The Israeli gadgets wowing the world

By Viva Sarah Press

As the 50th annual Consumer Electronics Show gets underway today in Las Vegas, marketers, aficionados and tech devotees are keeping an eye on the new technologies making debuts.

Once again, many Israeli companies are taking part in the world's largest consumer electronics show and are hoping for interest and media coverage for their novel technologies.

This year, the Israel Pavilion Project Ally VR headset to much hype at this year's event and attracted hundreds of reporters and analysts in case the gaming interest and media coverage are looking for help for your family? Will your new community fit your desires? A bit of advance checking will help you make the best choice for your needs.

While you are counting days to the big day (or night), don't forget to ask for audio and video technologies, 3D printing, IoT technologies, mHealth and other necessary services! Will your new community lend up costing you more in local taxes or other municipal fees? Abit of advance checking can help you make the best choice for your needs.

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Two young campers at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires enjoy the waterfront. At this camp, those entering third grade can try out a seven-day session.

By Lucy Cohen Blatter

(STATEPOINT)—Wondering if your child is ready for overnight camp? Karen Allford, a sleepaway camp consultant, is he or she has grown tired of day camp.

“At 9 or going into fourth grade), you’ve probably been doing day camp for several years, and there’s just a natural progression to sleepaway camp,” she told JTA.

“Of course, Allford added, some kids aren’t ready until they’re older. “You have to know your child and what they can handle,” she said, adding “some parents with kids who have trouble separating find camp even more helpful at a younger age because it builds independence.”

Luckily, most Jewish summer camps pay close attention to easing their youngest kids into the sleepaway experience. From pre-camp meet-and-greets to special presents for first-time campers to the common availability of ultra-short sessions—anywhere from five to 11 days—camps are acutely aware of the need to gently transition their littlest and newest campers into the culture of overnight camp.

In addition to providing additional resources for the young newcomers—and, of course, their anxious parents—many camps also hire additional staff and train them in some hand-holding.

Take Camp Judaea, a pluralistic Jewish camp in North Carolina. It offers a Taste of Camp Judaea, an 11-day program for kids as young as 5. Unlike older campers who can “specialize” in certain activities, the youngest campers, called Rishonim, get to sample all of the camp activities, including zip-lining and horseback riding.

“Taste program is available for kids until the fourth grade. “It’s honest, in some ways it’s more for the parents than the campers,” said David Berlin, assistant director of Camp Judaea. “The parents tend to be more nervous. This is a way for them to check into camp.”

Additionally, the ratio of campers to counselors is lower for the Camp Judaea’s earliest newcomers, below 3:1, as opposed to about 4.5:1 for the older kids.

To prepare the first-timers, Camp Judaea holds pair or group meetings for new families, most of whom come from the community. Of course, Alford added, the New campers get to watch a video, hear about a typical day at camp and have their questions answered.

“It allows the families an opportunity to meet each other before the summer begins,” Berlin said.

They also used to send first-timers a book about camp called “The Sleepaway Summer,” by Jenny Meyerhoff—but it’s out of print. Berlin said the book was a great way to get young campers excited and have them thinking about what they’re looking for a replacement.

“Take Camp Ramah in the Berkshires, which is one of the most well-known camps outside Los Angeles and part of the progressive Zionist movement, as an example,” he said. “Younger campers can experience sessions as short as four days.”

“We focus on easing them into camp,” said Executive Director Howard Shlapobersky. “We’re particularly sensitive to issues of homesickness and integration,” he said.

Linden said the camp employs staffers called “Taste Ramah.” “They provide a reassurance to kids who are a little older, usually parents—that who can get involved in tough situations. The camp also groups them in blocks of learning, dynamics, trying to make sure things are more the same for a couple of days before the session begins.”

At Camp Ramah, new parents to find out more about individual campers, including how they’re doing, and then prepared for them when they arrive.

“For example, if we know they’re really into magic, we’ll pair them with a counselor who loves magic tricks ready,” Shlapobersky said.

“Younger siblings have parents who are really into sleepaway camp experience, are often familiar with the campgrounds from a visit in the past,” Allford said. “Plus, they’ve seen how much fun their older siblings have had.”

“Younger siblings have parents who are really into sleepaway camp experience, are often familiar with the campgrounds from a visit in the past,” Allford said. “Plus, they’ve seen how much fun their older siblings have had.”

This article was made possible with funding by the Foundation for Jewish Camps. The story was produced independently and was not the discretion of JTA’s editorial team.
Dairy-Free Cream Pie with Tahini and Chocolate

By Aly Miller

The Nosher via JTA—

Some recipe ideas come together on the first try, without any mess or fuss. This recipe happens to be one of the latter.

Others are true labors of love, like grains that simmer but never get soft until some unexpected moment at the end. This recipe happens to be one of the latter.

