

THE HEBREW ACADEMY TIMES

HATS OFF TO OUR COMMUNITIES! ***Term 2 of the 2024-2025 School Year***

***A Newspaper FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE of
Hebrew Academy of Tampa Bay***

We ROAR with LION PRIDE!



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Her Indiana Homeland

She daydreamed while staring at the gentle swaying of wheat out the 100-year-old windows of the family farmhouse. She studied the planting and harvesting of huge expanses of field corn, soybeans, and that same wheat year after year. Year after year she witnessed the birth, growth, and butchering of animals that kept her family well cared for. Hard work was compulsory, faith in the provisions of G-d's weather was required, and, though she didn't know it at the time, a deep love of the land was essential.



After living within the same 25-mile radius of central Indiana for more than 40 years, I moved to Shanghai, China. This amazing adventure of a lifetime was dimmed only by the feelings of homesickness. Living in China provided the opportunity to explore beyond the crowded, busy city streets into the calm countryside. The miles of beautiful farms working hard to produce fresh fruits and vegetables were evidence of a commonality with my upbringing. While enjoying the warmth of a sunny day, I found myself riding my bicycle through paddy fields of rice. My mind was immediately thrown 7,000 miles back to Indiana and reminded of bike rides I'd taken with my siblings so many years ago on our family farm.

The poetic and powerful ties I have to Indiana did not dissuade me from my dream of living in the land of white sand and palm trees though. So, my next big move brought me to the Tampa Bay area fulfilling my desire for long, hot summers. Instead of hauling blankets, boots, and gloves in my trunk, I now have a permanent stash of beach chairs and sunscreen. Sightings of foxes stealing chickens from the coop have been replaced with views of dolphins and manatees swimming near me. Gorgeous fields with row after row of lettuce and farm trucks with boxes of citrus on the way to a market are still reminiscent of the wide-open, sweeping acres of my childhood homeland. And when I see a father with his daughter on the back of a jet ski, I long for one more ride on the back of my dad's snowmobile.

I don't think I'll ever choose to live in Indiana again, and if I do, I pray it's not on a farm! However, I always choose grandma's pink peony flowers as my favorite smell. Red cardinals will forever hold a special place in my heart. I still miss knowing that, when spring has sprung, the farm will be brightened because I spent a chilly, fall Saturday digging in the dirt and planting tulip bulbs.

The beginning stanza of the official state poem of Indiana says,

*"G-d crowned her hills with beauty,
Gave her lakes and winding streams,
Then He edged them all with woodlands
As the setting for our dreams."*

Whether I'm enjoying the winding streams of Indiana, the immense energy of Shanghai, or the sunsets of the Gulf Coast; G-d richly surrounds me with the beauty of amazing family and friends. My appreciation for long drives through the Indiana countryside is enriched by sharing it with family. Cold, winter visits warm my heart, and creating new Indiana memories is a blessing. And the recollection of daydreaming out the farmhouse window is crowned with a golden hue.

By Ms Stacy

Wisconsin

Written by: Shalom Amram

Memories:

When I was in Wisconsin I lived in an apartment. We had a lot of space and we had a huge window with a gas station right in front. We also had an ice cream store. I had some fun there. The reason was that my brothers and I would throw snowballs at each other every winter. I remember having cold days at school. Even when it was below 30 degrees outside my friends and I would climb up a snow mountain. On weekends, we would go to our friend's house. In the summer, we went to the pools. The pool had slides and a diving board. I wasn't tall enough to go on them, but my brother could and he would show me tricks. He also showed me how to play soccer. I remember leaving my house for Sukkos or Yom Kippur. On some holidays we would stay home. Through the years I had 5 dogs in my apartment. Our dog who moved to Florida with us is still very special to me. In Wisconsin, we would go to parks and play soccer. In my league, I had good players. After every game, the coach would give us drinks.

History:

Native tribes of Wisconsin include the Ojibwa, Sauk, Kickapoo, and Pottawatomie. The first European to record his exploration of this area was a French explorer named Jean Nicolet. Many Europeans followed to trade furs and settled on Native American land. The growing population allowed Wisconsin to gain statehood on May 29, 1848.

Population:

The population of Wisconsin in 2024 is 5,989,256 and the Jewish population is 33,455.

Culture:

Wisconsin is traditional to dairy farming and cheesemaking. Since 1940, people in Wisconsin have been known for their cheese and sometimes they use the nickname "Cheeseheads." They make cheese hats with yellow foam that looks like wedged cheese.

