

★ Welcome Back Edition! ★

The Cougar Chronicle

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JACK M. BARRACK HEBREW ACADEMY

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A Summer Spent Traveling

Stefanie Rose, Executive Editor

Summer is a time for relaxing, a break from around-the-clock school work. Many people spend their time relaxing by traveling to different countries. Billy Cohen ('20) and Anita Hoffman ('21) both spent their summers in places far from the Main Line. Cohen decided to go on Ramah's seminar program, a six-week adventure in Israel. Hoffman's summer was filled with the beautiful views of Europe.

Cohen decided to embark on his six-week journey in the land of Israel because he wanted to share the special connection to the Holyland with his camp friends. The seminar program included the option to go to Poland, but he did not do that. After flying out of New York's Kennedy airport with the 'Israel group', he met up in the North, in

Photo Credit: Anita Hoffman



The city of Florence

a youth village called Hodayot, with those who chose to go to Poland. Throughout the weeks, he went on several different hikes up North, including one where he woke up to see the sunrise. He then ventured to the Kineret and hiked all around it. Cohen also went to both the Syria and Lebanon borders and learned about Israel's history with those countries.

After living up North for about 10 days, the entire group went to Jerusalem and stayed in the Goldstein Youth Village. They did an archeological dig, sloshed through water

tunnels, and experienced Israel's history and archeology in the City of David. Cohen spent endless Shabbats at the Kotel with his entire group, composed of teens in the six overnight Ramah camps in America, and Ramah in Canada. They then traveled to the West Bank and learned about the long history of the conflict over the land. Towards the middle of the program, there was a 'host weekend',

where Cohen spent Shabbat with a few close camp friends and their past counselors. Then came Etgar week; there were four choices for what each person could do: Yam leYam (a hike from the Mediterranean to the Kineret), Desert Survival, Gadna (army training), or Hebrew Bootcamp. He also participated in Israel Unwrapped programming,

which focused on one aspect of life in Israel: culture, politics and government, or ecology.

For the last week, Cohen went to the South to live in two different kibbutzim, where he snorkeled, played in the sand dunes, and visited the Soda Stream Company. He also stayed in Bedouin tents, rode camels, climbed Masada to see the sunrise, and floated in the Dead Sea. "I loved being able to spend my last Shabbat in Jerusalem, 'the heart of Israel'", said Cohen. Overall, his favorite part of the trip was the fact that he was able to be in Israel with



Photo Credit: Billy Cohen

Billy Cohen '20 (left) and friends in Israel on Ramah Seminar

people who shared the same amount of love for the place as he did.

Anita Hoffman spent her summer in Italy. She traveled to Venice, Cinque Terre, and Siena, but she spent most of her weeks learning about art history in Florence. She enriched herself in this small-town, food-oriented, leather-based, fun culture. Along the way she met people from as far as Moscow to as close as Villanova. She loved how each city has its own culture, with Venice's gondola rides to Cinque Terre's five beaches. She spent the last week of her stay traveling Sorrento, Positano, Capri, and Rome. She adventured through the grottos, discovered the rich history of the Colosseum, and explored Vatican City. Hoffman stated that, "being given the chance to travel Italy has opened my eyes to how lucky I am. The opportunity to explore another country's culture, with new life-long friends, is one I would never trade."

Give Felons a Second Chance

Serena Levingston, World News Editor

Should imprisoned felons be able to vote? Sixty-nine percent of registered voters don't think so. The issue seems straightforward: if a person "breaks the law" or commits a felony, that person should not be able to help "make the law" or vote. However, on closer examination, the issue of enfranchising felons is more nuanced than a simple cause and effect statement.

A felon is someone who has committed a felony -- a crime

whose punishment is the death penalty or a prison sentence longer than one year. Examples of felony crimes include possession of a large amount of drugs, physically injuring someone, rape, and murder.

Once released from prison, about 68% of prisoners are rearrested over the next three years. This statistic isn't surprising as it is difficult for criminals to return to their lives after jail; when jobs are limited, people turn to other ways

of earning money, such as dealing illegal goods. This is a felony, resulting in more imprisonment and disenfranchisement in most states. A vicious cycle then begins: prison, disenfranchisement, crime, prison, disenfranchisement, crime, etc. Only fourteen states and D.C. allow felons to vote immediately after their release from prison, including Pennsylvania, but Vermont and Maine are the only states to allow felons to vote while in prison.

