its interpretations in the language of the place that is understandable to everyone. The gentile residents of the place respected the Jew in the place so much that when he walked in the chuppah processions or today celebrated in the pronunciations in front of the synagogue, they would stop playing, until they passed in front of the synagogue.

Synagogue-

The village was located on a mountain and most of the drinking and cooking water was filled from a well called "Sonar Vir" or "Sonerchi Baudi" which was located at the bottom of the mountain. In the winter, the well was filled with water, and during the summer days there was almost no water left inside, to the point that it was necessary to wake up in the early morning and go down in it in order to dilute water by coconut shell, directly from the source of the spring. The well in the villages was used by the local Jews on Rosh Hashanah to recite "Tishlich" and on Yom Kippur for the baptism of a mitzvah for men. These holidays apply in India at the end of the winter period. The sukkah of the synagogue was built entirely of walls and shielding from mehadrin kosher branches, the occupants of it smelling "the smell of the field in the thigh". In order to obtain an etrog for a blessing, they would go to the nearby villages, and from here we see the fondness of the mitzvah how precious it is to every Jew everywhere.

Rabbis from different countries of Israel continued to visit my grandfather's house, Rabbi Moshe bar Binyamin Ashtamker z"l throughout the year and stayed with him. not only that, but we also immigrated to Eretz Israel they continued to visit my grandfather and grandfather and ate from the food of my grandmother Morti Rachel 75, and I pray to the Creator of the world and there a Jew who was privileged to immigrate to the Land of Israel, will tell the story of his life to his household members and give in the hearts of those living abroad the faith and confidence in it.

Not only by saying "Next year in Jerusalem," but also by deed, they will be granted aliyah to our holy land and will see the building of Zion in Jerusalem, and we will soon receive the coming of the Redeemer of Justice in our day.

Amen & Amen.



תמונת ילדות מהכפר תלה

रब्बी अवराहम अष्टमकर

भारतीय समुदायाचे रब्बी आणि "मागेन श्लोमो" सिनेगॉगचे रब्बी - यावने-

माझा जन्म १९५८ साली भारतातील महाराष्ट्र नावाच्या प्रदेशातील तळा या गावात एका धार्मिक कुटुंबात झाला, ज्यात कुटुंबातील सर्व सदस्य सामंजस्याने राहतात: आजी-आजोबा, वडील, भाऊ, काका, काका आणि त्यांचे सहकारी.

कुटुंबात असे म्हटले जाते की माझे वडील मोरी हे त्यांचे काका रब्बी अवराहम अष्टमकर यांचे एस्कोर्ट म्हणून काम करत असत आणि म्हातारपणी त्यांनी माझ्या वडिलांना एक शहाणा विद्यार्थी असलेला मुलगा होण्याचा आशीर्वाद दिला. माझ्या वडिलांचे काका रब्बी अवराहम यांच्या निधनानंतर माझा जन्म झाला.

१९६९ मध्ये मी मामद रावान गॅम्लील शाळेत आणि माध्यमिक शाळेत शिकलो. मी ज्या खेळाशी जोडला गेलो होतो तो म्हणजे फुटबॉल. शाळेत भाषेच्या समस्येमुळे मी सक्तीच्या सेवेसाठी आयडीएफमध्ये १८ वर्षे जगण्यापर्यंत नोकरी करणाऱ्या आणि शिकणाऱ्या तरुणांकडे गेलो. मी माझी जोडीदार पुनीना शाखीशी लग्न केले आणि आम्हाला तीन मुले, दोन मुले आणि एक मुलगी झाली. मी त्यांना नातवंडांचा आशीर्वाद दिला. माझ्या लष्करी सेवेच्या अखेरीस रब्बी एलियाहू अष्टमकर यांनी मला ११ प्रार्थनेचे आणि रब्बी डेव्हिड हाजाज यांनी ११ जणांचे खतना करण्याचे प्रशिक्षण दिले.

आणि रब्बी याकोव्ह फेबरकर रेस्पॉन्साच्या मिट्सव्होटमध्ये, आणि यावनेह शहरातील रब्बी आणि रब्बी योसेफ अबूहातझिरा झट"ल आणि रब्बी, अवराहम कूझर झट"ल, ज्यांनी हलाचा आणि अध्यापनाशी संबंधित सर्व बाबींमध्ये मला खूप मदत केली.

आज मी स्थानिक रब्बी, रब्बी डेव्हिड अबूहातझिरा शलिता, दिवंगत रब्बीचा मुलगा आणि उत्तराधिकारी यांच्या संपर्कात आहे. आज मी या समुदायाचा रब्बी म्हणून काम करतो आणि यवने, टी.व्ही. मधील भारतातील स्थलांतरितांसाठी "मागेन श्लोमो" सिनेगॉगचा रब्बी म्हणून काम करतो. समुदायाला आणि ज्याला सर्व धार्मिक गरजा आवश्यक आहेत त्यांना सेवा देतात: चुप्पे आणि किडुशीन, खतना, देश-विदेशातील सर्व धार्मिक गरजा तयार करण्यासाठी, ते सुट्ट्या आणि शब्बाथ इत्यादींच्या प्रार्थना व्यवस्थांमध्ये असतात. .



लग्न-

जेव्हा मी म्हातारपणी पोचलो, तेव्हा मला माझे निवासस्थान "भारतातील ताला" आठवते तेव्हा मला आठवते की आमचे पालक आणि शिक्षकांनी तोरातच्या मार्गाने कसे संगोपन आणि शिक्षण केले होते आणि आम्ही आमच्या निवासस्थानातील सिनेगॉगशी दृढपणे जोडले गेले होते, जे एक स्थानिक आणि प्रादेशिक रब्बिनेट म्हणून देखील काम करत होते. म्हणून मी ठरवले की प्रार्थनेच्या पुस्तकांवरील सिनेगॉगचे नाव "नेसेट इस्राएल" असे असावे. तिळ आणि विविध प्रजातींपासून तेल तयार करणे, शब्बाथच्या दिवशी आपल्या कामावरून परत येणे आणि प्रार्थना आणि तोराह चे धडे मोठ्या आणि लहान मुलांसाठी "नेसेट इस्रायल" सभागृहात गोळा करणे या आठवड्याच्या दिवशी दैनंदिन व्यवसायानंतर तेथील ज्यूंना रहिवासी "शबत ताली" ("आपल्या नावाचा खजिना शब्बात") म्हणून संबोधत असत. सुट्टी आणि क्लबमध्ये जाण्यासाठी, प्रार्थनेची शैली आणि प्रत्येकाला समजेल अशा त्या ठिकाणच्या भाषेत त्याचे अर्थ देखील शिका. त्या ठिकाणचे इतरधर्मीय रहिवासी त्या ठिकाणच्या ज्यूंचा इतका आदर करत असत की, जेव्हा तो चुप्पाच्या मिरवणुकीत फिरत असे किंवा आज सिनेगॉगसमोर उच्चारत उत्सव साजरा करत असे, तेव्हा ते सिनेगॉगसमोर जाईपर्यंत ते वादन थांबवत असत.

सिनेगॉग-

हे गाव डोंगरावर वसलेले होते आणि पिण्याचे आणि स्वयंपाकाचे बहुतेक पाणी डोंगराच्या पायथ्याशी असलेल्या "सोनार वीर" किंवा "सोनेरची बावडी" नावाच्या विहिरीतून भरले जात असे. हिवाळ्यात विहीर पाण्याने भरलेली असायची आणि उन्हाळ्याच्या दिवसात आत जवळजवळ पाणीच शिल्लक नसायचे, इतके की थेट झऱ्याच्या उगमापासून नारळाच्या कवचाने पाणी पातळ करण्यासाठी पहाटे उठून त्यात उतरणे आवश्यक होते. गावातील विहिरीचा उपयोग स्थानिक यहूदी लोक रोश हशानाह वर "तिस्विच" पठण करण्यासाठी आणि योम किप्पूरवर माणसांसाठी मित्झवाच्या बासिस्मासाठी करीत असत. हिवाळ्याचा कालावधी संपल्यावर भारतात या सुट्ट्या लागू होतात. सिनेगॉगचा सुक्का पूर्णपणे भिंतींनी बांधलेला होता आणि मेहद्रिन कोशर फांद्यांपासून संरक्षण केलेले होते, त्यातील रहिवाशांना "मांडीतील शेताचा वास" येत होता. आशीर्वाद मिळावा म्हणून ते आजूबाजूच्या गावांमध्ये जात असत आणि इथून मित्झवाची आवड सगळीकडे प्रत्येक यहूदीसाठी किती मौल्यवान आहे हे आपल्याला दिसून येते.

इस्राएलच्या निरनिराळ्या देशांतील रब्बी वर्षभर माझ्या आजोबांच्या घरी जात राहिले, रब्बी मोशे बार विन्यामिन अष्टमकर वर्षभर त्यांच्याबरोबर राहिले. इतकेच नव्हे तर आम्ही एरेट्झ इस्रायलमध्ये स्थायिक झालो. ते माझ्या आजोबा आणि आजोबांना भेटत राहिले आणि माझ्या आजी मोर्ती रशेल ७५ च्या जेवणातून खाल्ले आणि मी जगाच्या निर्मात्याकडे प्रार्थना करतो आणि तेथे एक यहूदी ज्याला इस्राएल देशात स्थलांतरित होण्याचे भाग्य लाभले होते, त्याच्या घरातील सदस्यांना त्याच्या जीवनाची कहाणी सांगेल.

"पुढील वर्षी यरुशलेममध्ये" असे म्हटल्यावरच नव्हे, तर कर्मिणीही ते आमच्या पवित्र भूमीला दिले जातील आणि जेरुसलेममध्ये सियोनची इमारत पाहतील आणि लवकरच आम्हाला आमच्या काळात न्यायाच्या उद्धारकर्त्याचे आगमन मिळेल. आमेन आणि आमेन.



הרב אברהם אשטמקר

רב הקהילה היהודית ורב בית כנסת "מגן שלמה" - יבנה.

נולדתי ב'ז' באלול תשי"ח (1958) בכפר" תלה, בחבל ארץ שנקרא מהרשטרה בהודו, למשפחה דתית כאשר כל בני המשפחה חיים ביחד בהרמוניה: סבא סבתא אבא אימא אחים אחיות דודים דודות והנלווים אליהם. מספרים במשפחה, שאבי מורי היה משמש מתלווה לדודו, הרב אברהם אשטמקר זצ"ל, לעת זקנתו בירך את אבי שיזכה לבן תלמיד חכם.

לאחר פטירת הרב אברהם, דודו של אבי מורי, נולדתי.

מיום היוולדי שבוע או יותר סירבתי לשתות חלב ורק לאחר שסבתי רחל ע'ה נתנה שם של המנוח אברהם אשטמקר, דודו של אבי, התחלתי לשתות חלב. גדלתי על ברכי סבי מורי משה ע"ה. זוכר אני אפילו שירי ילדות מעובדים לנו לבית הספר בסיר: "פה הטה סוירה אוגויו", פירשו כששחר מפציע השמש עולה והתרנגול קורא ומעיר את הילדים לבית הספר. כל הילדים למדתי ושיחקתי המשחקים המקומיים האלה "קבאדי", (הו הו תו) ומשחק הנקרא "ויטי דנדא".

בית העלמין בתלה-בעלותי לארץ בשנת 1969 למדתי בבית ספר ממ"ד רבן גמליאל, ובחטיבת ביניים. המשחק שנקשרתי אליו היה הכדורגל. בבית הספר בגלל בעיית השפה, עברתי לנוער העובד והלומד עד ההתגייסתי לחיות 18 לצה"ל לשירות חובה.

ור' יעקב פברקר זצ"ל במצוות שו"ב, ורבני העיר יבנה והרה"ג יוסף אבוחצירה זצ"ל וההרה"ג, אברהם קרויזר זצ"ל שסייעו לי רבות בכל הקשור בהלכה ובהוראה.