Sports:

In Wisconsin, they play football, baseball and basketball. The Green Bay Packers have been in the NFL since 1921 and have won many titles. So many victories brought the nickname of Titletown USA to the city of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

The Gettysburg Address

Written By Moshe Chaim Dubrowski

What was the Gettysburg Address, and why is it so famous?

After the bloody Battle of Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln gave a famous speech known as the Gettysburg Address. Abraham Lincoln used this speech to remind us The United States of America was founded based on liberty and equality. Everyone is equal meaning slaves should have the right to vote and not to be under the ownership of his or her master. The Gettysburg Address was handwritten five times by Abraham Lincoln, each written to a different person. Known as the Nicolay copy, Hay copy, Everett copy, Bancroft copy, and Bliss copy, each has small degrees of differences.



Destruction and Creation

By Avigayil Gondelman

San Francisco, a city located in California, is known for its amazing Mediterranean climate. The city was built upon the many hills and valleys throughout the landscape created 5784 years ago and Hashem blessed it with great beauty.

On April 18, 1906, at 5:12 AM a disastrous earthquake shook the northern California coast destroying many buildings and changing lives forever. At least seven hundred people did not survive. It also started a fire that demolished most of the business district. The San Andreas fault fell 21 feet and followed a segment about 270 miles long. The shaking was felt from Los Angeles, California in the south to Coos Bay, Oregon in the north.



After this tragedy, the citizens went to work rebuilding the city and making it proud again.

Acclaimed worldwide, the tremendous towers and sweeping cables of the Golden Gate Bridge are unique to San Francisco. Spanning the Pacific Ocean and linking Marin County to San Francisco the bridge stands 746 feet above sea level. Even though the Golden Gate Bridge is called 'golden' it is not. It is painted a reddish-orange. The gate got its name from the Golden Gate Strait which separates the two urban areas. The treasured landmark carries about 40 million automobiles a year and is not just for residents. The great span is admired and the focus of travelers from around the world. Citizens who live in San Francisco and work in Marin County are appreciative of the convenient commute and the reliable electricity the bridge provides.

With its rich history and famous landmarks San Francisco is an amazing place to visit. Many tourists from around the globe come to visit the city and experience the beautiful sites, especially at night when the golden luminescence is at its peak. Hashem has blessed this world with this exquisite city.

The Miracle of Air Canada Flight 143

By Emet Howitt Vallone

On Saturday, July 23, 1983, Air Canada Flight 143, ran out of fuel at an altitude of 41,000 feet. Although this was only midway through the flight, the crew successfully glided the Boeing 767 plane to an emergency landing at a former Canadian Air Force base in Gimli, Manitoba. This frightening mathematical calculation resulted in no serious injuries to passengers or people on the ground and only minor damage to the aircraft.

This unusual occurrence gave this plane the nickname "Gimli Glider". On board were 69 souls including the flight crew. Captain Robert Pearson and First Officer Maurice Quintal manned the flight deck. The fault of this dangerous event was later discovered to be a poorly soldered sensor and an error in converting between metric and imperial units when fueling. This was highly improbable. Truly, a one-in-a-million sequence of mistakes was made by Air Canada technicians.

The Gimli Glider began its final voyage on January 24, 2008, from Montreal Trudeau to Tucson International Airport. Thank Hashem airplanes are much safer than they were in the 1980's. Now airplanes take extra precautions to keep us safe on our flights and ensure a good ride!

History of Aviation In America

The Wright Brothers toiled from 1900 to 1902 to create the first-ever airplane. On December 17th, 1903 all of their efforts paid off. Boom! The airplane was born. They went on to replicate this revolutionary invention two more times, once in 1904 and again in 1905. This set the stage for all planes to come as airplanes keep evolving. If you compare a modern airplane to the ones the Wright Brothers built back in 1903 the difference is breathtaking. The Wright Brothers would probably faint if they saw the airplanes of today. It is predicted that in 100 hundred years airplanes won't be needed anymore because a new form of transportation, far superior to airplanes in the modern day, will be utilized on a daily basis.



In 2024, we should be very grateful we have such developed transportation methods when reminded of how life would be if you had lived in the 1800s; before cars, before airplanes. You would have to use a horse and buggy or just walk everywhere. Now we have amazing tools to help us relocate the atoms of our body. We should never take these things for granted and always appreciate what Hashem does for us!

CROWN HEIGHTS

BY CHANA LIPSZYC



In only three months, hundreds of women and girls including my mother and I, will pack for a joyous celebration in Crown Heights New York, called the Kinus. It will be freezing in Crown Heights, but I don't care! Maybe fresh white snow will greet me and allow me to play in it for the second time! As I think about going to New York with my mother in my comfy bed late at night, a warm thrill spreads through my body and races in my heart. I'm counting the days until the Kinus!