Allowing felons to vote once out of prison is a way of ensuring that they do not commit more crimes in the future; if felons feel they are valued members of society with an essential role in choosing government officials who make laws, they may be less likely to disregard those same laws.

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Are APs Really That Helpful to Students?

Devora Solomon, Opinion Editor

Advanced Placement courses are classes that high school students can choose to take in place of lower level classes. At the end of the course, the students can choose to take an exam that, if they should receive a 4 or 5 out of 5, can give them credit when they enter college. While AP courses date back to the 1950s, their use is still disputed today. At Barrack, only seniors are offered to take APs.

AP classes can be very helpful for the college admissions process. If a student wants to demonstrate to a college or university that he/she is capable of handling a challenging course load, APs are a great place to start. They look great on transcripts and, at schools that do class rankings, can raise a student's position in relation to the rest of his/her class. Many people say that a B or a C in an AP class can even look better on a transcript than an A in a lower level class, but this is proven not helpful when colleges or universities look at a student's GPA. Ruby Benjamin '20 added that "while AP tests provide students with a unique opportunity to show off their academic abilities, they often add undue stress to the already chaotic college admissions process." Some college professors even say

that AP courses are not equivalents of the corresponding college course and do not accurately prepare students for the next level of the subject that they would take while in college.

Adin Solomon '18 said that he has a friend who came into Drexel with so many AP credits that he entered as a sophomore, wiping off a year of college. This is one of the benefits of taking APs. If students score high enough on their AP exams, they can take a semester or a year off of their college, effectively saving

they often do not take time off because it can be only enough to skip the intro courses, and many students simply choose to take more courses. Also, many colleges or universities do not grant as much college credit as students expect.

Another plus for taking AP courses is that they allow students to customize their course load in a way that prepares them for college. For example, someone can choose to take AP US History if they aren't interested in ancient or European

parents often force children into taking higher level AP classes because they want the best for their children, but this can mean that the students are not prepared to take the class. The students in this case could be less motivated because they do not want to occupy their time with a class that does not spark their interest.

AP courses are a controversial topic that varies among schools. While Barrack only offers them to seniors, they insist that it is in the best interest of the student and AP courses are not necessary earlier in high school. The most important thing when it comes to taking AP courses is the student's reason for choosing the course. If students choose the course because they are genuinely interested, it can be a great opportunity to explore a subject that is not in the general curriculum, and they can possibly earn college credit. However, if students are pressured into taking it by their parents or by the school, it can be a detriment to their high school experience by adding unnecessary stress to their already stressful life. While AP courses can be very beneficial, it is crucial for students to choose the right subject and most suitable level for them.

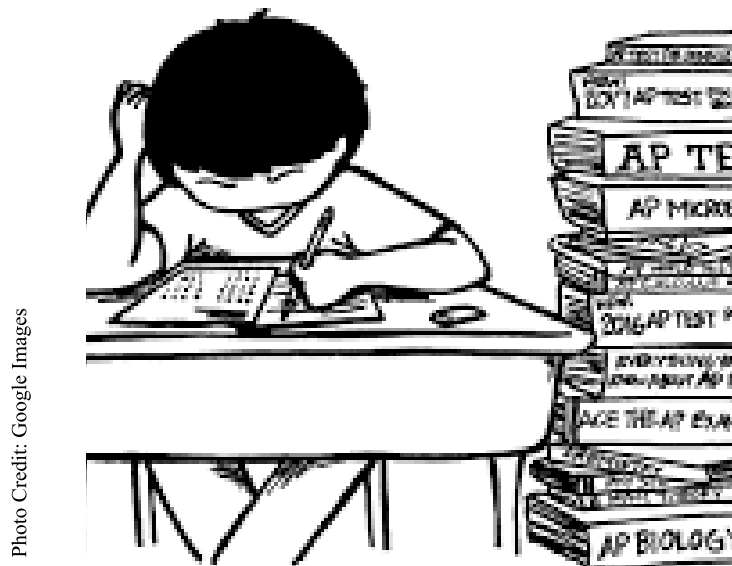


Photo Credit: Google Images

money. However, John Tierney, a former professor and current journalist, said that even when students enter college with credit,

history. This choice leads students to being more motivated to work hard because they chose to be in that class. On the other hand,