אני היום בקשר עם הרב המקומי הרה"ג דוד אבוחצירה שליט"א, בנו וממשיך של רב המנוח. כיום אני עובד רב הקהילה ורב בית הכנסת "מגן שלמה" לעולי הודו ביבנה, ת"ו נותן את השירותי לקהילה ולכל דורש בכל צרכי הדת: בעריכת חופות וקידושין, בריתות מילה, כל הצרכי הדת בכל הארץ ובחו"ל, הם בסידורי תפילה של חגים ושבטות וכו'.

חתונה-

עים הגיעי לגיל מבוגר, ניזכר אני תמיד בשנים שחלפו בזכרי את מקום מגורי"תלה בהודו" איך גדלנו וחונכנו בדרכי התורה על ידי הורנו ומורנו, ונקשרנו בקשר חזק עם בית הכנסת במקום מגורנו, ששימש גם כרבנות מקומית ואזורית. לכן, החלטתי שיוזכר שם בית הכנסת על ספרי התפילה כשם בית הכנסת "כנסת ישראל". אוסיף ואומר כי בכפר "תלה" בו גדלנו, חיו כתות ודתות שונות, וכל אחד כיבד את היושבים לפי מעמדו וכבודו, ללא גילויי אנטישמיות. יהודי מקום עסקו בעבודות האדמה, גידול אורז ומינים אחרים של ירקות. הייתה לנו רפת פרות ולא חסר לנו חלב וגבינה.

היהודי במקום נקראו בפי התושבים "שבת תלי" ("אוצרי שמך שבת") על שם העיסוק היומיומי בימי החול בהפקת שמן משומשומין ומינים שונים, שובם ממלאכתם ביום השבת ונאספים בבית הכנסת "כנסת ישראל" לתפילה ושיעורי תורה, לגדולים וקטנים. להתקרב חג ומועדון, למדו גם סגנון התפילה ופירושיה בשפת המקום המובנת לכולם. תושבי המקום הגויים כיבדו את היהודי במקום עד כך, שכשיי הולכים בתהלוכות חופה או היום חגם בהגים לפני בית הכנסת היו מפסיקים מלנגן, עד שעוברים מלפני בית הכנסת.

בית הכנסת-



הרב אברהם אשטמקר עם עמית ושל



הרב אברהם אשטמקר

הכפר היה ממוקם על הר ואת רוב מי השתיה והבישול היו ממלאים מבאר שנקראה שם "סונר ויר" או "סונרצ'י באודי" שהיתה ממוקמת בתחתית ההר. בימי החורף הבאר היה מלא במים, ובימות הקיץ כמעט ולא נשארה בתוכה מים, עד כדי שהיה צורך להשכים בשעות הבוקר המוקדמות ולרדת בתוכה כדי לדלות מים ע'י קליפת קוקוס, ישירות ממקור הנביעה. הבאר בכפרי שימשה ליהודי המקום בראש השנה לאמירת "תשליך" וברב יום הכיפורים לטבילת מצווה לגברים. החגים האלה חלים בהודו בסוף תקופת חורף. הסוכה של בית הכנסת היתה בנוייה כולה מדפנות וסינוך מענפים כשרים למהדרין, היושבים בה מריחים "ריח שדה אשר בירכנה". כדי להשיג אתרוג לברכה היו יוצאים לכפרים הסמוכים. מכאן רואים אנו את חיבוב המצווה עד כמה היא יקרה לכל יהודי בכל מקום.

רבנים מארצות שונות ישראל המשיכו לפקוד את בית סבי,ר' משה בר בנימין אשטמקר זצ"ל בכל ימות השנה והיתארחו אצלו. לא רק זאת, גם שעלינו לארץ ישראל המשיכו לפקוד את בי סבי וסבו ואכלו ממאכליה של סבתי מורתי רחל ע"ה. והנני תפילה לבורא עולם ושם יהודי אשר זכה לעלות לארץ ישראל, יספר את סיפור חייו לבני ביתו ויתן בלבם של היושבים בחו"ל את האמונה והביטחון בה. 'לא רק באמירת "לשנה הבאה בירושלים", אלא גם במעשה ויזכו לעליה לארצנו הקדושה ויחזו עינינו בבניין ציון בירושלים ונזכה לביאת גואל צדק במהרה בימינו. אמן ואמן!



A New Mikveh in Mazgaon, Mumbai



This **Mikveh** was built by Rabbi Eliran and his wife Elisheba at Mazgaon, where they are residing in a rented bungalow. This Mikveh is for women only. Opened on 5/2/2023



MOTIVATION FOR PRAYERS

God knew humans well and how selfish human race is. That is the reason God gave humans sexual pleasures so that this selfish creature will run after this pleasure and produce the next generation. If not these humans would never have sex as it give them no benefit.

Obviously this selfish human race will never pray if there was no personal benefit for them. Humans have aspirations desires and greed to succeed. They need someone to fulfill their hopes. Who else than God! Praying to God can help fulfil their dreams.

There are no limits to wishes of humans. Better job, better home, better salary, better marks, better health, first son, job for children, marriage of children, jobs for grandchildren, getting useful wife, getting a fruitful husband, first second and then third cars.... no end to the demands of humans and their hope is in just prayers.

Prayers are completely self-motivated in all self-centered intentions.



Catch-22

What does this term mean? The book by Joseph Heller's novel published in 1961 introduced this term the first time. A Paradox !

The Collins English Dictionary defines a catch-22 as follows:

"If you describe a situation as a catch-22, you mean it is an impossible situation because you cannot do one thing until you do another thing, but you cannot do the second thing until you do the first thing."

The book is set on an American airbase in Italy and tells the story of Captain Yossarian, a bombardier in the Army Air Corps who wants to be discharged.

The only way he can be discharged is by claiming that the war has made him insane. However, the camp's doctor points out that Yossarian's desire to be discharged (and thus safe) proves his sanity. Yossarian is caught in a paradoxical situation.

The term is first introduced by the character Doc Daneeka, an army psychiatrist who invokes "Catch-22" to explain why any pilot requesting mental evaluation for insanity demonstrates his own sanity in creating the request and thus cannot be declared insane.

Bene-Israel Example: BI people want to donate to their leaders for repairing the monument in Navagao but the BI community is not donating as they don't trust their leaders. - Catch 22

"निर्लज्ज सदा सुखी "

माणसाने नेहमी सुखी राहवा म्हणतात. असे पॅन म्हणतात की "निर्लज्ज सदा सुखी " तर आपण काय निष्कर्ष काढू शकतो डोरीथ अष्टमकर



जगामध्ये सर्वात सुखी प्राणी आहे निर्लज्ज!! अर्वात जो आपर्चे आचरण , ददर्चेर्चि, आपर्चे कतलव्य आणण जिम्मेदारी मध्ये र्पापरर्ही आणण आपर्चीच मिमािी करणारी व्यक्ती दह िेहेमीच बेशरम आणण स्ार्ी असते. जो दसु त्पार्ा दुःख देऊ सुद्धा सदा आिंदात असतो असे अिक िमुिे आपल्या अर्ती भर्ती आपल्यार्ा बघायर्ा ममळतात... जसे र्ाँक डाडि मध्ये काही डॉक्टरांचं पहा िा, माणसाच्या कोरोिाच्या भीतीचा फायदा घेऊ तयांिी ककती आजारी आणण रोगी र्ोकांिा रूटर्. तयांच्या जीर्ाशी खेळर्. तयांच्या आर्लक पररज्जस्तीचा वर्चार ि करता तयांिा भरपूर कंकमत द्यायर्ा भाग पाडर्. स्मशािापयंत रांग आर्ी तरीसुद्धा हे डॉक्टर आणण सत्ताधारी र्ोक जितेर्ा जळूसारखे र्चकटूि रादहर्. तयांिा र्ोडीही र्ाज िाही र्ाटर्ी . निर्लज्ज सदा सुखी !!

यशाच्या मागालर् चार्तीिा रीर् सांगतल्या प्रमाणे अशा अिक बेशरम व्यक्तींची भेट आपल्यार्ा होऊ शकते. अशा व्यक्तींिा ओळखूि आणण जाणूि घेणं आश्चर्य आहे. तयांच्या पासूि सार्ध राहणे आश्चर्य आहे. या र्ोकांचं म्हणणं कधीदह मिरर् घेऊ िका. बोर्तीता र्ोक पेरू वर्कत घेतािा तो गोड आहे का वर्चारतात आणण खातािा मीठ र्ार्ूि खातात. तेव्हा अशा माणसांसाठी आपर्ा चांगर्ा आणण यशाचा मागल सोडूिा. संकटे आर्ी, वर्ोध झार्ा, अपमाि झार्ा, कोणी िार्े ठे वर्ी , पाय ओडर्, टूि मस्करी के र्ी, आडर्े, र्ांबर्े, काहीही होर्ो आपर्े सतकमल चार्ूेर्ा. आपल्या चांगल्या कामात निर्लज्ज व्हा.....



जगामध्ये मध्यम गीय र्ोक बहुतरूि फार िम्प्र , प्रमाणणक आणण भारूक असतात. ते छोट्या छोट्या गोष्टी मिरर्ा र्ार्ूि घेतात. काही शुल्क कारणािेही तयांच्या मिरर् ताण पडतो. पण तेच एका बेशरम, निर्लज्ज , बेईमाि व्यक्तीर् कुठल्या गोष्टीचा काहीच पररणाम होत िाही. दहंदीमध्ये एक म्हण आहे " आजस्तक को कोई शरम िाही और परमातमा को कोई परदा िही"....!!! तुमिही अपि आपको होमशयारीमे परम निवर्लकार, निवर्लशेष , निराकार और निरंजिदह िही पर शमलिक शमलसार और निर्लज्ज बिा ददया . जगी सर्ल सुखी असा कोण आहे ? "निर्लज्ज सदा सुखी....."

काही बेने-इस्त्रायल ज्यू गटांना लाज वाटत नाही. नेता हिंदू किंवा मदरसासी मुस्लीम असेल तर त्यांना हरकत नाही. महंमद महिला असेल तर ते मोहम्मदला आपला नेता म्हणून स्वीकारू शकतात.

"निर्लज्ज सदा सुखी."

Magen Hassidim, Mumbai

Ronen Bhonkar



The repair work continues at Magen Hassidim Mumbai after high holidays were over.



Front beam marble and Granite fixed



Polishing



3 New power saver fans fitted. 12 more required



Floor polishing completed



Double vitrified Italian marble pattern tiles fixed in Trustee office



Platinum white And black Galaxy Granite in ladies Gallery veranda



Tiles fixed in staircase gallery

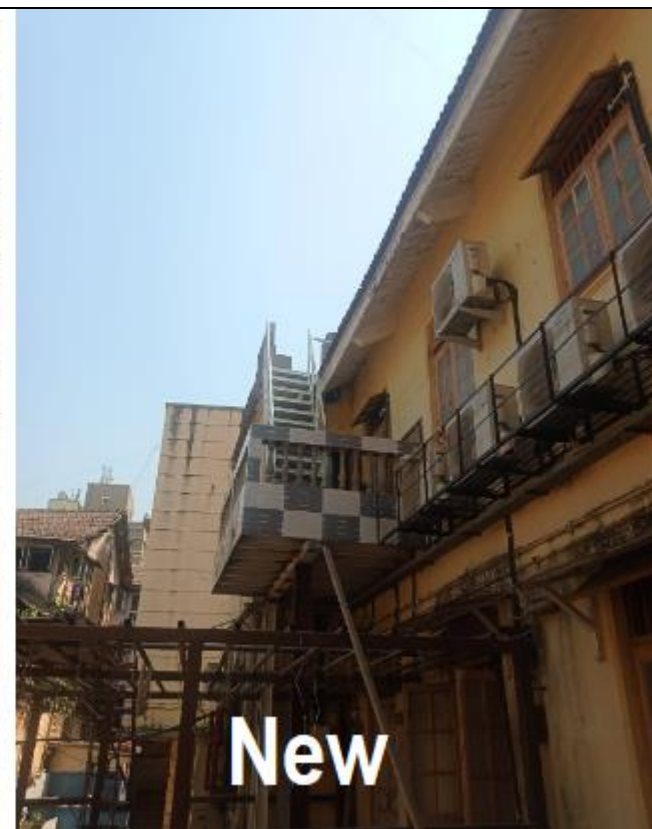


New Trustee office with wooden tiles

12 Fans are required. Community members who would like to donate one fan per person, please contact Mr. Ronen Bhonkar
+91 96195 67555
Rs. 4850 / fan

If you want to sponsor food for festivals please contact Ronen Bhonkar.