Using tahini instead of peanut butter is one of my classic moves, and I know I’m not the only one. Tahini adds a nutty flavor with a hint of bitterness that goes perfectly with smooth, dark chocolate. Sometimes, sesame seeds themselves are called for. While in Amsterdam last year, I became obsessed with Lindt’s sesame dark chocolate bar. The texture of crunchy, toasted seeds encased in velvety dark chocolate had me at “hello.” With these flavor visions in mind, I began recipe testing

Crust:

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups walnuts
- 1 heaping cup pitted dates, soaked for 10 minutes
- 2 tablespoons raw sesame seeds
- 3 cups full-fat coconut milk

Directions:

Press the crust mixture evenly into the bottom of the pie and (StatePoint) While make and model are still dominant

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Heritage Florida Jewish News, February 24, 2017

“Dairy-free pie in the filling?”

“Of course!”

“Of course what?”

“Dairy-free pie in the filling?”

“Really?”

“Really what?”

“Dairy-free pie in the filling?”

“Okay, okay!”

“Okay what?”

“Dairy-free pie in the filling?”

“Fine!”

“Fine what?”

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Jerusalem art school fosters design talent among students with disabilities

By Andrew Tobin

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The short-sleeved white t-shirt that Asaf Ventura took a lot away from him: His body and brain were shredded, his right hand was mangled. He was unable to fire his gun, swing his tennis racket or maintain focus.

But over time, Ventura realized the injuries he endured during a mission with his army unit in the West Bank gave him a new perspective, which as it turned out made him a great industrial designer.

"I remember in the hospital thinking, 'I'm only 22 and I've lost my body and my looks. I can't do any of the things I used to do,'" he told JTA. "Eventually I realized that because I don't think like a normal person [anymore], I can actually do some new things with design technology."

Ventura, 35, discovered his talent for design years later—attributing it to the effects of the injury that tore through his brain—when he became a student at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem. He credits his exposure to the academy and the help he’s been getting for his injury for helping him come "back to reality." "Bezalel Academy demands 100 percent from you, and I had to learn to give 100 percent," he said, referring to a state scale for physical disability that goes from 0 to 100 percent. "But they gave me a chance to succeed. I learned from other designers and got to work with really talented clients."

Bezalel, a 111-year-old mainstay of the Israeli art world, is known for producing top-notch talent in a variety of fields. The school also prides itself on promoting an inclusive creative process for people with disabilities.

About a decade ago, Bezalel started a close collaboration with industrial design for people with special needs. Over the years, students have created dozens of products: costumes that encourage children to move during physical therapy, air-pocketed prosthetic legs, or affordable, fashionable clothes that people with limited range of movement can easily get on and off.

Due to this kind of work, Ventura and his classmates submitted an entry to the $50,000 Ruderman Prize in Inclusion, which recognizes organizations that foster the full inclusion of people with disabilities. The Ruderman Family Foundation has been awarding the prize for the past five years; this year the $250,000 was split among five organizations around the world in art, technology and media.

"We loved the fact that Bezalel is a very well known art and design school, and not just an organization, yet they still choose to include people with disabilities in things like the "Inclusion," said Dalcera, the Israel director of the Ruderman Family Foundation. "We think they are an example of how Israel can be more inclusive in change the Israeli mindset on disability.""Bezalel will use the prize money, Bezalel will launch two undergraduate courses next fall in "inclusive design,"" said Dalcera. "This year, the school began awarding scholarships—worth more than $1,000 each—to students whose four projects are in inclusive design.

"We are committed to increasing awareness of people with disabilities and the difficulties they face," said Liv Sperber, the vice president for international affairs at Bezalel, who applied for the Ruderman Prize. "This event is both a recognition of what we’re involved in creating beautiful and inclusive designs."

Dalcera, 28, learned Monday that he is eligible for a scholarship for his project. In his fourth and final year of school, he is designing a soft inflatable pillow to help lift a person with mobility issues out of a seat. The idea came from helping manage the care of his wife’s grandfather, who has Alzheimer’s disease, and is relegated to a chair.

"To pick him up takes two people because he’s a big guy, so that means a family member has to be around 24/7 in addition to an aid worker," Dalcera said. "The situation is very difficult for the whole family. So I wanted to create something that doesn’t solve the problem, but at least eases it."

Like other fourth year students, he is in the conceptualizing stage of his project. Dalcera plans to begin developing and testing working prototypes. Money from the grant will help him "create a better prototype than he could do otherwise," Dalcera said. Dalcera is already working on a patent for the design.

There were no grants for Ventura’s project, which came from Bezalel in 2015, but he said there were other forms of support. Theschool challenged him like any other student, he said, but also accommodated his cognitive and physical disabilities with services like note-takers and options for test taking.