Too Much Democracy

Helen Rudoler, Editor-in-Chief

The value of the Electoral College has come into question since the contentious 2016 election, where Hillary Clinton won a plurality of the popular vote but Donald Trump was elected with a majority of electoral votes. At surface-level the Electoral College seems like an arbitrary and unnecessary impediment to the popular will. In reality though, it's an intentional and important barrier to direct democracy. American democracy is based on a system of power-checks and gridlocks designed to protect the nation from any group or individual accruing too much power. Counterintuitive as it may seem, one reason American democracy is so stable is that it's not only protected from

power-hungry politicians and government branches, but also from the people themselves. While the voice of the people is integral

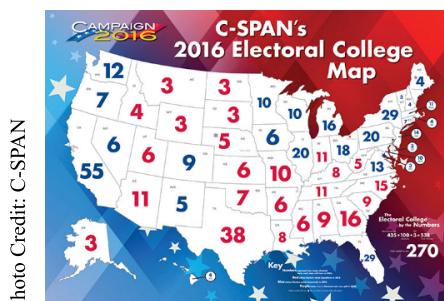


Photo Credit: C-SPAN

to a democracy, if the government overhauled with every shift in the public will, it would be a hot mess. That is why we have the stable sectors of government, such as the Senate, and the sectors that reflect dynamic public opinion, such as the House of Representatives.

The essentialness of the

Electoral College is hard to visualize in an election with only two serious candidates. Consider, however, an election with three or four major candidates -- the winner would need a plurality of just over 25% in the popular vote. If that was all it took to win, small, one-issue candidates would have a serious shot at becoming President. In a parliamentary system, that's the goal; the difference is, however, that the runners-up receive seats in parliament, meaning that even if your party doesn't win, your vote still helped to give them more sway in legislation. In America, however, Congress is an entirely separate process, so if the President only represented a small plurality, the majority of the nation would be

entirely unrepresented. America's Electoral College system demands that the President win with a majority, not a plurality, or else Congress gets to choose the President. This ensures that the President-elect really does satisfy the majority of the people, and not just the largest fringe.

So, next time you hear people claiming that it's not right that Trump became President without winning the popular vote, keep in mind that this is not the first time the Electoral College has superseded the popular vote, and if we want to preserve our government's stability, it won't be the last. A presidential term is only four years, but a stable government has carried us for 243 years and counting.

Animal Testing: As Cruel As It Seems?

Orli Friedman and Bailey Moshal, Members of Barrack Animal Rights Club
For the Chronicle

Animal testing is a very controversial issue in today’s society. While there are many individuals and organizations who strongly oppose the use of animals in laboratories, many scientists rely on the data collected through controlled animal experiments to complete their research. Some people believe that the use of animals within the scientific field is inhumane. However, many animals used for experimentation do not die due to testing. Pharmaceutical companies test their drugs on animals to ensure product efficacy. This practice is particularly effective with mice who, according to the European Animal Research Association, share 95% of our genes, making them a comparative model for the human body. Many scientists conduct research using mice by knocking out the activity of an individual gene to determine

the function of the gene and to learn about its purpose in the human body. The National Genome Research Institute provides examples of research in which knockout mice have been useful. This list includes research in cancer, obesity, heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, substance abuse, anxiety, aging and Parkinson’s disease.

Animal models of human diseases are vital to scientists, because they assist researchers in determining correct dosages and ensure the safety of drugs for human usage. Joshua Friedman MD PhD of

"The California Biomedical Research Association states that nearly all medical breakthroughs in the past 100 years resulted from research using animals."

Janssen Research and Development stated that “animal testing is essential for the creation of disease-curing drugs.” As a CEO of a pharmaceutical company whose practices do not risk the lives of the animals tested, he is confident in his company’s efforts since animal testing “allows there to be breakthroughs in medications that can save human lives.” The California Biomedical Research Association states that nearly all medical breakthroughs in the past 100 years resulted from research using animals.