Open pavilion will be repaired and painted (below):



INVITATION

We Request the Pleasure of your Company with Family to celebrate 🎉 the *92nd Anniversary of Magen Hassidim Synagogue, Mumbai* on *1st of April 2023, 7p.m. onwards.*

Mr. Noel Samson Chincholkar &

Mrs. Rezina Noel Chincholkar

Has Kindly Accepted to Preside over the Function, We are Glad that,

Mr. Abraham Jacob Awaskar &

Mrs. Jesica Abraham Awaskar

have consented to be our *Chief Guest*

&

Mr. Shay Noel Chincholkar *(Youth Icon)*

have consented to be our *Guest of Honor.*

PROGRAM:-

■ *ARBITH Prayers at 7 pm and Havdalah*

■ *Auction and Lighting of All Handies*

■ *Auction and Opening of Hekhal with special prayers of the Anniversary.*

■ *Auction and Cutting of 92nd Anniversary Cake*



■ *Address from President of Function, Chief Guest and Guest of Honor.*

■ *Auction of Malida Eliyahoo Hannabi Prayers.*

■ *Malida* 🍇🍎🥥🍌🍓

■ *Dinner* 🍷🍴

Mr. Ronen Levy Bhonkar

Managing Trustee and Secretary of Magen Hassidim Synagogue

Rsvp requested- *office - 7208224979

Magen Hassidim Synagogue



1st of April 2023, 7p.m.

92nd. Anniversary of Magen Hassidim, Mumbai

On 1st. April 92 anniversary that was celebrated with 350+ member of the community. Many prominent members of the community were honored. *(We are covering few pictures here. See facebook for more)*



Shaniwar-Teli team was a bit disappointed that the managing committee that worked so hard to get the serious repairs done to the synagogue was not recognized. We hope there will be an official opening of the renovated synagogue when these members are graced.



On behalf of The Indian Jewish Heritage Center & The Cochon Jewish Heritage Center you are cordially invited to the 99th talk in the "Heritage On Zoom" program.

Bird of the Sea and Fish of the Air
Voyages in Life and Poetry

An introduction to the background of the poet and educator, Zilka Joseph, who was born and educated in India, and who moved to the US, where she lives now.

She will read poems from her books and discuss her approaches to the art and craft of writing poetry.

Thursday 5 Jan 2023, at 20:00 Israel local time

Zilka Joseph is a widely published and award-winning poet who has authored five collections. Her work has been nominated for multiple prizes, and been finalist for the Forward HUCS awards twice. Her writing reflects her Indian and Ben-Israel roots, Western cultures, the immigrant experience, and themes of displacement, grief and loss.
www.zilka-joseph.com

"מלידה 2023"

בהתרגשות גדולה אנו מזמינים את הקהל הרחב לחגוג אתנו ולהשתתף בטקס המלידה לט"ו בשבט תשפ"ג

האירוע יתקיים ביום שלישי, ט"ו בשבט, 7.2.2023
בבית רשות הרבים, רחוב אהרון רובינשטיין 33, ירושלים
בין השעות 18:30-21:30

זכויות האזרחיות:
ג'רלד סמית גרין, ליל חוקי מדינה, משרד החינוך ומיטת מוסדות חינוך, משרד החינוך ומיטת מוסדות חינוך, משרד החינוך ומיטת מוסדות חינוך.

האירוע יתקיים ביום שלישי, ט"ו בשבט, 7.2.2023
בבית רשות הרבים, רחוב אהרון רובינשטיין 33, ירושלים
בין השעות 18:30-21:30

ברוך מוסדות הנדבנות, תושב מנחת המלידה וכבוד קל
השתתפות בהרשמה מראש ובתשלום סמלי של 50 ש"ח או כדבר לבסס.
חיסול המקומות הוגבל

לכרטיסים: 0532462433 בבירואל 0525566794 אורחיות

Unfortunately this event was cancelled
due to bad weather predictions.

"מלידה 2023"

טקס של תקווה, ברכה, פריזון ושפע
מסורת הקהילה היהודית

במעמד ראש המועצה מר גבי גאון
בהנחיית ארי-אל לביא
ובהשתתפות הזמרת ליאורה יצחק

יום ג' | ט' בשבט | 31.1.23 | 19:00
מרכז קהילתי מפגשים

מכירת תבשילים
הודיים מסורתיים
עמדת חניה
הודית סמלי
בתשלום סמלי

סדנת ריקוד
הודי עם
נח נבאוקר

10th February, 2021

Dear Community members,

A unique sculpted memorial is being built in Tsfat, Israel, on Jerusalem Street adjacent to the Municipality building. This memorial will hold names of righteous Jews from all over the world.

We have been approached to provide names of Indian Jews who have played an important part in saving lives of Jewish brethren, sometimes, at the risk of their own lives. The memorial has limited space so some names will be placed in the golden book instead.

Please send us information including names, place of incident and details of how they helped in saving lives of other people. Please send the information to ijhrcenter@gmail.com

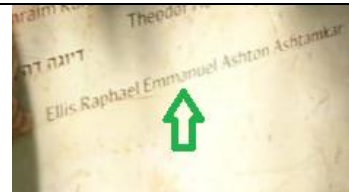
Deadline for sending the information is March 30th, 2021.

The Indian Jewish Heritage Team

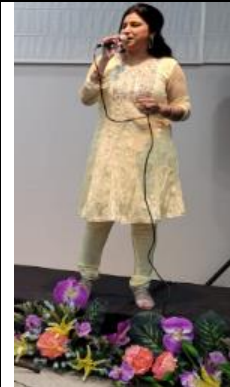
You may remember the request made by IJHC (right) looking for name of a Indian Jew who saved life of others.

This monument was built and at IJHC request the name of Mr. Ashton Ashtemker was added, as you can see in the images on left.

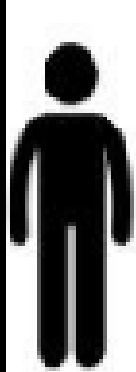
Astamkars name etched into the stone with other righteous Jews who risked their lives to save other Jews in WW2.



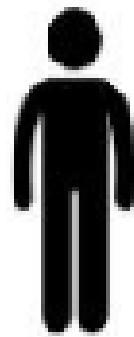
Though the Malida program was cancelled in Jerusalem due to weather forecast, the Malida at Mazkeret Batia, a small village near Lod and Rishon LeZion, went on smoothly.



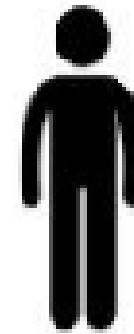
Nature of every problem



Now



**In one
week**



**In one
month**

@ Rabbi Sadsack

Ashdod Elections

Moshe Chodekar [משה בן צור](#)



Dear friends

Happy to announce a new path starting today. I was offered to Cohen as a member of the Ashdod Religious Council. This is a great opportunity to serve the public and take care of all their needs within this role.

And with that I join the faction "Ashdod will win" Led by Eli Lahmani, who is also running for mayor.

The appointment was recently approved at the city council meeting, and awaits final approval from the Ministry of Religions.

All of this couldn't have happened without the help of my dear friend Ronen Kultker. Ronen was the one who recommended my candidacy, pushed, persuaded, and insisted that the nomination would be approved.

For this I say thank you, and full of appreciation.

Thank you to Mr. Eli Lahmani who put his trust in me.

Hoping for a blessed action for all the public in Ashdod.

May we all be successful.

חברים יקרים

שמח לבשר על דרך חדשה שמתחילה היום.

הוצע לי לכהן כחבר המועצה הדתית אשדוד.

זאת הזדמנות מעולה לשרת את הציבור ולדאוג לכל צרכיו במסגרת תפקיד זה.

ויחד עם זאת אני מצטרף לסיעת " אשדוד תנצח "

בראשותו של אלי לחמני, אשר מתמודד גם לראשות העיר.

המינוי אושר לאחרונה בישיבת מועצת העיר , וממתין לאישור סופי של משרד הדתות.

כל זה לא יכל לקרות ללא עזרתו של חברי היקר רונן קולטקר.

רונן היה זה שהמליץ על מועמדותי, דחף , שכנע , והתעקש בכדי שהמינוי יאושר.

על זה אני אני אומר תודה , ומלא הערכה.

תודה למר אלי לחמני שהביע בי אמון .

בתקווה לעשייה מבורכת למען כלל הציבור באשדוד.

שיהיה לכולנו בהצלחה.

You can trust 100% on every Bene-Israel to ask you;
"But I voted for you! How did you not win?"



Menahem
Khailkar

Menahem Khailkar

Have a good week everyone.

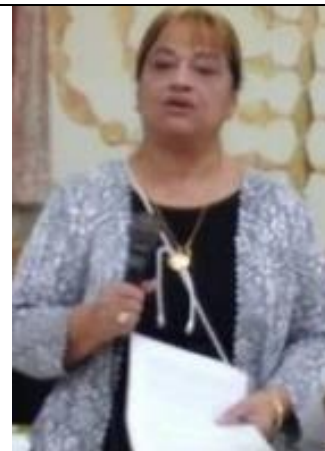
I would like to update all my friends who support me that there will be no primaries on March 9, 2023 because only one candidate remains; Norin Alkasi.

I removed my name from the list because the members of the group I was "Keshet Oleh Hodu" decided to support Mr. Eli Nacht in the upcoming elections.

I wish our Indian community all the best and success to Norin.

The worst part about working for the department of unemployment is when you get fired you still have to show up the next day.

שבוע טוב לכולם
רוצה לעדכן את כל
החברים שלי שתומכים בי
שלא יתקיימו פריימריז ב-9
במרץ 2023 מכיוון שרק
מועמד אחד נשאר . נורין
אלקאסי. הסרתי את
מועמדותי מהרשימה מכיוון
שחברי הקבוצה שהייתי
"קשת עולה הודו" החליטו
לתמוך במר אלי נכט
בבחירות הקרובות. אני
מאחל לקהילה ההודית
שלנו כל טוב והצלחה
לנורין.



Nurin Dandekar is retired
secretary of Ashdod court after
46 years of experience and now
active committee member in
Ashdod Magen David Synagogue



Eli Nacht

https://youtu.be/jh3NSF021_U
Facebook
(20+) Eli Nacht | Facebook

Many of the Bene-Israel community members in Ahave decided to support Eli Nacht in the election for Mayor of Ashdod.

He has been seen in many Indian functions. He speaks good English and normally speaks to Bene-Israel community in English and Hebrew.

Eli is born to immigrants from Ukraine and now works for the Knesset. His details can be found through the links provided.

Normally most of the BI community votes for Shahs, a religious party.

FOLKLORE SEMINAR IN AUSTRIA

Rishona Fine / rishona.finshaul@mail.huji.ac.il

In Jan of 2023 I was invited to speak at an international folklore seminar in Austria on the topic of “The Role of Saints in Defining Group Identity.” The audience was comprised of Jewish Studies students from a university in Frankfurt, the vast majority of whom were non Jewish.

I enjoyed great pleasure to present a paper on Elijah’s role in defining the Bene Israel community identity. Elijah, aside from his stardom in the Biblical Books of Prophets, has been identified statistically as the Jewish saint who appears most commonly as the hero amongst the collection of worldwide Jewish folktales hosted at the Israel Folktale Archive in Haifa. In fact, his appearance at the Passover Seder where we will soon welcome him - an older, ironically benevolent, wandering traveler - is echoed in European international folk custom in a very similar Father Christmas who attends the Christmas vigil feast, where there will already be an empty place set for the wandering traveler at the table, and the father of the house will hear a knock at the door and welcome the guest whom he alone can see.