Sometimes you may wonder why you see a Jew on every street of Crown Heights or what type of Jew they are. Crown Heights has a large Jewish population from Eastern Europe, most of which came in the 1900s. Later Jews from the Caribbean moved into Crown Heights. Menachem Mendel Schneerson, who lived in Crown Heights, founded Lubavitch. He attracted many Chabad Jews to that area. After he died, the rebbe was buried in the Ohel. Many visit Crown Heights if something bad happens. They daven to the rebbe and pour out their stressful worries. Some write to the rebbe about their life. The Ohel is always bursting with Jews who walk out knowing their prayers are heard and going to be answered.



As I walk around Crown Heights and smell delicious food from one of the many Kosher restaurants and supermarkets, I am thankful we have many options. And as I help my brother get out of the ball pit in the Jewish kid's museum, I know how fortunate we are to have a Jewish museum. Kosher sushi isn't found in Tampa, so I appreciate that I can eat sushi when I am in New York. I am so grateful to my mother for allowing me to go to the kinus. I may even see you there one day; davening at the ohel or eating sushi.

Exciting Beach Day!

By Chani Rivkin

Rosie was excited as she sat in the car, ready to go to the beach. She could hardly wait as they drove closer. When her mother announced they were almost there Rosie's heart filled with joy. Soon, the windows were down, letting in the fresh ocean air. She saw the bright blue ocean and the soft sand. Nearby, a small tourist boat was anchored on the water. Rosie had always dreamed of feeling the waves beneath a boat and hoped her mother would let her take a ride today. She felt so thankful when her mother bought tickets for this exciting experience.



As they rode across the waves, with curiosity Rosie asked, "What sea creatures will we see?"

Her mother smiled and replied, "You might see big fish, small fish, and maybe dolphins!" Rosie cheered because she loved dolphins. She quickly started to examine the deep, blue water and hoped to spot one.

Not knowing how much Rosie loves dolphins, Mother asked, "Do you know what's special about dolphins?"

Rosie thought for a moment and said, "They're beautiful."

Her mother nodded and added, "That's true, but dolphins also helped the Navy during the Gulf Wars." She explained the Gulf Wars were when the United States fought Iraq.

Rosie was surprised and said, "That's so cool! I never knew that!"

The time passed quickly and their boat ride came to an end. As they walked to the car, they both felt sad they hadn't seen any dolphins. Rosie's mother tried keeping their spirits up saying, "At least we talked about them."

Thirty minutes after their exhausting trip, Rosie fell asleep dreaming about their quick voyage.



I was fortunate to enjoy a dolphin tour on a boat like this story about Rosie. It is a great memory I share with my family. In the years since I've learned many interesting facts about dolphins. For those who would like to see something even more unique, visiting the Amazon River will provide the opportunity to see some pink dolphins. Truly a beautiful creation by the one and only Creator! Have you ever wondered why we call these smooth-skinned mammals, dolphins? The name comes from the Greek

word delphis. Dolphins share many emotional similarities with us humans. Showing many curious and playful behaviors, dolphins are loved by people around the world. Dolphins are recognized as being cute and friendly to humans, but they are also very connected to their pod of family members. And like dolphins, I'm thankful to be surrounded by my loving, caring family.

Who Was Nikola Tesla

By Sholom Rubashkin

One dark, chilly January night I lost my phone. I went upstairs to look in my dark room, but could not find it. What was the solution? I needed to turn on the light. I began to wonder who invented the light and how it works.

Nikola Tesla was born in 1856 in Smiljan, Croatia, part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. When Nikola Tesla was seven years old the town received its first fire pump and organized a fire department. Then the town leader arranged a party to demonstrate the new pump. It took sixteen people to activate the fire pump. The men took their positions and twisted the hose but nothing came out. It wasn't working.

Little did anyone know, but young Tesla knew what to do. "Excuse me, mister. I think I know what to do," he braved.

The town's men were astonished. Tesla told the firemen to keep pumping while he worked on the problem. Thoughts ran through Nikola Tesla's mind, however, within a few seconds he saw a twist in the hose. He straightened the hose and whoosh water shot out. The demonstration became a big moment as the pump sprayed water, and the townspeople cheered.

This led to an amazing future. When Nikola Tesla grew older he started doing research. Tesla's hard research throughout his life led to a worthwhile legacy in modern technology and fascination with the man himself.

Nikola Tesla changed the US when he introduced new electrical technology. In comparison to Thomas Edison's direct current (D-C), Tesla's alternating current (A-C) was much cheaper and easier to receive. On the other hand, A-C can travel many miles because A-C bounces back before losing electricity. D-C doesn't last as long because it loses energy on the way, unlike the A-C current.