The necessity for animal



Photo Credit: Google Images

Protesters gather at UCLA to support animal research

testing within the medical field is evident, and the research gathered from their usage has allowed scientists to gain valuable information about the human body and treatments for life threatening diseases. It is also important to recognize that in some cases animals even benefit from the experimentation, because the data collected has been valuable in saving endangered species from extinction. This was the case for the black-footed ferret, the California condor, and the tamatins of Brazil. Animal testing has also saved the lives of animals through testing vaccines such as rabies, feline leukemia, infectious hepatitis virus and many more. All requests to use animals for

research are approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and many programs choose to be reviewed for humane practices by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International. All animal testing has also been lawfully regulated since 1966 under the Federal Animal Welfare Act. The valuable research gained through animal testing has allowed scientists to further understand human anatomy and therefore create life-saving drugs to combat diseases. The use of animals in laboratories has proven essential to research regarding treatment and cures.

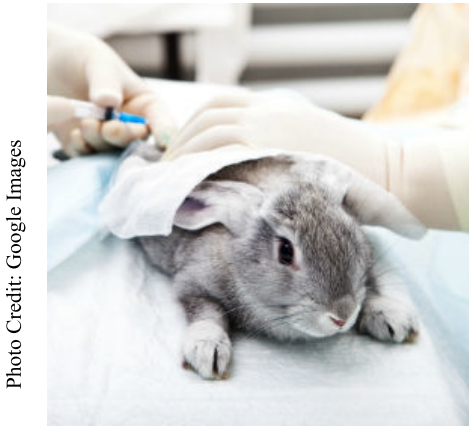


Photo Credit: Google Images

Felon Enfranchisement

Continued from page 1

In Vermont, where felons never lose their right to vote, about 41% of former prisoners are rearrested within three years of their release, much lower than the national average. As shown by Vermont’s example, through allowing felons to vote, it is possible to re-integrate them into society once their time in prison is completed. Most felons in Vermont don’t begin the vicious cycle referenced earlier in the article again by committing more crimes.

While I don’t believe that imprisoned felons should have the right to vote, I do believe that after felons finish their sentence, they should regain all of their rights. Imprisonment is a punishment, and while in prison, it’s appropriate for prisoners to have compromised rights. However, once prisoners complete their sentences and return to their homes, they should be able to continue living their lives unimpaired. Right now, about 6.1

"Allowing Felons to vote once out of prison is a way of ensuring that they do not commit more crimes."



Photo Credit: AP Photo/ Rob Carr

million Americans are barred from voting because of felony convictions, which is 2.5% of the adult population. Imagine the impact these adults could have on American government and society if given the right to vote. Former President of the United States Barack Obama said it best, explaining that while felons have committed crimes, “they are also Americans” who deserve the opportunity to “turn their lives around.”

Electability: Love It or Leave It?

Niva Cohen, Staff Writer

In examining the presidential candidates for the 2020 primaries, Democrats are searching for a quality that has never been seen as important before: electability. Many members of the party want, more than anything else, a nominee who can beat President Trump in the Presidential election. Democrats are now focusing less on candidates' individual platforms, and more on whether or not they think a candidate has the personality and affect to win in the general election.

Other Democrats have been left wondering whether this is the right way to choose the next potential president or if they would be better off focusing on the candidates' positions on specific issues. They have to face the fact that if they do not pick someone who can win later on, there will be no one to push the Democratic agenda in office (at least not in the Executive Branch). Indeed, a specific candidate's opinions may not matter as much as people think. They might differ on certain issues, but most Democratic candidates share similar objectives, like how they all want to see a more equitable distribution of wealth and income. The most important mission is to get a Democrat into the position of president so that the Party can work on these objectives from within. Therefore, it is somewhat pointless to talk about specific views. One candidate may have great ideas, but if his/her party does not win, none of them will be executed.

Although some claim that this is the first time that electability has played any part in deciding a presidential nominee, it has always mattered on some level. Even when people are not consciously thinking about who is most likely to win the general election, they tend to vote for a candidate who is appealing (charismatic, charitable, funny, eloquent, outspoken). Whether or not citizens are focused on choosing someone electable, they are more likely to vote for a likable personality. Even when electability is not directly playing into a voter's decision, it plays a roundabout role in how people vote in the primaries.