Moreover, there is actually an order of Catholic monks, the Carmelites, who defines itself as disciples of Elijah. What is interesting to note is how they address the more extreme moments of Elijah’s tale - while the Biblical massacre of the Ba’al Prophets is ignored and the many various geographical locations of miraculous Elijah-events are conflated upon Mount Carmel to



centralize their tradition of a quiet, pastoral monastic order on that mountain. The original monks’ habit was even a striped black and white one, reminiscent of the singed mantle of Elijah, folded as it dropped from Elijah’s fiery chariot to the hands of Elisha.

The students naturally found Elijah as a character very relatable and thus the Bene Israel tradition as well, by which they were fascinated. I shared the story of Elijah’s original appearance on the Konkani coast where he saved the seven founding couples from a dangerous run-in with the Brahmin and taught the community how to survive in their new home through tolerance and acceptance of the other, in a beautiful contrast and poetic correction of his zealous earlier spirit.

I showed them how today there is scarcely a home that does not proudly hang Elijah’s iconic image in a prominent position in the living area or even a shop with him gracing their entrance; he adorns keychains, pocket prayers for a safe journey and more, so that community members are always aware of his presence and reminded that they may summon him to help at a crisis moment: They must simply utter the almost magical testimony of “Shema Israel,” the very same words that summoned the prophet for their ancestors so many years ago. Miracle stories of Elijah’s blessed interventions stretch from India and back to Israel where he will appear as a police officer preventing a near-entrance to the Gaza strip and who promptly disappears, or as an eagle to escort a lost IDF jeep driver safely from the field. The connection to Elijah and reverence of the prophet defines the community both from within, amongst community members, and without, for the many Hindus who attend the Jewish sacred sites which they know to be blessed by Elijah, in heartfelt prayer for a child or other.



****Ms. Fine is an M.A. student in the Program for Folklore and Folk Culture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, currently completing her thesis work on “Sukkat HaNess” of Ashdod among the Bene Israel community. She welcomes any and all feedback on this piece, and if anyone would like to participate in her field research on the sacred space, she would be most grateful: rishona.finshaul@mail.huji.ac.il (Above Rishona is in Varulkar’s Sukka in Ashdod)**

Thus Elijah as the eternal prophet of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, whose fiery chariot can stretch its journey across heaven and earth, naturally escorts the community Bene Israel's along its journey through eternity, and keeps them together, in peace, wherever they do go. The students and myself have realized that we all have so much to learn from the Bene Israel tradition and the venerable Elijah himself.

“Saints as Agents of Group Identity “

Rishona, the girl from America who was in Panvel and wished to get married and did get married, on her return; same Rishona attended the a seminar in Austria on **“Fantasy and Reality in Jewish Folklore”** where she **“Saints as Agents of Group Identity”**. She spoke about our Bene-Israel community that can be identified with the image of Prophet Elijah, anywhere in the world.



Every Bene-Israel Home will have this image

Bene-Israel shop will have such image

Synagogues will display these images



The prophet **Elijah** has become a **kind of patron saint** for Bene Israel. A ritual of thanksgiving dedicated to the Prophet Elijah is called Eli ahu HaNabi, and is performed at weddings and other celebratory events. The ceremony features a tray of malida, parched rice, grated coconut, fruits, nuts and sugar.

Kirtan Recitals at Purim events.



With the arrival of the month of Adar, everyone eagerly awaited the Purim programme of JRU. Keeping the tradition alive we all had an intimate gathering of friends and enjoyed a cozy party on 6th of March 2023 at ORT India Hall.

It started with Norma's warm welcome, then reading of the Megillah and then telling of the story of Purim in Hebrew and English by Richard Young and Cheryl Tucker.. Here we kirtankars also got an opportunity to showcase our talents. The kirtan was a narration of Queen Esther's story with revival of our 18th century songs in the original tunes along with a little drama.



**Narration and writer – Mrs. Diana Korlekar
Singers – Rifka Moshe, Ruby Kurulkar and
Seema Jhirad**

**We were all excited to be dressed up as the
lead characters of our history. Enacted by
King Achashverosh – Mr. Elijah Jacob
Mordechai - Mr. Judah Sankar
Queen Esther – Mrs. Rahel Ronen
Queens Maiden - Mrs. Seema Jhirad
And Haman played by - Mrs. Rebecca
Ramrajkar**

Then Norma Suvarna accepted the Megillah on behalf of the JRU, presented by Richard crafted by a Jerusalem artist. Later we enjoyed the lovely dinner sponsored by JRU and went home with happy memories and of course some learning experiences.



Megillah reading and presentation at JRU event.



Purim celebrations at Elly Kadoorie school hall organized by IJF.

This year we celebrated the Purim function literally for 3 days with different synagogues and organizations. Next day on 7th March 2023 we celebrated the Purim Party on a grand scale with lot of pomp. There were fancy dress, singing, dancing and mimicry competitions and lots of prizes to be won for all ages. More than 150 friends attended the party sponsored by IJF – Indian Jewish Federation. It was such a wonderful sight to see all the children and adults too, dressed in colorful costumes, full of enthusiasm and imagination at the highest level. Everyone was waiting for his/her turn to show-off their costume with wonderful dialogues.

Ms. Lebana Penkar did the anchoring of the programme awesomely. She also showcased her story telling prowess in such a way that for the rest of the evening everyone was thumping the moment Haman appeared or his name was taken. The judges had a tough time declaring the prizes. Kirtan Group rocked the whole function and we secured the maximum prizes in each section. IJF appreciated our efforts of reviving the oldest Indian form of telling the Torah stories to the masses and reviving the 18th century songs in the original tunes.

Overall, the function was a grand success and another memorable evening.

We take the opportunity to thank JRU and IJF and their teams for arranging such wonderful programmers and look forward for many more. We have also proved that even when the world has moved on to new mediums of entertainment we can plan and execute wonderful Kirtan programmers so that we remain connected with our rich Indian heritage and Past.

The Central Organization of Indian Jews in Israel (COIJI)

1984-2020

The Central Organisation of Indian Jews in Israel (COIJI) was founded by Noah Massil. The organization has twenty chapters around Israel. Maiboli, the newsletter for the Bene Israel community is edited by Noah Masil. There is also a website called Indian Jewish Community in Israel which coordinates various cultural activities organized by the community. The community in Israel opened the museum of Indian Jewish Heritage in the town of Dimona in 2012. The museum is currently run by volunteers. At present, the museum has a small collection of items donated by the community. It also holds cultural and cooking classes for all communities.



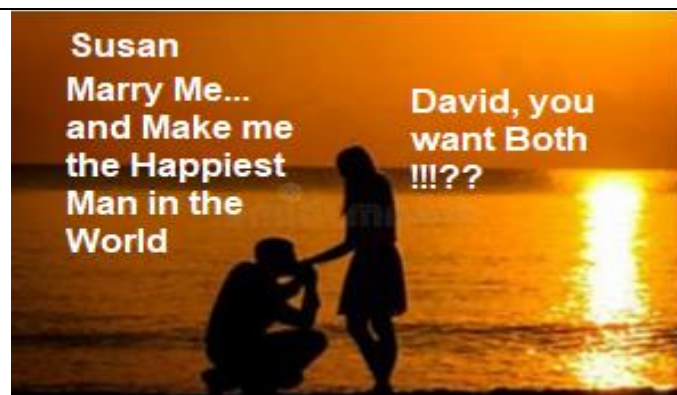
Bene-Israel Jokes

Palkar advertises: *"For Sale – Wedding Suit, used only once by Mistake....."*

Pezarkar: I broke my leg in two places.
Awaskar: I advise don't go to those places again.
Talkar: Where do you find cow with no legs?
Bhonkar: I think in the same place where you left it.
Chandgaokar: What do you call a typo error on a tombstone?
Mabagaokar: A grave mistake.
Ashtivkar: Why is Pingle sitting in the fridge?
Sankar: "The recipe said, rest in the fridge for 1 hour."

Jiradkar: What is the difference between Liability & Asset?
Bhastakar: A drunk friend is liability. But a drunk girlfriend is an asset.
Killekar is in a bank
Killekar: I would like to open a joint account.
Cashier: With whom sir?
Killekar: With someone who has lots of money.
Mrs. Penkar: I have changed my mind
Mr. Penkar : Oh....Is it working now?

Agarwalkar opened his barber shop when Niglakar walked in:
Niglakar: "How mach for haircut?"
Agarwalkar: "20 Rupees."
Niglaker: "How much for a Shave?"
Agarwarkar: "Ten rupees."
Niglakar : "Great-shave my head, please!"
Umedkar: Agarwarkar when can I bring my two years old son for a haircut?
Agarwalkar : When he is four.



Dighorkar : Charikar, There are two types of wives.
Charikar: First?
Dighorkar: First Type, Quiet, Beautiful, Understanding, Not Argumentative, Loving, One who listens to husband.
Charikar: Hmm.... And second?
Dighorkar: Second type, your own wife.
Mr. Galsurkar : I need space...
Mrs. Galsulkar : so go and join NASA..



Chinchokar's from India went to Jerusalem and his wife died.
Rabbi: "Sending her body home would cost you \$10000.... but... burial here at this holy city would cost just \$100".
Chinchokar: "I'll take the body home!!!"
Rabbi : "Why the costly option? You must really love your wife a lot"
Chinchokar: "Nothing like that Rabbi.. Just that Jesus was buried here and he came alive on the 3rd day..."

Khirlkar: (calls up Hotel Manager from room) Please come fast, I am having an argument with my wife & she says she will jump from your hotel window.
Manager : Sir, I am sorry, but this is your personal Issue.
Khirlkar: abbe saale ! The window is not opening. This is a maintenance issue ..

Two sides of the same story

2 BI Wives chatting in office:

Pezarkar : I had a fine evening, how was Urs???

Dandaker : It was a disaster. My husband came home, ate his dinner in 3 mins & fell asleep in 2 mins. How was yours?

Pezarkar : Oh mine was amazing ! My husband came home and took me out for a romantic dinner. After dinner we walked for an hour. When we came home he lit the candles around the house. It was like a fairy tale!

At the same time, their husbands are talking at work..

Pezarkar: How was your evening?

Dandaker: Great. I came home, dinner was on the table, I ate & fell asleep. What about you ?

Pezarkar: It was horrible. I came home, there's no dinner, they cut the electricity because I forgot to pay the bill; so I took her out for dinner which was so expensive that didn't have money left for a cab or auto. We walked home which took an hour & when we got home I remembered there was no electricity so I had to light candles all over the house !!!!!

Mrs. Kandlekar : I hate that beggar.

Mr. Kandlekar: Why ?

Mrs. Kandlekar: Rascal, yesterday I gave him food today he gave me a book, How to Cook !!!

Why Jews Law doesn't permit second marriage?
Answer: Jewish law says: "No human can be punished twice for the same offence."

Speech

Drunk Jetakar was requested to say a few words in a meeting on Good Wife. Jetakar agreed.

1. A good wife always forgives her husband when she is wrong.
2. A good marriage would be between a blind wife and a deaf husband.
3. Shortest description of a married man "Ek Tha Tiger"
4. They say that when a man holds a woman's hand before marriage, it is love; and after marriage it is self-defense.
5. It not true that married men live longer than single men, it only seems longer.

People noticed that drunken Jetakar was going away from the topic, so few objected. Jetakar shouted back;

6. please stop behaving like my wife, will you please allow me to complete the whole sentence before you start guessing and suggesting.

And to my son I would like to say;

7. Dear Son,
If you think your Dad, Mom, Teacher, Boss etc... are strict and unnecessarily harassing you...Wait for your wife...

And how can you tell the married men at a wedding reception? They're the ones dancing with everyone but their wives ha ha ha ... and you know why women live a better, longer & peaceful life....!! Why? Very simple. A woman does not have a wife....!!



IOBI

Did you all notice that with new year, every group had elections and we have reported them here, but IOBI had no elections.

The Leader of IOBI as usual in a hurry of being first to take false credit misreports things to the community. Without checking details he jumps to conclusions and questions community leaders, proving he is not a leader, but just a self-appointed leader of no value.



John Perry shared a link.