For his final project, Ventura built a floating gym for people rehabilitating from injuries. Over the six month-plus process, he was helped by some of the people who were part of his own rehabilitation. Madatech—the national science museum, where he interned for two years before Bezalel—let him use its tools and space. And wounded soldiers at Beit Haloshem Haifa, the army center where he did more than four years of intensive rehabilitation, helped him test his designs in the training pool.

"In the pool, people can do all kinds of things they wouldn’t be able to do otherwise," Ventura said. "They are lighter, of course you can see your scars. But also, they don’t have to rely on their bodies. Underwater, nobody can see your scars."

The summer before he graduated, Bezalel displayed the gym, which Ventura dubbed the Venduta in portmanteau of his last name and "medusa." Hebrew for jellyfish), along with hundreds of other students’ art and design projects. Bezaelel’s annual exhibition draws some 25,000 people. Ventura appeared on Israeli TV and had visits with several government ministers.

He went on to found a company called Left Hand Design, aiming to bring the Venduta to market. Ventura now lives with his father in Haifa and has taken out loans to produce an upgraded prototype of the gym. He is looking for investors. In the meantime, Ventura also works full time at Madatech where he designs exhibitions.

Avital Sandler-Leoff, the director of JDC-Israel Unlimited—a partnership between the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Ruderman Family Foundation and the Israel government—said not all people with disabilities are able to find the support Ventura did.

The country is 30 years behind in the United States when it comes to services for people with disabilities, she said, and the lag is reflected in social attitudes. According to JDC study, more than half of Israelis are not willing to be neighbors with or rent an apartment to someone with a mental disability.

But Israel’s embrace of high tech has been driving progress lately, and institutes of higher education have the potential to take the lead, Sandler-Leoff said. Her group plans to launch a program for autistic students at three universities this month, as well as a curriculum on disability studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem next month.

"There are more and more places like Bezalel, where a new generation of young people are saying, 'We want to be part of society. Let us contribute,'" she said.
Outdoor adventures offer out-of-this-world fun on Florida’s Space Coast

Lifestyle of the rich and famous: Warren Buffett's gems of wisdom

By Sara Debbie Gutfreund
Aish Hatorah Resources

A good friend of Warren Buffett was having dinner with Warren and a dozen others right before the New Year. As they discussed different upcoming events and meetings, Mr. Buffett pulled out a small, personal planner for 2017.

“Do you want to know what I have in my daily planner?” Everyone at the table leaned forward, eager to hear the details from the Warren Buffett planner. He held the planner up and showed them blank page after blank page.

“I have up and showed them blank pages. ‘I have never written out a vacation start with. …”

Vacation destinations where you can stretch your Dollar in 2017

Opal Sands Resort. A new

In 2016 in the Clearwater

Unveiled its annual Wow Deal

Travelzoo, which recently

Commission means

more intense competition

the U.S. to Lima, creating

The French department of

tourism reports a 1.8 million

drop in the number of visitors
to Paris for the first 10 months

of 2016 compared to 2015. If

this trend continues, it will

likely drive down room rates.

For deals, consider weekends,

when business travelers leave
town.

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and snow force you indoors, you

might dream of getting away to somewhere warm and sunny that offers plenty of energizing fun and a much-needed change in the weather. Planning for your spring and summer vacations is a great way to score some budget-friendly deals. It also helps you beat the winter blues by giving you something to look forward to. But where to go, you might ask. One great option is Florida’s Space Coast.

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Get ready for summer and warm up with hot deals at your local boat show

(BPT)—Stop dreaming about summer boating and make it a reality by finding the best deals this winter. Starting in January, boat shows take place across the country. They offer some of the best pricing and incentives of the year—a major draw for the millions of Americans who take to the water each year on more than 12 million boats in the U.S., according to the National Marine Manufacturers Association. For those ready to plan their summer fun, boat shows are often the place to start.

Whether it’s fishing, sailing, cruising, riding personal watercraft, waterskiing, or tubing—boat shows have it all and create a unique shopping experience with hundreds of boats under one roof to board, browse and buy. However, most people don’t know about the special pricing, incentives and perks these events offer. Discover Boating, the national awareness program to help get people on the water, offers five tips to find the best deal at your local boat show.

• Find your virtual dreamboat. Before visiting a boat show, you’ll want to know which boats to shop. Start your search online with DiscoverBoating.com’s Boat Selector to identify which boat types fit your lifestyle, interests, and budget. Plug in your preferences for on-water activities, number of passengers, boat length, price range and propulsion, to narrow down boat options before heading to your local boat show.

• Warm up with hot deals. Unlike auto shows, boat shows are the place to buy. Hundreds of new-year models are available to buy right at the show, often at some of the best prices of the year as exhibitors generally offer special show pricing or other incentives. Plus, it’s the perfect time to order a new boat to ensure it arrives ready to launch in spring.