Clearly Democrats should not neglect candidates' electability when deciding who they will vote for in the 2020 primaries. The question is, how can one decide who is and who is not electable?

Electability is not a clear or measurable trait. When a candidate is deemed "electable" by a trusted

source, the public begins to internalize and perpetuate this characterization. The candidate begins to receive more media coverage and financial support than their opponents, which gives them access to more potential voters. Therefore, they become the most electable simply because they were given that label early on and it provided them with more opportunity. Electability, a trait on which no one can quite put his/her finger, is not objective. In fact, electability is often a self-fulfilling prophecy, a quality that has no meaning in and of itself.

Despite the fact that any

euphemism for being a white man, American society should change that definition to move forward as a country and promote diversity in the presidency.

For exactly this reason, Amina Levites-Cohen '22 does not like the idea of focusing on electability. "I think that a candidate's position on the issues that we face as a country is more important than their electability. Electability is often judged in unfair and biased ways." She points out that there are many "promising candidates who are women," but she does not think that they have much of a chance because of the way that

moderate for electability has backfired on Democrats in the past. In 2016, many voted for Hillary Clinton because she was much less polarizing than Bernie Sanders, and citizens assumed she would beat Donald Trump, who was also radical. However, Trump resonated with a significant group of angry Americans more, and they chose him. Evidently, choosing a moderate does not please everyone, and just because someone is moderate does not make them more likely to win.

One can disagree with the president on every issue, but there is no denying that Trump has a vision for what he wants the United States to look like, and he shares it. Whoever his opponent will be, they must have their own clear vision in order to win. Electability is, of course, important, but a candidate will only gain enough votes if they have clear policies on top of their winning personality.

Electability should be a central factor of how the Democrats choose their nominee, because innovative and idealistic ideas cannot do the country any good when no one is pushing them in office, and someone who cannot attract voters will never make it to the White House. The problem with the Democratic party is not their focus on electability, but how they are currently thinking about it: the most electable candidate is not necessarily



Photo Credit: Alex Wong/ Getty Images

Joe Biden, a 76-year-old white man favored for the Democratic nomination because of his electability.

candidate coined as electable can become just that, Democrats often refer to a particular kind of person when using the word. Maddy Denker '22 says that in order to win an election, the nominee "cannot be too much of a minority. [She doesn't] think white middle America is ready for a black female president. Someone like Elizabeth Warren has already been attacked by the president and the Right and is not very electable." Denker does not like that the country is still most likely to elect a white man, but she *does* think that this is the case, and she is willing to give up diversity if it means putting a Democrat in office.

Denker is not the only one with this view. Most Democrats believe that Joe Biden is the most electable candidate. One reason is that he looks like almost every former American president: an old white man. As a matter of fact, 44 out of our 45 presidents have been white men. If being electable is a

Democrats think of electability. These women, and some people of color, should be favored, but citizens overlook them because they do not believe that certain conservatives will be willing to vote for a female or non-white candidate.

Another problem with how some Democrats choose who would be most likely to win a general election is that they look exclusively at moderates. These politicians might not be as objectionable to the Right, but they also do not propose the radical reform that many voters want to see. When a party's base wants change, it wants someone who will fight for real, tangible change, not just someone who the other side, too, will view as "okay." Choosing the most moderate candidate, even when he/she takes no strong positions, makes few people happy: most Democrats want someone more liberal, and most Republicans want someone more conservative.

Furthermore, choosing the

“When a party’s base wants change, it wants someone who will fight for real, tangible change.”

a white man or a moderate. If Hillary Clinton had gotten the African American votes that Barack Obama had, she would have won the election. And Trump, who is generally not considered a moderate, used his extremism to rile up seething Americans and get them to vote. Democrats must realize that using a moderate, white nominee -- exactly who the country is used to seeing in politics -- will not capture the support of millions of Americans who want radical change. A candidate needs to be *electable* to win the general election, and whatever this word means, it does *not* mean being a moderate white man.

Change in the Shape of a Room

Devora Solomon, Opinion Editor

Many Barrack students have seen the new Culture Change Room on the third floor. Tucked in next to the staircase on the third floor, by room 314 of the high school, this small room seems almost forgotten; as it turns out, it actually was!