Top contributor · 1d · 🌐

7 Jan, 2023 ...

Another attempt by the Mumbai municipality to grab Jewish land, the Bene Israeli cemetery at Bandra along with that of the neighboring Catholic cemetery. Crores of rupees change hand between the municipal officials and building developers, that enable to latter to construct new buildings in the vicinity.

To my knowledge, a few years back even the Panvel municipality intended to extend the road outside our Beth El Synagogue situated at Old Panvel that would have resulted in our losing part of our place of worship.

We would love to hear from the local community leaders.



8 Jan. 2023 Bandra Cemetery:

Once again John Perry is misinforming our community. See his post attached. He has no updates, which are mentioned below given by active leader of the community [David Talegaonkar](#).

John Perry should call upon its IOBI leaders to take up the matter. We had raised the topic of Bandra cemetery with Late Judah Pugavkar. He was handling the Bandra Cemetery. He had then stated that Bandra cemetery is operative and we will allow burials if anybody approaches them.

During Covid a Body of deceased Bene Israel community member was refused to be buried in Bandra Cemetery. Our Worli cemetery Trust is a different trust and has nothing to do with Bandra Cemetery. Now the Municipal Corporation wants to acquire some portion of the cemetery for public purpose use. They certainly have entered into correspondence with the Trust.

If anyone has to object , it is the trustees of Bandra cemetery. Judah was the so called Vice President of IOBI, and they should take up the matter.

If John Perry is ignorant of the situation he should keep quiet. By challenging the Bene Israel leaders to act in the matter, he is making a fool of himself and is exposing his ignorance. It is the Trustees of Bandra cemetery who has to act in this matter. We thank David.

The International organization of Bene Israelis (IOBI) organized claims they organized a one-day trip to Yam Ha-Melach (Dead-Sea) for its (only selected) Golden age group, to celebrate the Republic Day of India. There were people from Ashdod, Lod, and Ramla, in all 81 participants joined the trip. It was a fun-filled day with refreshing hot springs, sumptuous lunch, games and gifts.

What was like a cherry on the cake were souvenirs sent by the Embassy of India. They gifted each one with water bottles, lapel pins and flags to celebrate Republic day. IOBI is very appreciative of this generous gesture shown by the Embassy of India. (Copy pasted from IOBI's post).

We spoke to few Bene-Israel's in Ashdod Lod Ramle Ashkelon Kiryat Gat Senior citizen. Comments below

No common needy senior citizens of Ashdod Lod or Ramle were aware of this. They told us that they were not even informed. It is a closed group of few people who jointly enjoy on the funds gathered in the name of Bene-Israel people.

One woman in Dimona asked us; are there golden Bene-Israel senior citizens only in Ashdod Lod and Ramle and Gedara? We are dead? Why do they call themselves International when they can't even reach people in Israel?

A man from Ashdod whose mother is 74 years ago said: **"Gupta thinks Golden age group is just her parents. All others are copper age group"**



Again selected senior citizen / own parents / Aunts / Uncles only qualify. Using Community money for own people.

Comment from an Accountant in Lod:

No accounts are still given. Now they will show a huge loss in organizing this picnic and pocket all the money.



IOBI held a Purim party, but once again not for the people. Just their own people to show the expenses. The community was not invited to this even. Why? Later we were informed IOBI again took a ride as the function was not of IOBI but of **Ashdod Synagogue in Ezor Alef.**



Mazal Tov

A prominent member of community Mr. David Birwadkar recently got his son, Oren Birwadkar married. We share with him the celebrations of their family and wish the Birwadkar family Mazal Tov



MAZAL TOV

Our community member Salome Rebello was respected by Baton.
(Baton a thin stick used by a conductor to direct an orchestra or choir.)

Hans de Gilde ceremoniously handing over the baton of the Ulmer Spatzen Chor to a Salome Rebello after his 25 glorious years with this choir. It was an epic moment and Salome was deeply honoured.



Hans de Gilde ceremoniously handing over the baton of the Ulmer Spatzen Chor to a Salome Rebello after his 25 glorious years with this choir. It was an epic moment and Salome was deeply honoured.

Many many thanks to the huge team effort for making the 'Abschiedskonzert' of Hans de Gilde and Barbara Comes on 26.03. 2023 such a moving event!

Bene Israel Stree Mandal- Mumbai

Shalom Friends!

We are happy to announce that the ***Bene Israel Stree Mandal Managing Committee Members*** successfully distributed food essentials to 40 Jewish women/ members who are financially weak and needy. This was for the upcoming Passover festival in the month of April 2023.

Since Bene Israel Stree Mandals, Nagpada Premises is still under Litigation, the distribution of essentials was done on Sunday the 26th of March, 2023 from 10AM to 3PM from ***Mrs. Diana Haeems*** residences, Parel.

This was possible only with the support of our generous donors.

The Bene Israel Stree Mandal Management is very grateful to all our generous donors and will always look forward to your support in the future.

We have vatap (distribution) twice in a year- on **Passover** and on **New Year**.

Our Good wishes to you All and Happy Passover Festival.
***Mumbai Bene Israel Stree Mandal
Managing Committee Members***



Eves Association, Thane

Lebana Penkar



The Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony of **Aamchi Shayali** was conducted by the Eves Association, Thane, on 2nd April 2023, from 10.00am onwards; post a break of two years due to the unprecedented global lockdown and slowdown on account of Covid19 pandemic. Working Committee of Eves Association, Thane;

President: Norah Solomon Sherry

Secretary: Milka Samson Talkar

Editor: Sheba Penkar

Treasurer: Nancy Samson Killekar

Working Committee of Eves Association, Thane,

The event was conducted under the auspices of the above team. The Chief Guest for the event were Mrs. Rebecca and Mr. Benhur Solomon. Around 150 community members who attended the event were invited for a breakfast of Kande Pohe and Chai.

Meritorious students who excelled in academics, in the Tenth, Higher Secondary, Bachelors and Masters examinations, in various fields like Engineering, Chartered Accountancy, Marketing, etc. with high percentages / scores were felicitated with Trophies and



Cash Prizes. Awards were also given to young students who dared to chart a different path and created a niche for themselves in files of Arts, Culture, Theatre, Sports, etc.

Prizes were given to the winners of the Best Story, Best Poem and Best Recipe in Volume 7 of Aamchi Shayali. Mr. Naomi Penkar and Mrs. Rebecca Hillel Galsurkar were felicitated for their outstanding contribution to Eves Association.

Many Senior members (women & Men) were also felicitated for their standing support to the Eves Association and the Community.

Mrs. Seema Jhirad and Mr. Ezril (Viju) Penkar were felicitated for being awarded the '**Sammaj Bhushan**' and '**Jeevan Gaurav**' honour respectively, by the Maharashtra State Government.

The Community witnessed very encouraging addresses by the Chief Guest Mr. Benhur Solomon and the Guest of Honour, Mr. Ezriel Penkar.

The event wrapped up with sumptuous Kosher Lunch with Jalebi.

Wishing the Eves Association and its members more power to carry on their good work.

Lebana Penkar

Member - Eves Association



Winning Poem

*** याला जीवन ऐसे नांव ***

काळ बदलला पण कसा बदलला !
कळलेच नाही.....

आयुष्याच्या धावपळीत कधी आमचे वय
वाढून म्हातारे झालो ! कळलेच नाही.....

सायकलला पायडल मारतांना श्वास कोडून
धाप लागायची तेव्हा ! केव्हा कारमध्ये फिर
लागलो, कळलेच नाही.....

एक वेळ आम्ही मंमी-पप्पांवर अवलंबून
असणारे ! केव्हा कारमध्ये फिरु लागलो
कळलेच नाही.....

एक वेळ आम्ही मम्मी -पप्पांवर अवलंबून
असणारे !

केव्हा आपल्याच मुलांसाठी जिम्मेदार झालो
कळलेच नाही....

एक दीरा होता, दिवसाढवळ्या विनचास्त
झोपत होतो ।

केव्हा रात्रीची झोप ठडाली कळलेच नाही.....

ज्या काळ्याकुळकुळीत लांबभरघोस केसांच्या
वेण्या गवने हलवत, झटकत
फिरत होतो, केव्हा केस गळून पांढरे झाले !
कळलेच नाही....

नोकरी शोधण्यासाठी किती 'इंटरव्हू' दिल्या ।
कधी रिटायर्ड झालो कळलेही नाही !.....

भरलेल्या घरपरिवाराबद्दल आणि बहीण
भावांबद्दल गर्व होता आम्हाला !
कधी सर्वांशी लग्न होऊन संसार थाटले,
कळलेही नाही....



Mrs. Naomi Penkar was honoured for her outstanding contribution to shayali. Her poem won the best prize you see on the left column.

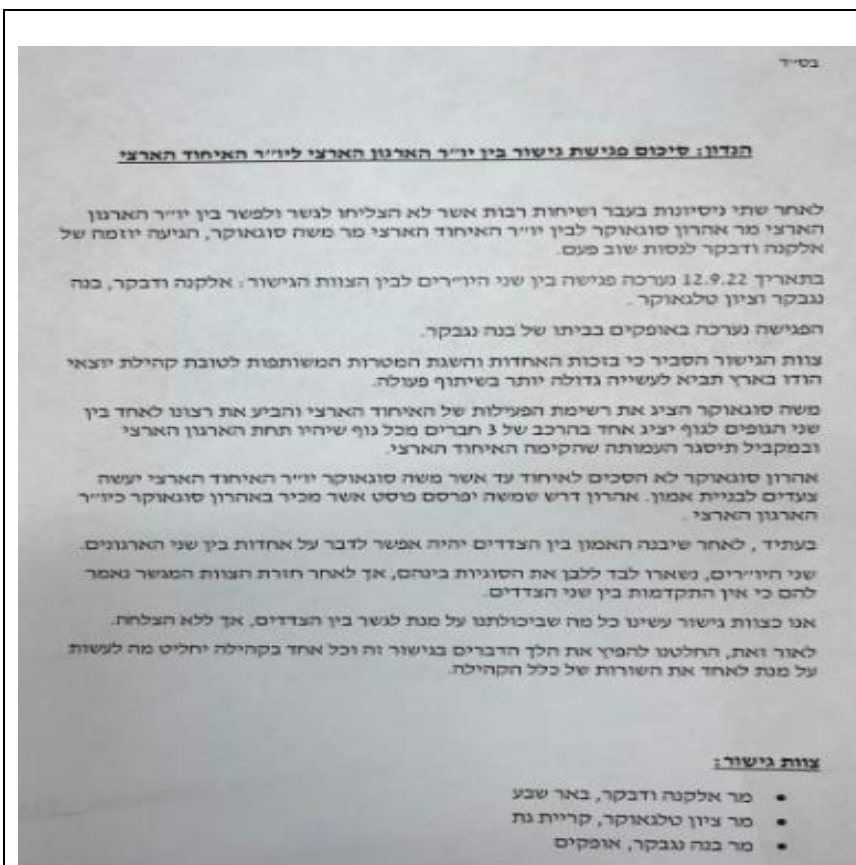
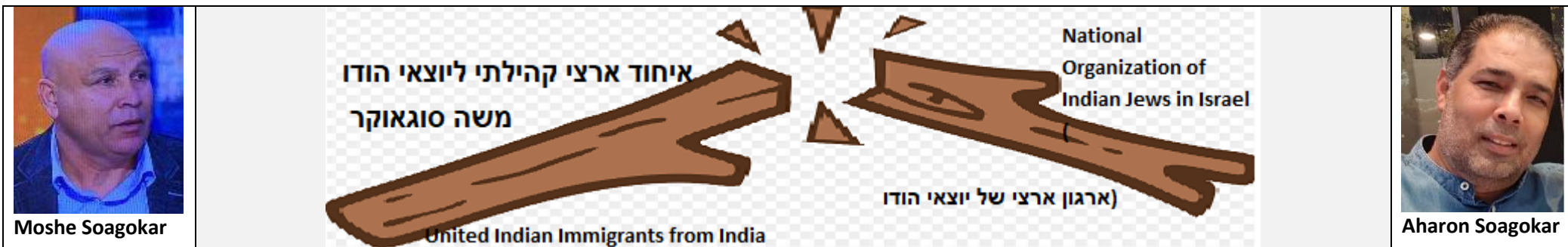
“Never apologize for being a powerful woman.”