We are thankful to Hashem for creating these people.

Garfield the Famous Cat

By Maya Sasser



On June 19, 1978, Jim Davis finished his new comic. The comic's name was Garfield. The cartoonist named this new comic Garfield after his grandfather, James A. Garfield Davis. Did you know Garfield isn't only a comic strip? There are Garfield shows, movies, mugs and T-shirts celebrating the love people feel for Garfield.

Garfield is a round-bodied, orange-and-black cat who loves lasagna. On the other hand, he has an extreme dislike for Mondays and especially diets! He can be mischievous even standing on his hind legs. Some wonder if Garfield would be even more trouble if using all four legs. Garfield lives with two companions. Odie is a small, yellow beagle who is very energetic and loveable. Our pasta-loving cat thinks Odie is dim-witted but helpful.

This character is usually my first choice, probably because I am obsessed with all things cat. On top of that, Garfield happens to be a big part of American pop culture because so many find him relatable. Jim Davis is just one of the many artists who have contributed to our rich American history. I appreciate the creativity of Jim Davis and am thankful to enjoy the humor of Garfield with my family.

I Like Florida

By Goldy Schwartz

I am thankful to live in Florida. My father's doctor said he should move to "The Sunshine State" for his health. This is why we moved from Monsey, New York to exotic Wimauma, Florida in July 2024. We were dreaming about sunshine and beaches on the long drive. When we got here, my family found so much more. My family and I enjoy the farmer's markets with fresh tomatoes, oranges, and bananas. I like to see the green pastures of cows cooling themselves in the small pond near my neighborhood. The Little Manatee River Park and Elmira Wildlife Sanctuary allow us to wander through nature paths hearing the call of blue jays, the songs of northern mockingbirds, and the snorts of alligators.

My family was blessed with a brand-new house in Wimauma. It has two stories, five bedrooms, and a huge kitchen with room for a dairy side, a meat side, and a parve area. Being so hot in Florida, no home would be comfortable without a screened-in swimming pool and hot tub! It's the perfect home.

In the balmy weather of Florida, Dad's health has started to get better. He likes to go in the pool with us kids or relax on the porch in the evenings. Dad is stronger now, he can travel more and no longer comes home exhausted from work. Mom is thankful Dad is feeling better in our sunny, Florida weather.

Capital: Tallahassee

Population: (2020) 21,538,187; (2023 est.) 22,610,726

Governor: Ron DeSantis (Republican)

State Nickname: Sunshine State

Date of Statehood: March 3, 1845

State motto: "In God We Trust"

State bird: northern mockingbird

State flowers: orange blossom and coreopsis

State song: "Swanee River"