"This new space is dedicated as a safe space, "something that deserves to be an integral part of the school."

Mr. Frank Tow (retired Math teacher) and Mrs. Kim Gillio (current Health and Physical Education teacher) took steps to effect change within our school's culture in the past few years. Working with faculty and other students to amend the school's sexual harassment policy was merely a jumping-off point for their larger goals of making Barrack a safe space for each and every student. When Mr. Tow saw the abandoned room, he seized an opportunity. After testing his key and seeing that it worked, he moved a desk in, hung up posters, and began hanging out in there,

inviting teachers and students to join him.

Nobody approved it, and Mr. Tow says Mrs. Levin was at first taken aback after he invited her to the new Culture Change Room, as she didn't even know it was there.

"Everyone always says 'yes' and gives support, but doesn't take action and try to be a part of it," Mr. Tow explained as his main motivator. He wanted to effect change but also didn't believe that it should have been his job as a Math teacher or Mrs. Gillio's job as a Gym teacher. The new Culture Change Room symbolized for Mr. Tow the beginning of a take-over, a take-over that should never have needed to happen.

Mr. Tow had been pushing the administration to fund training for teachers and bring in effective speakers for students, but to no avail. This new space is dedicated as a safe space, "something that deserves to be an integral part of the school," as Mr. Tow described it. The room will incorporate various aspects of civil discourse with a goal of teaching students and staff how to have respectful conversations about their

differences. This could include peer counseling and group discussions about the school, expanding on the buddy system, or acting as a supplement to Advisory. It could also just serve as a place to learn how to respond to comments or situations in which someone was made uncomfortable.

In describing the goals of the new space, Mr. Tow chuckled and commented on the irony of how all these objectives are dead center in Jewish values, yet seem to be lacking in our school. "Talmud was discourse over differences," he said, and "it wasn't always so respectful, and in a way, that's what makes it so great." The Rabbis of the Talmud discussed difficult things and forced people to look at every side of an issue before even coming close to an answer.

The Culture Change Room and the Culture Change Team led by Ms. Gillio are determined to turn our school into a community where everyone feels welcome and comfortable regardless of differences.

SA's Plans for This School Year

*Sarah Scheinmann, SA Secretary
For the Chronicle*

SA has many new and exciting implementations planned for the 2019-2020 school year. We have been working throughout the summer to give everyone the best year possible. To kick off the start of school, we have planned a carnival with fun activities and snacks.

We worked hard to create a new homework policy that will be implemented this year. All of the clubs and the letter days they meet will now be accessible on Canvas as individual classes.

We also have a new website and school store, new products in the vending machines, and an online payment system for grade sales will be instituted. We plan to increase school spirit through our new social media sites, as well as

"We have been working nonstop throughout the summer to ensure Barrack students have an extraordinary school year."

promote clubs and extracurriculars on these new platforms.

We have been working nonstop all summer to ensure Barrack students have an extraordinary school year. If you have any concerns or suggestions as to how we can further do that, please check out the SA portal located under the 'Students' button on the top of the website; once the 'Students' button is clicked and the log-in is correct, the portal will be on the right-hand side of the website. Students can submit an idea on our concern/idea form; your response goes right to us and we will make sure it is addressed. SA cannot wait for this school year!



Photo credits: Jbha.org

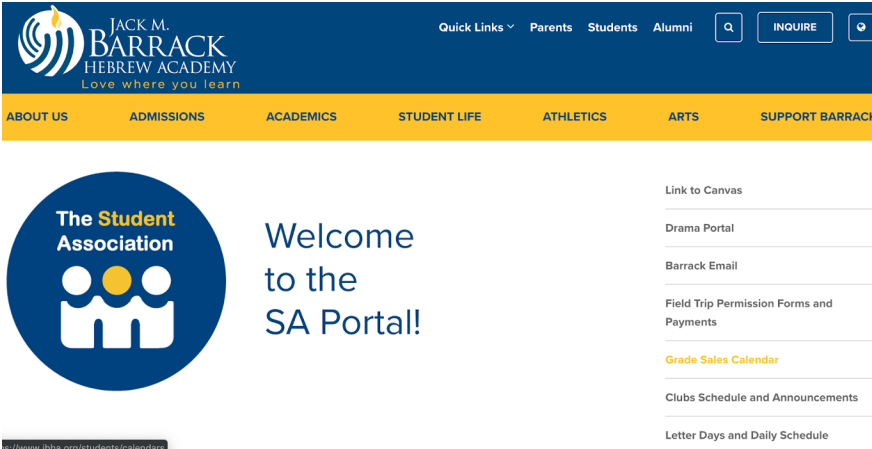


Photo Credits: Jbha.org

Everything a New High School Student at Barrack Should Know (Almost)