नामी पेणकर

पहिले लिहिलेले नांव सख्ख पुयता येते परंतु मनावर कोरले गेलेले नांव सख्खा सख्खी पुयता येत नाही अशी मनाला शरीर करणाऱ्या समाज सेविका फारच दुर्मिळ असतात यापैकी नामी पेणकर तुम्ही एक आहांत तुम्ही केलेल्या समाज कार्यामुळे तुमचे नांव या समाजाच्या मनावर कोरले गेले आहे.

लोकापुढे आपले विचार आपली चुमिका मांडण्याचे कौशल्य आणि उत्तम संघटन कौशल्य त्यांना मिळाले. संगम - म्हणजे नामी पेणकर आपल्या कटुत्तान वक्तृत्तान समाजाचे छाप टाकणारी प्रेमळ आदरणीय स्त्री, उत्तम वक्त्या कुशल प्रशासक रसिक कलाकार विस्तारप्रिय उमद रुबावदार हसतमुख दिलदार नेतृत्व प्रशन्न चेहरा संवत्काळी ऐक्यासिद्ध आणि कडक निर्णय घेण्याचे घाउस असणाऱ्या नामी पेणकर त्यांनी आपल्या यशस्वी जीवनात लोन्दी घाण्यांनी सर्वांगी गुंफून ठेवले आहे जीवनात त्यांनी जोडलेली प्राणसंज आपली आपल्या परका मतभेद त्यांनी कुशीचे केला नाही सर्व सामान्यांच्या समुद्दिसाठी त्यांनी अपार कष्ट घेतले परंतु व्यक्तिगत प्रसिद्धीच्या हव्यासापासून त्या नेहमीच दूर राहिल्या. लौकिकान त्या सुप मोठ्या आहेत परंतु एक

आदर्श स्त्री म्हणून त्याहीपेक्षा त्या मोठ्या आहेत. त्यांच्या जीवन प्रवासात त्यांच्या सोबत धीरानं उभे रहाणाऱ्या त्यांच्या कुटुंबातील सदस्यांची तारीफ करावी तितकी कुमी आहे त्याचे पती, त्यांची दोन मुले दोन नाती हे सारे आज त्यांच्या पाठीशी खंबीरपणे उभे आहेत हीच सख्या अर्थानं त्यांची ताकद आहे. त्यांनी स्त्रीमंडळ या संस्थेवर २५-३० वर्षे काम करून संस्था यशोशिरस्वरूप नेवून ठेवली संस्थेचा १०० वा वाढदिवस आपल्या अध्यक्षतेखातीर समाजाला एकत्र घेऊन त्यांना आमंत्रण देवून सर एली कटुरी झोळीच्या हॉलमध्ये आपल्या सगळ्या सहकारी महिलांना विश्वासात घेऊन साजरा करताना संस्थेच्या इतिहासात मानाचा तुरा रोवला आजूही या कार्यक्रमाची तारीफ समाज करताना आम्ही घालतो. आमच्या मंडळातसुद्धा त्यांनी बरीच वर्षे काम केले होते कुरीत आहेत.



Moshe Soagokar has formed a new group by the name of **United Indian Immigrants from India** (איחוד קהילתי יוצאי ארצי). After the original group decided to divide themselves under the the leadership of Aharon Soagokar **National Organization of Indian Jews in Israel** (ארגון ארצי של יוצאי הודו). Copy of the letter in the right explains the situation.





IJF- Purim Party

David Talagaokar



Purim Party 7th. March 2023 : We had more than 150 people (including women and children) for Purim celebrations yesterday evening in the school. We also celebrated International Women's Day by cutting of a cake and distributing gifts to each and every woman.

Mrs Diana David Takegaonkar and Shaina Lebana Penkar were Judges for fashion show, singing and dancing competition.





The two judges for the fancy dress competition and dancing and singing competition:

Mrs. Diana David Talegaonkar and Miss. Shaina Lebana Penkar.

A(20+) [Facebook](#) pictures at:



Fiber Motor Boat Donation Project Completed Successfully

[\(20+\) Facebook](#)

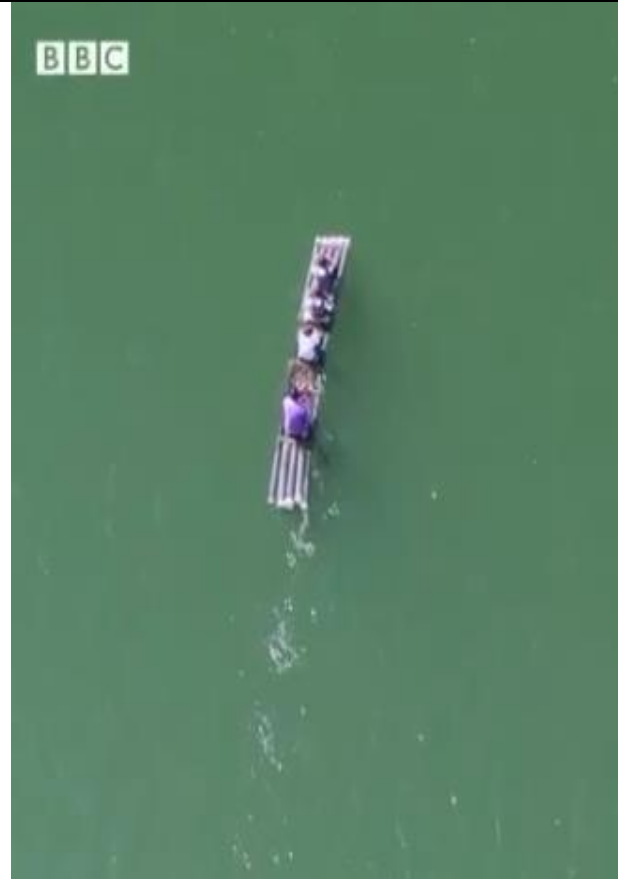


A BBC video on school children walking hours and then crossing a river on a make shift bamboo boat that takes 2.5 hours to cross one way, and then walk again to reach the school. Then the same way back after the school.

With Mr. Herzl Bhonkar of RJA Shaniwar Teli decided to help them out. Herzl suggested donating them a fiber motor boat with life jackets and donate some bicycles.

Herzl investigated the costing and reached an estimate of 2 lacs for this donation project.

Our wonderful community donated freely and quickly and in one week we had commitment for 1 lacs rupees. People kept cash money at the Indian shops in Ashdod Ramle Dimona Lod towards this cause. All the cash money was returned to the donors.



As the commitments were coming it rapidly, Herzl informed us that the Government of Maharashtra has decide to help these children by giving them two speed boats with life jackets. So we had to stop these collections and thank all those who had committed to this cause. We thank all of them. **Commitments came from India, Israel, Australia, UK, Singapore and Canada.**

WE SINCERELY THANK HERZL BHONKAR FOR HIS TIME AND EFFORT HE GAVE TO THIS PROJECT. HE IS ONE OF OUR LIVING LEGENDS.

List of Commitment for Donation received for Fiber Boat Project

Moshe Degodkar (Greece) - \$ 100
 Leo Daniels (Israel) - \$ 100
 Solomon Erulkar (Australia) - \$ 100
 Solome Erulkar (Australia) - \$ 100
 Johanna Samson (Singapore) - \$ 100
 Rommel Solomon (Canada) - \$ 100
 Sarah Joseph (England) - \$ 100
 Ellen Daniels (Israel) - \$ 100
 Nissim Moses (Israel) - \$ 100
 Aliza Ashton (Israel) - \$ 100

Besides these, there were many who gave cash money at their local grocery shops for this cause in Ashdod, Lod, Ramel Simona and Kiryat Gat.

[Thank you to Herzl Bhonkar for his time he gave to this project](#)

We sincerely thank all these kind members of the community who allowed us to get this commitment almost within one week, which was more than half the target amount.



Purim celebrations at Ohel David Synagogue, Pune.

Dr. Reuben Daniel



The bene Israeli community in Pune celebrated the festival of Purim, with great fervor and fun. Whistles and rattles were played when the name of the tyrant Haman was uttered by the chazan in the Synagogue. The bene Israeli community donated with an open mind and thousands of rupees were collected from both the Synagogues in Pune.

The amount collected was given to Bayati, the old age home for the Jewish community of India.



If we Bene-Israel were living in Avatar's world...



Lost Heritage of Bene-Israel in Pakistan (now a Mall)

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



Photo Archives of Pakistan



Photo Archives of Pakistan



Photo Archives of Pakistan



The **history of the Jews in Pakistan** dates at least as far back as 1839, when Pakistan was a part of British India.^{[1][2]} Various estimates suggest that there were about 1,000 to 2,500 **Jews** living in **Karachi** at the beginning of the 20th century, mostly comprising **Iranian Jews** and **Bene Israel (Indian Jews)**;^{[3][4][5]} a substantial Jewish community lived in **Rawalpindi**,^[1] and a smaller community also lived in **Peshawar**.

Sir Elly Kadoorie School

David Talagaokar



This is our newly elected committee of Sir Elly Kadoorie school for the term 2023-25. They are (from left to right)

Mr. Joshua N. Nagawkar,
Mr. Benhur Satkiel Bhastekar,
Ms. Lebana Penkar,
Mr. Ezeriel R. Penkar (President) ,
Mr David M. Talegaonkar (Hon. Secretary),
Mr.David D. Birwadkar,
Mr. Moses Jacob Korlekar,
Mr. Samuel Wasker,
Mrs. Elizabeth Birwadkar.
Mr. Samuel Wasler (Treasurer)

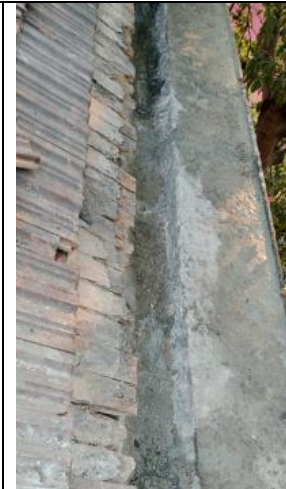
Each of this committee member is dedicated, hardworking and experienced as they have worked on various institutions and synagogues.



These are the repairs and renovations carried out in Sir Elly Kadoorie School , Mazgaon, and Mumbai.

The entire rear staircase was dilapidated and was not used for the last more than **ten years**, was now renovated.

Roof tiles were removed repaired and those damaged were replaced. The drain pipe running on all four sides was replaced with new piping's and fittings.



Republic Day Celebration in Bene-Israel Community in India David Talagaokar Jan. 26, 2023

The Republic Day was celebrated in Sir Elly Kadoorie School by hoisting the Indian National tri colour flag in the morning. An ex-student of the school from 1996-97 batch Mr. Vaibhav Godse was the chief guest and the flag was hoisted by him. Thereafter, the school children performed folk dances and also did drills and entertained the gathering.

Refreshments were distributed to every student, teachers and staff, which was provided by an organization " Roti Foundation". This organization provides afternoon breakfast to our primary school students every day. Shri Jayadrath Yeshwant Tambe, the operation manager of Roti Foundation was also felicitated by the Head Master Mr. Wagh.



Holocaust Memorial Day India by Israeli Embassy

[Holocaust memorial days - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holocaust_memorial_days)

Mumbai Police Commissioner Shri Vivek Fansalkar addressing. Chief minister did not attend the function.



As of 2004, twelve countries observed January 27, the day of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp, including Germany, Britain, Italy and Scandinavian countries. In 2003 France designated this date as the day of remembrance of genocides and prevention of crimes against humanity. In 2004 Israel designated this date as a mark of the struggle against antisemitism. As of 2004, eleven countries in Europe had chosen dates related to local histories.