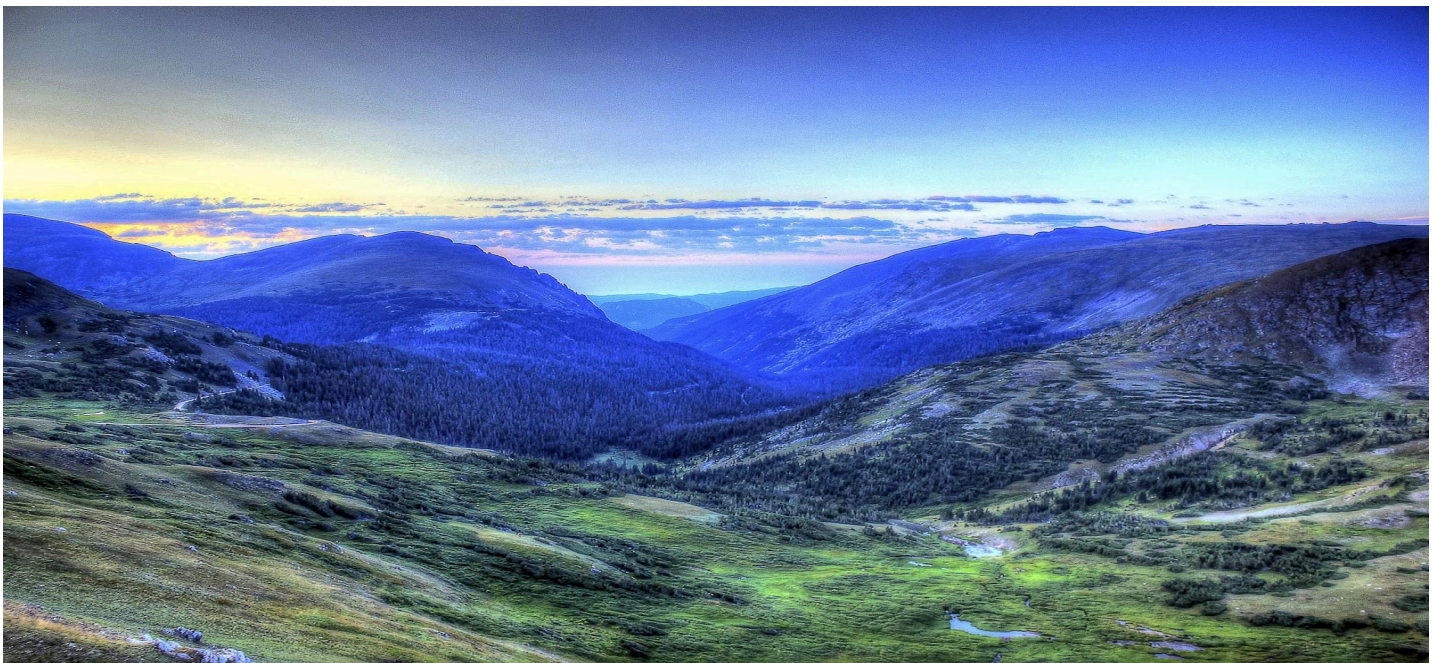


The Rocky Mountains of America

By Yossi Shimonov

The Rocky Mountains are a major mountain system in North America. This mountain range extends more than 3,000 mi (4,800 km) from central New Mexico to northwest Alaska. Many rivers flow to the Atlantic Ocean from these beautiful peaks. Hundreds of years ago trails skirting the southern end of the U.S. Rockies were popular; allowing many explorers to find copper, silver, and gold. From then until now Americans have used the land for many reasons.

I am thankful that many people like to visit the Rocky Mountains and I hope I can there too.



Whatever It Takes I'm Getting Out of Here

By Dovid Yarmush

Ellis Island opened many families' hopes for a better life.

Before Ellis Island became the famous immigration station, it was a meaningless little island. Around the time of the horrific Revolutionary War, a man named Samuel Ellis bought the island. Although he later sold it, he is still honored to have it named after him today. The New York government admitted about eight million immigrants from 1855 to 1890. In 1890, the federal government took over

immigration. A suitable place for the complicated job of immigration was needed and this was solved by the use of Ellis Island. Now their only problem was that Ellis Island was a mere 3.3 acres. Then more land was added and Ellis Island was upgraded to 27.5 acres!



Ellis Island was the immigrants' (people leaving their homeland in search of a better life) first stop in America. Without the historic Ellis Island, many people, maybe even myself, wouldn't be

in the safety of the land of opportunity today. Although The United States of America was known as the land of opportunity, Ellis Island was called the island of tears. More than 12 million people were forever separated from their family and friends back home as they chose to walk through the halls of Ellis Island. Out of the 12 million people that came to Ellis Island about 1.5 million were Jewish!

One of the first sights immigrants saw when arriving at Ellis Island was the renowned Statue of Liberty. The Statue of Liberty was given to the USA by France as a sign of our friendship. On June 17, 1885, the ship carrying the dismantled Statue of Liberty docked at the New York Harbor after carrying 350 pieces packed in more than 200 cases across the Atlantic Ocean. The Statue of Liberty is made of copper and iron. The well-built Lady Liberty has to withstand about 600 lightning strikes each year and yet still stands today as a symbol of freedom and democracy.



From 1892 to 1954, Ellis Island provided the opportunity for a different life to many families from around the world. Numerous amazing friends and family wouldn't be in America without Ellis Island. I am thankful Hashem made this wonderful island that led many people to safety as they entered America. We have to thank Hashem for his amazing ways of helping people in different situations.

Hobbies

By Shneur Yarmush

Hobbies are activities people do for pleasure. Popular hobbies include reading books, drawing, coloring, and painting. The average adult spends around \$3,000 on their hobbies each year. Parents spend a lot of money on their children also. Not only do people have hobbies, but animals also have hobbies. For example, some turkeys play soccer and Japanese macaques love to hang out in hot springs.

Imagine two houses. At one house, people are playing soccer and having the time of their life. In the other house, someone is computer hacking. Unfortunately, hobbies are sometimes used in awful ways. Luckily, most people in the world use hobbies in a good way.

There are thousands and thousands of hobbies around the world. If you live in the United States, you might have one of the hobbies popular in the United States. Hobbies such as baseball, coloring, typing, and playing video games are common throughout the United States.

I am very thankful there are many hobbies to enjoy.