Rebecca Shaid, School News

First of all, welcome new students! It is a pleasure to have you in Barrack’s upper school. This article is to help you transition into high school smoothly, and especially into *Barrack’s* high school. It can be very different from others at times. So, let’s begin...

1. Always meet with your teachers when necessary. Every teacher’s door is open during break and lunch. Just send them a quick email asking to set up a meeting. Every teacher at Barrack wants you to succeed, and they will help you get there; you simply have to put yourself out there first and ask for help. Even if you’re just confused during one class or have a simple question about the homework, meeting with a teacher never hurts and it shows that you care about the class. Science and Math offices are on the second floor and English, History, and World Language offices are on the third.
2. Not only are your teachers’ doors always open, but the administration’s doors are as well. Dr. Darin Katz, Director of the Upper school, and Mrs. Sharon Levin, Head of School, are both amazing resources. They just want your education to be as great as it can be, even if it seems like they’re the ‘bad-guys’ sometimes. Introduce yourself at your first chance and be grateful for them! In addition, our Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Amy Grolnick , is more helpful than you could imagine. If you’re ever going through anything you need help with, or just need to talk it out with someone, do not hesitate to email her or knock on her door.
3. This is something that you must be warned about: The History Department is a group of four history-loving, strong-willed and *difficult* teachers. Always expect a reading quiz after they assign homework and study intensely for their tests. It’s a hard class, but it will prepare you very well for college. With the English Department -- make sure you start your essays at least a week in advance and send them *at least* one rough draft during that week.
4. If you’re just starting ninth grade, PLEASE do not stress about college yet. There is enough time for that during junior and senior years. You do not have to stress about college but this is the point when your grades actually start to matter for college. Keep that in mind as you begin high school. Also, you will have the option to choose from Barrack’s many clubs. Make sure you join clubs, but join them because you’re actually interested in them and not because your friends are doing it. It looks good on a college application to have been in a club for four years. As I say this I must also warn you to not overdo it. It is not good for you or your resume to list ten different clubs. Just pick a few that you think you could be really devoted to later.
5. As I’m sure you already know, Barrack is a very difficult school. In the next four years, you will get a lot of homework, have a lot of tests and a lot of stress. Just remember that everyone around you is going through the same thing. Set aside time every day for you to relax, play sports, spend time with family, anything. Everybody needs a break from school, but you can do it! If you need help, whether from a friend, teacher or upperclassman, just ask! Lastly, lean on your friends; you have each other. You can all get through this, even if it doesn’t seem like it sometimes -- I promise.



Photo Credit:jbha.org

Welcome to the Barrack Kehillah!

Welcome to our New Faculty:

(Pictured L to R)

- Mr. Matthew Gormley- Math Teacher
- Mrs. Samantha Miller- Science Teacher
- Mrs. Dana Zachar- Science Teacher
- Mrs. Mari Kalman- Middle School Counselor
- Ms. Stefanie Bloom- Math Teacher
- Ms. Brooke Goldsmith- Counseling Intern
- Mr. Michael Zimmerman- Core Teacher
- Mr. Alexander Diehm- STEAM Assistant
- Ms. Ziva London- Jewish Studies Teacher



Photo Credit:jbha.org



Photo Credit:jbha.org

Welcome to our New Students:

- Danielle Aharon (6)
- Joel Bass(6)
- Maayan Ben-Abou(6)
- Khloe Benjaminovitz(6)
- Benjamin Berger(6)
- Reese Brodie(6)
- Noah Cohen(6)
- Shira Dorff(6)
- Ariella Eisenstadt(6)
- Ilana Fink(6)
- Benjamin Friedman(6)
- Abigail Gober(6)
- Daniel Goldstein (6)
- Belle Harris (6)
- Chloe Hedaya(6)
- Ella Hedaya(6)
- Sian Heilveil(6)
- Talia Hirsch(6)
- Mae Isaacs(6)
- Abigail Joshowitz(6)