Bene Israel Conference Education Fund

(a body which is more than 100 yrs. old)

David Talagaokar



It gives non- refundable donations to poor Jewish school going children and provides scholarships to children doing higher studies, who have to return back the amount on gaining employment. The loan is interest free. Many Bene Israeli children have completed their education with the help of this fund. This body was established in 1917 during a Conference of Jews from all around India.

This was handled by Mr. E. M. Jacob, Mr. Reuben Shirkolkar, Mr. Abraham Massil , Mrs Samson (daughter of M.A.Moses -wife of Judge Samson) and my daddy Mr. Moses Joseph Talegaonkar (who was the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer for more than 20 yrs.). I remember myself typing the Accounts every year when I was in School.

At present we have representatives from every synagogue and Jewish institutions from Maharashtra.

New Committee

David Moses Talegaonkar
President.

Benhur Satkiel Bhastekar.
Vice President.

Moses Rajpurkar.

Hon. Secretary.

Daniel Ashtamkar.

Treasurer.

Samuel S Wasker and Betsel Rajpurkar
Internal Auditors.

Elizabeth and Gershone Aaron scholarship fund

(once run by Toby (Tobias) Aaron Koletkar)

Many would remember Mr. Toby Aaron who handled administration of an education fund from his home in Shavaji Park. Checking about the institution run by late Toby Aaron who gave scholarships, nothing much was stated except that after the demise of Mr. Toby Aaron it was continued by Mr. Norman Elijah, his wife and sister. Norman Elijah has passed away. Noreen Elijah is not aware if the scholarship funds are still available. She suggested you check up with Toby's son Clement Aaron. On checking with Clement he replied; As am not aware of details AND DONT HAVE INFORMATION. If anyone has any information on this scholarship funds, please update us. shaniwarteli@gmail.com



Australia

Solomon Erulkar



It's been a busy few months and I have been thinking what I could share with our group. Must have been great timing to get a message from our community friend that his daughter was having an Arts Display in a local community Art Lounge. We decided to attend the event and have a closer look at Reeve's work. I was astonished by the time and effort spent creating the oil paintings and the beautiful work being displayed. This is also a great opportunity to celebrate the talent and creativity of people from our community that are spread around the world.

I would like to share a bit about Reeve's pathway into this field.

ABOUT REEVE

Arriving in Australia during early childhood, art has been my method of exploring and understanding the world, even at a time when communication in my new environment was difficult. Drawing transformed into a love for photography in late adolescence, gaining recognition by winning the 2006 My Monty local photography competition and becoming a finalist in the 2007 Doug Moran Photographic Prize (student category). In early adulthood, after engaging in numerous short painting courses, I proceeded to explore my desire to paint, completing 150 credits towards a Bachelor of Fine Art (Visual Arts) at the Victorian College of the Arts. It was there that I realised the sheer difficulty of perusing art as a career at such a young age; the desire for stability got the better of me. Ten years later I began to re-explore my passion for art, merging my interest in photography with the painted medium. In 2021 I began submitting to art awards and became a finalist in the Agendo Art Prize, resulting in the sale of my work. I have since exhibited at the Eltham Art Show and have had two solo exhibitions in 2023. My work is complex and contradictory, merging the photographic medium with paint, the digital with traditional, and the abstract with realism.

The ORT India Elections

Sivanah Ashtamkar
Director – ORT India



At the Elections held on Sunday, 11th. December 2022, the persons mentioned have been elected to the posts of Members of the Managing Committee of ORT India for the term 2022-2025.

The newly elected Managing Committee has unanimously decided to designate **Mr. Levi Rubens** as the Chairman of ORT India.

ORT India looks forward to the support of the Jewish Community and Institutions.

Ort India, an educational institution, we give reimbursement for educational scholarship to students as well as online scholarship. Online courses can be applied by anyone who is interested in boosting their educational graph and enhancing their career opportunities.

Members of the Managing Committee of ORT India for the term 2022-2025.

1.Mr. Akiev Samson

2.Mr. Zohar Reuben

3.Mr. Levi Rubens

4.Dr. Reuben Daniel Pezarkar

5.Mr. Jonathan Solomon

6.Mr. Jacob V Sassoon

7.Mr. Jonathan Mapgaonkar

Fair Elections has the power of ridding any institution of its current diseases

-Harry Emerson Fosdick



Taglit collaboration with ORT-India since 2006

Sivanah Ashtamkar
Director – ORT India



Taglit Birthright Israel began with a bold idea—offering a free, life-changing trip to Israel for young Jewish adults between the ages of 18 and 26 and, in doing so, transforming the Jewish future.

In North America, Birthright Israel Foundation raises the necessary funds thanks to nearly 40,000 donors each year, to ensure that Birthright Israel remains a gift to young Jewish adults for years to come by the joint venture of;



THE
GOVERNMENT
OF ISRAEL



JEWISH
AGENCY FOR
ISRAEL



JEWISH
FEDERATION OF
NORTH AMERICA



KEREN HAYESOD-
UNITED ISRAEL
APPEAL



BIRTHRIGHT
ISRAEL
FOUNDATION

ORT-India that basically trained young Jews in skills required by Israel, found an **ideal companion** in Birthright Israel's Taglit program when the population of the Jews started dropping due to immigration to Israel. What better than to support young adults to visit country of their parents to decide their future.

Last year ORT-India & has Birthright sponsored the Taglit trip for 35 Jewish young's. This year there are 40 participants who have applied for Taglit.

At one time you came for your
Taglit trip that was sponsored for
a family.

Can you sponsor a

Taglit

of a Bene-Israel child from
India in 2023?

Contact

Sivanah Ashtamkar

Director – ORT India

director@ortindia.org

The ORT India Activities

Johnny' Jhirad
DEAN-ORT India



ORT India conducted a two Sundays workshop on Smartphone Usage by Elders on 26th February and 5th March 2023. Sixteen Elders attended. The feedback was excellent and could be seen on their happy faces at the end of both days. They were also given extensive reference notes in case they do not remember some steps afterwards. They were taught to use general principals, common symbols and an intuitive approach to be able to become more able to work out on their own. A highlight of the workshop was they taught to use ChatGPT.

Ort India will be starting summer activities for children during their summer holidays. We are also in the process of starting different technical educational courses which will be helpful to enhance one's skills and increase job opportunities of the students.



Passover Invitation



MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH
COMMUNITY ARE CORDIALLY
INVITED TO ATTEND THE
COMMUNITY SEDER TO BE HELD AT
THE KENESETH ELIAHOO
SYNAGOGUE BANQUET HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 5TH APRIL, 2023
AT 8 P.M THE 'KADDUSH' AND
'HAGGADAH' READING WILL
COMMENCE AT 8.15 P.M
FOLLOWED BY DINNER.

SOLOMON F. SOPHER

Contact Us
Phone : 9820078032/ 9820051020.
Email: solomon.ijc@gmail.com
Web: Kenesetheliyahoo.com



Passover

I've called you here to break with me
this bread, unleavened loaves,
sweet wine and peppered cod

None here a servant,
but a friend, instead!

IJF



The Trustees and Managing Committee of The Magen Hassidim Synagogue need to be congratulated whole heartedly for celebrating their 92nd Anniversary in their usual pomp and style and lots of hard work to conduct this without too many hassles or short comings was very evident.

Ronen Bhonkar and all the willing volunteers' efforts and hard work is totally appreciated. Well done once again.. Keep rocking and keep shining!!!!

Message from : Mr. David Birwardkar



Hearty Congratulations to Mr Ronen Bhonkar, the Trustees and Managing Committee of The Magen Hassidim Synagogue.
G-d bless you all. Shaniwar -Teli

Mr. Viju Penkar and Mr. David Telagaokar were honoured at Magen Hassidim for their wonderful work done through IJF in service of the Bene-Israel community in Mumbai.

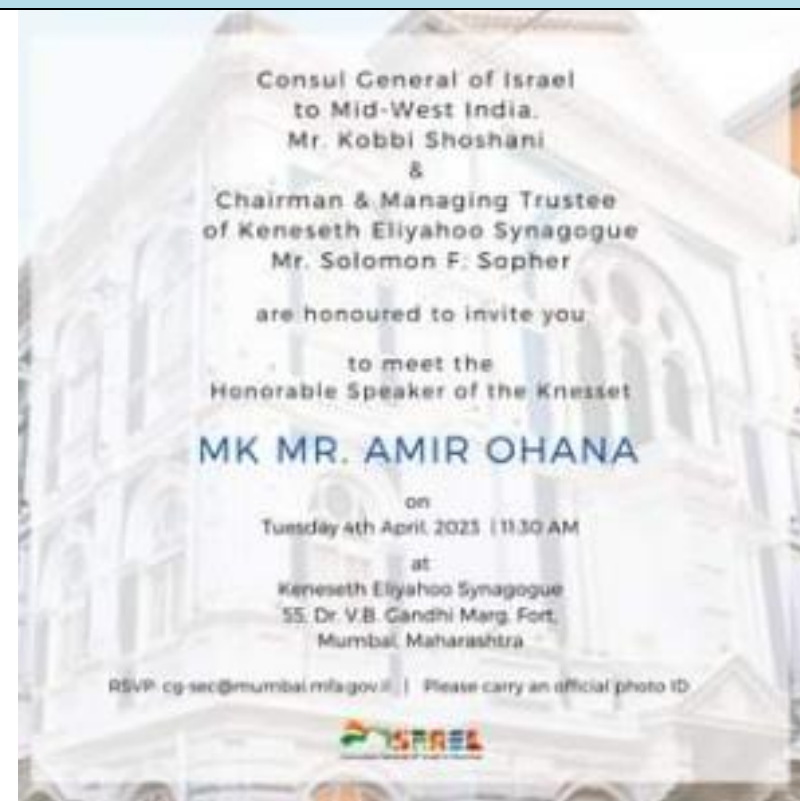


AJDC

Nissim Pingle

Members of the Knesset in Mumbai

 INDIAN JOINT TRUST Administrative Building, 1st floor, Bal Govindas Road, D.G. Ruparel College Premises, Near Ruby Mills Gate, Matunga, Mumbai – 400 016, INDIA. Tel : 2436 7844 E-mail : ajdcindia@jdc.org   <i>- Connecting our Jewish Community</i>						
April 2023 Nissan - Iyar 5783						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Yom Ha Azmaut Celebration in EPJCC (tbc) Torah Session by Rabbi Joshua Kolet - 7:30pm						1 Shabbat Shalom
2 Hebrew Class by Shoshanna Pingle - 5:00pm Torah Session by Rabbi Joshua Kolet - 7:30pm	3	4	5 Erev Pesach	6 Pesach 1st Day	7 Pesach 2nd Day Erev Shabbat	8 Shabbat Shalom
9 Hebrew Class by Shoshanna Pingle - 5:00pm Torah Session by Rabbi Joshua Kolet - 7:30pm	10	11 Kaballah Class with Judah Kolet - 6:30pm	12 Pesach 7th Day	13 Pesach 8th Day	14 Erev Shabbat	15 Shabbat Shalom
16 Hebrew Class by Shoshanna Pingle - 5:00pm Torah Session by Rabbi Joshua Kolet - 7:30pm	17	18 Kaballah Class with Judah Kolet - 6:30pm	19	20	21 Erev Shabbat	22 Shabbat Shalom
23 Hebrew Class by Shoshanna Pingle - 5:00pm Torah Session by Rabbi Joshua Kolet - 7:30pm	24	25	26 Orot Ha'Torah - Rosh Chodesh Iyar by Ronnie Lee (RIG Fellow) - 3:00pm	27	28 Erev Shabbat	29 Shabbat Shalom



The Jewish Community of Mumbai are hereby informed that we are lucky to welcome the Israeli Delegations along with Members of the Knesset and the Speaker of the Knesset Mr. AMIR OHANA .

On Tuesday 4th April,2023 at 10:45 am at the Keneseth Eliyahoo Synagogue 55,V.B.Gandhi Road,Fort Mumbai-400 023.

Your presences is important to strength the ties of Indian Jews who are living in Israel.

Please carry your identity card along with you.

Best wishes, Solomon F Sopher.