• Make the most of show pricing. It helps to know what fits in your budget before shopping a show. Use this boat loan calculator on DiscoverBoating.com to estimate monthly payments, which can be as low as $250 a month or less.

• Try out the boating lifestyle. Boat shows are a great place for beginners to learn about boating and for more experienced captains to hone their skills, plus they offer lots of fun and interactive activities for the whole family. Look for boat shows that offer knot-tying, DIY boat maintenance, a sailing simulator, remote control docking ponds, virtual boating simulators, paddlesports pools, fishing for kids and much more. It’s not only fun to learn new skills, but smart to take advantage of the onsite training boat shows offer usually at little to no cost. Plus, it’s a great place to meet other boaters as many make their local boat show a winter rendezvous.

• Look for the seal of approval. When shopping for a boat at a show, online or at a dealership, always check to make sure it is certified by the National Marine Manufacturers Association. An “NMMA Certified” seal means a boat has met strict industry standards for safety, construction and federal regulations, ensuring the best quality to the buyer. Look for the NMMA certified sticker near the helm.

Boat shows not only offer the best deals of the year, but they are also a way to learn how to get on the water, while enjoying a taste of summer boating during the off season. Visit DiscoverBoating.com to find a boat show near you, a list of certified dealers and manufacturers, and unbiased advice for getting started in boating.
Finally, a book for Jews with Alzheimer’s

By Lisa Keys

NEW YORK (JTA)—The book is large and fits comfortably on a lap. The color photographs nearly fill each page. Each image depicts real people doing everyday Jewish things—a young girl eating matzah ball soup; a bubble and her grandmother lying in the grass; a man eating matzah ball soup; a woman reading the Bible.

But the book is not for young children learning how to read, nor is it for parents to introduce Judaism to their preschoolers.

It is not for adults with memory loss, ‘Blue Sky, White Clouds.’

For all your Real Estate needs.

For Sobel, who lives in Red Bank, New Jersey, said he headed to the local Barnes & Noble to get his picture book for dementia patients.

“Blue Sky, White Clouds: A Family Journey Through Alzheimer’s” was published in 2012. Like “L’Chaim,” the book features a series of large color photographs of things like birds, trees and houses with captions such as “The baby is fast asleep” and “Snow covers the trees.”

“Hementia’s family says, the say the names of the pictures, make some comments or are in any way affected by the books, that’s a good thing, period,” David Teplow, a professor of neurology at UCLA, told JTA. (Teplow provided a blurb for “Blue Sky”: “It certainly appears to be necessary to fill a void in this wonderful book in the realistic representation of images and ideas for people with memory and cognitive impairment.”)

By Lisa Keys

“Blue Sky” was a bit of a no-brainer. “My mother’s idea of beauty was ‘Blue Sky.’ If patients see the pictures, they are simple (“Mother says lying in the grass; a man eating matzah ball soup; a woman reading the Bible.”)

“It was almost a blessing to be around her; someone who radiated love and welcoming everyone,” he said. “I was freed up to feel and express my love for her, which had been held up since my teenage years.”

The book, he said, seemed to stick to some common—and just as important—realities. Sobel’s father, Max, took care of his mother until he fell and suffered a traumatic brain injury himself on Halloween last year, three days before his 97th wedding anniversary. (He died in November.)

“My mother was a woman who knew the world. If your meal is mainly savory dishes, the Sequoia Grove Cabernet Sauvignon 2013 (SRP: $39.99) would be a terrific choice. It is elegant, full-bodied and racy with fruit flavors and wonderful structure. Cabernet Sauvignon do not live up to their full potential in the presence of sugar, but become soft, almost velvet-like with a sauce that has a good acidic backbone.”

Chicken breast, whisking as you would to create a smooth sauce. Add the lemon juice, chives, and thyme. Bring to a boil and reduce heat to simmer for 5 minutes until slightly thickened. Season with salt and pepper.

For more information about Sequoia Grove winery and its educational seminars, visit sequoia-grove.com.

Use these helpful hints at your next dinner party to add a little flair to your meal.

Food and wine pairing ideas

Preparation

Heat oil and butter in a large non-stick sauté pan and add the chicken. Brown and cook on each side; once browned, remove from the pan, leaving the fat.

Slice chicken horizontally into three or four thin pieces, removing and saving the skin.

Dredge the chicken in the flour until coated.

Heat oil and butter in a large non-stick saucepan and add the garlic. Brown and cook on each side; once browned, remove from the pan, leaving the fat.

For several years, Sobel said, he and his mother were “at loggerheads for a lot of my adult life,” when her memory did not match her release from her terrible memories.

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Use these helpful hints at your next dinner party to add a little flair to your meal.