Tu'BiShvat is a Jewish holiday occurring on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat. It is also called Rosh HaShanah La'llanot, literally **"New Year of the Trees"**. Many celebrate this day as a national Indian Israeli –Bene Israel celebration as a national day celebration. Many open Malida invitations are popular for this day.



Fruits for regular Malida



Bene-Israel Purim Parties 2023





ב"ה

יוצאי הודו בני ישראל

- מובילים אתכם להכיר ספר וודש של 50 פיוזי הודו העתיקים, עם אותם מנגינות אותנטיים שכיום כמעט נכחדו ונשכחו.
- ספר נדיר הנערך לשמור את המסורת שעברה מדורי דורות.
- לכל פיוז יש קישור ברקוד ליוטיוב ותווי ג'ינה.
- ניתן להקדיש שמות להצלחה ולעילוי נשמה, בתוך הספר.

עם הסכמתו של גדול הזוהרים הרב אביג'ועם משילקר ז"ל מקרית גת ומנהיג זוגי תשרי אליעזר ששונקר ז"ל מאור יהודה



Purim Celebration in Eilat

Moshe Digodkar



On 6 th March in Shar E Shalom Synagogue, there was Megilat Esther reading. After that in the hall (ladies section) they had Puran Poli, Ozne Haman and other food with beer and other drinks.

In Amuta Sitar they also had Megilat Esther reading on 6th and on 7th they had party with magic show and also they had Puran Poli with Ozne Haman with chips ,Bisli,Bamba and Beer, drink etc.

Both, in the Synagogue and in Sitar they distributed gifts for children.



It was 23rd March 2020, when **Lockdown** started in India.

No one knew at that time what was written in the future.
Everyone was clueless.

After many setbacks & over 68 lakhs humans lost life worldwide , we those are seeing March 2023 are thankful to All mighty for this Life ..and Life is getting Better for All.

- Levy Penkar

"Life isn't about having what you want,
it's about wanting what you already
have. Be grateful!"

#COVID19

Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu

Member of Parliament
(Lok Sabha)

14-Narasaraopet Constituency - A.P.



Member :

- Committee on Public Undertakings.
- Standing Committee on Human Resources Development.
- Council of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).
- Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

20th Mar 2023

D.O. No. MP (LS)/NRT/D/2023

To,
Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar,
Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs,
Government of India,
South Block, New Delhi – 110011
Email: cam@mea.gov.in

Sub: Request to heed the demands of the Jews in Guntur and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh to deport them to their motherland in Israel

Respected Minister,

India was hailed for giving refuge to Jews who fled Nazi Holocaust from Europe and other countries. It is not just during Nazi's genocide, but relations between India and Israel go back thousands of years. When no nation was accepting Jews for shelter, it is India that has given them place in the country, providing them care, protection and support.

There are about 6,000 Jews in the country and many of them have made India their home. But there are still some Jews who wish to go back to their motherland. The Government of India has been facilitating their travel to Israel as ever since its independence in 1948, it has been welcoming every Jew from all the countries across the world.

There are about 300 Telugu-speaking Jewish people living in Kothareddy Palem, near Chebrolu, in Guntur district and also at Machilipatnam in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. I have been informed that they belong to the Bene Ephraim Tribe of Israel. Their ancestors came to Amaravati about 300 years ago from present day Telangana and they claim that some items used by their ancestors are still preserved at Amaravati Museum.

However, this is to bring to your kind notice that the condition of the Telugu-speaking Jews in Andhra Pradesh is pathetic as they are working as agricultural and construction labourers and a few are also in Government jobs. They have been demanding to go back to their motherland i.e., Israel but they are facing major hurdles in proving their Jew identity. But a blood sample test conducted by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology in Hyderabad, which is a life sciences research lab under CSIR, GOI confirmed their identity as Jews and non-Indian.

Keeping in view the plight of the Telugu-speaking Jewish people in the Krishna and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh, I request the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs to kindly look into the matter and ensure they are deported back to their motherland, Israel.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU)

D.No.: 3-35-5/2, 1st Lane, Brundavan Gardens, Guntur - Andhra Pradesh - 522 006
89, South Avenue, New Delhi-110011 (INDIA)
Mobile : +91-9491747777 - E-mail : krishna.lavu@yahoo.in, lavu.krishna14@sansad.nic.in

These are the Jews who traded in turmeric between India Andhra Pradesh and Middle East. Turmeric was used to elongate the storage time of products.

After the discovery of refrigerator the demand for turmeric dropped. This left these traders behind as the technology moved forward.



Yellow Pages of Bene-Israel Professional in Israel. Taken from WhatsApp group:

בעלי מקצוע/עסק/פרטי הודים

050-882-6000



Yaniv Reuven Dandekar
יניב ראובן דנדקר

Mr. Yaniv Dandekar has opened a very interesting whatapp group where Bene-Israel owners of business give their details. It would be interesting to join this group as you can find many important services given by our Bene-Israel community. It ranges from financial services, lawyers, internal decorators, plumbers, divers, travel agents, reality agents and much more.

यानिव दांडेकर यांनी एक अतिशय मनोरंजक व्हाट्सअप ग्रुप उघडला आहे जिथे व्यवसायाचे बेने-इस्रायल मालक त्यांचे तपशील देतात. या गटात सामील होणे मनोरंजक असेल कारण आपल्याला आमच्या बेने-इस्रायल समुदायाने दिलेल्या बऱ्याच महत्त्वपूर्ण सेवा मिळू शकतात. यात फायनान्शियल सर्व्हिसेस, वकील, इंटरनल डेकोरेटर, प्लंबर, डायव्हर्स, ट्रॅव्हल एजंट, रियॅलिटी एजंट आणि बरेच काही आहे.

מר יניב דנדקר פתח קבוצת וואטסאפ מעניינת מאוד בה בעלי עסקים בני ישראל מוסרים את פרטיהם. יהיה מעניין להצטרף לקבוצה זו מכיוון שתוכלו למצוא שירותים חשובים רבים הניתנים על ידי קהילת בן-ישראל שלנו. זה נע בין שירותים פיננסיים, עורכי דין, מעצבים פנימיים, אינסטלטורים, צוללים, סוכני נסיעות, סוכני מציאות ועוד.

+972 50-882-6000



בעלי מקצוע/עסק/פרטי הודים

Group • 124 participants



בס"ד MOSH צילום והפקות צילום והפקות לכל סוגי האירועים צילומי סטילים ווידאו לכל סוגי האירועים צילומי חופ / מסודי / נז בור / משפחה מגנטים / בלוקי עץ / בלוקי קרסטל מתג האירוע / מזכרות לאורחים קדחת צילום / בובות מתנפחות אותות פרחים / מאורות / עמדת סול מון זיקוקים / עשן כבד / בועות סבון בלונים מרחפים / תופים / שופרות שולחן מתוקים / קיר שמפניה / יין קיר פרחים / מתוקים לפרטים והצעות מחיר: משה - 054-7349912 שני - 052-2912379 15:12	חזיז מערכות חשמל חזי קונדלקר - חשמלאי ראשי ביצוע כל עבודות החשמל בבית ולעסק איחוד ותיקון תקלות חשמל הרכבת, המכסה ומיקומים של לחות חשמל החלפת נור החלפת הנור חשמלית לחיבור 050-2503525 Heziz50@gmail.com חזי קונדלקר חשמל	R.E EYEBROW DESIGN STUDIO 0524471595 Ravit_eyebrow	דיירים יקרים שלום רב ... חושבים למכור או לקנות נכס? אנחנו הכתובת עבורך! אנגלו-סכסון אשדוד ייעוץ ראשוני במתנה* בניית תמהיל משכנתא תמחור הדירה שיווק ופרסום אפקטיבי צילום הנכס חייגו עוד היום! 050-9995699 ייעוץ ראשוני ייעוץ ומעקב עד ל"ח הגעת למקום הנכון 12/03/23 עד 11:32 ייעוץ ראשוני 3500 ש"ח
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חבילות צילום ואטרקציות לכל סוגי האירועים 📷 ✓ משה 054-7349912 / שני 052-2912379 רוצים באירוע שלכם, לחצו כאן! 📞 https://wa.me/972547349912	חיתור אוסקר יועץ הדור'ן שלכם 052-7731784 דמונה והסביבה LevelUP 14:04	מוש צילום והפקות אירועים Mosh
בס"ד MOSH צילום והפקות כל מה שצריך לאירוע מאקום אחד • צילום והפקות אירועים • ניהול אירוע • אטרקציות • חבילות סלואו • עיצוב, מיתוג ותפאורה • שולחן מתוקים ודוכני מזון • מזכרות ומתנות לאורחים • ועוד... לפרטים בוספים: משה - 054-7349912 שני - 052-2912379 MOSH_EVENT MOSH צילום והפקות 15:12	הרב דולב אוסקר המוהל - הכי טוב לילד שלי! סטנדרטים גבוהים ביותר • חווית ברית כלתי נשכחת נפגש בשמחות - 054-8430442 14:05	גבריאל רוהקר רו"ח Gabriel rohaker C.P.A. מתמחה בחברות עצמאיים עמותות 053-2852488 054-998-1581 077-4448299 08-8559556 מייל: grohaker@gmail.com

 Salomon בית הקוסמטיקה שמחה סלומון קוסמטיקאית פרא רפואית 052-3262908 אסא המלך 7/1 אזור יג' אשדוד	 אריה הדס 054-8306543 מכירה • קניה • השכרה • יזמות • נדל"ן hadas2018@walla.co.il	 כל בו ראובן שכפול מפתחות לבית ולרכב שלטים לשערים ורכבים הומרי בניין צבעים. אינסטלציה וחשמל החלפת צילנדרים רחוב שוהם 2 אשדוד 08-8555152		
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Rezina Daniels, Match Maker for Bene-Israel

+972-52-5747486



Rezina Daniels is looking for matches for the following

In India	In Israel	In USA	In Canada
1. Well Qualified working BI girl in Mumbai 30 looking for match in USA Canada UK Australia. 2. Well Qualified working BI girl in Mumbai 34 looking for match in USA Canada UK Australia. 3. BI girl 36 qualified working with good job in Pune looking BI boy. 4. Girl 38 educated working in Alibaug looking for a suitable boy.	1. Divorced man 40 2 children 2 Divorced man 42 living alone 3 Girl 32 educated working, uses hearing aid for one ear looking for a boy. 4. 35 boy slightly delcix, gets monthly national disability, expert in all work at home (cleaning cooking washing) looking for suitable.	1. 56 Bene-Israel Divorced man, children not living with him. Will marry and get the wife USA citizenship. 2. 63 Bene-Israel Divorced man, religious like in India, children not living with him. Will marry and get the wife USA citizenship. Nepal/Moldovia Girls willing to take Jewish Religion for suitable marriage.	1. Bene-Israel girl 40, height 5.7' looking for tall Bene-Israel boy. 2. Bene-Israel girl 35 looking for a Bene-Israel boy In UK 34 boy software engineer from London UK, mother Bene-Israel, father Jew from UK.

Happy Passover to all the readers

“Then Moses said to the people, ‘Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast.’”

-- Exodus 13:3

“Passover is one of my favorite times of the year. This is when the whole community and family gets together to remember who we are and why we are here.”

“In Jewish history there are no coincidences.”



**“...AND WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD, I
WILL PASS OVER YOU; AND
THE PLAGUE SHALL NOT BE ON
YOU TO DESTROY YOU WHEN I
STRIKE THE LAND OF EGYPT.”**

EXODUS 12:13

**Not once does
the Bible say,
"worry about it,"
"stress over it,"
or, "figure it out."
But over & over
it clearly says,
"TRUST God."**

We are looking for help in Hebrew and Marathi articles. More writers are also welcome.

Thank you to all who sent us the matter to make this issue possible

Follow us on Face book and become our friends: <https://www.facebook.com/wbwo.daniels.1>

To Our Readers

1. Please send us your letters and articles to email: shaniwartali@gmail.com
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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 differences of opinion, that will always remain and respected.
8. Please excuse us if you find any mistakes. We tried our best.
9. There is no guarantee all the information given here are fully investigated.

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Coming Dead Line to submit matter for next issue:

June 15, 2023