- Tal Kahn (6)
- Adi Keinan(6)
- Aria Levy(6)
- Ezekiel Lieberman(6)
- Shira Lowenberg(6)
- Charles Mansheim (6)
- Samuel Mildenberg(6)
- Koby Nadel-Mansdorf(6)
- Isaiah Purnell(6)
- Liora Scheinmann(6)
- Drew Schetman(6)
- Noa Singer (6)
- Ari Skolnick-Einhorn(6)
- Rikki Teicher(6)
- Mikayla Trajtenberg(6)
- Noa Travalia (6)
- Alana Ufberg (6)
- Celeste Vahey (6)
- Lev Weisenberg (6)
- Maya Yagur (6)
- Amit Zakin (6)

- Jonah Thomas (7)
- Isabella Garber (8)
- Samantha Katzen (8)
- Hannah Prokup (8)
- Rina Cherry (9)
- Benjamin Gelwarg (9)
- Megan Grob (9)
- Maya Koval (9)
- Ellie Lavoe (9)
- Ari Powers (9)
- Mika Rappaport (9)
- Sophie Romisher (9)
- Abigail Schurman (9)
- Elana Skolnnick-Einhorn (9)
- Benjamin Zelnick (9)
- Jacob Zelster (9)
- Samantha Zivitz (9)
- Liam Cooperberg (10)
- Gabrielle Dorfman (10)
- Raya Gilman (10)
- Lucas Golluber (10)
- Noah Joffe (10)

Will It Be a Mighty Muss for 2021?

Maya Shavit, Features and Games Editor; Shirin Kaye, Centerspread Editor

Every year, Barrack Hebrew Academy gives its 11th grade students the option to attend Alexander Muss High School in Israel. Muss is a unique experience for Jewish teens to explore their Judaism alongside their peers while also exploring the land. In addition to providing students with an opportunity to learn about Israel, the program allows the students to develop stronger bonds with their classmates. This school year, the majority of the 11th grade flew to Israel at the end of August, and will return to America just before Thanksgiving. All 11th graders are sure to have a fun trimester, whether they learn at Muss or stay at Barrack!

Even prior to departure, members of the Class of 2021 were immensely looking forward to their trimester abroad. The students were

focused overall on two aspects of the Muss experience: the unique Jewish experience and the opportunity to bond. Ida Narli '21 noted that she was ecstatic "to explore parts of Israel that [she] has not seen before, and not from the point of a tourist, but as if [she] were an Israeli," and to "learn more about history hands-on."

Mira Nachod '21 was excited to have the opportunity to "visit family and spend time with [her] grade in Israel," because

the two do not ordinarily coincide. Members of the grade have

yet to experience living in a dorm with their classmates, however, Dylan Mandel '21 was looking forward to "living on the other side of the world with [his] friends." As they (and the Muss mission statement)

express, the grade hopes to gain maturity, independence, closer friendships, and a better understanding of their Jewish history and identity.

Participating students in the Class of 2021 will be bonded after this experience that is unlike any

other: learning, living, and traveling together in the holy land for a whole trimester. They look forward to this great rite of passage because they are given the opportunity to truly experience the homeland of the Jewish people in all of its glory. Like

"Muss is a unique experience for Jewish young adults to explore their Judaism alongside their peers."

student participants before them, the current 11th graders will be sad to leave Israel, but will (hopefully) look forward to rejoining their classmates and the Barrack community in December, while forever treasuring their Muss memories.



My Post-High-School Path to the IDF

Ruby Benjamin '20, for the Chronicle

Suffice it to say, enlisting in the Israeli army from Barrack is not common, especially when the plan is to defer college admission for two years to accommodate the service. Yet, in doing my research, a number of organizations and support systems have made the process much more palatable and simple. Come graduation, I hope to begin an 18-month combat service in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF).

Growing up in a Zionist family, attending a Bnei Akiva (religious Zionist youth movement) camp, studying in Israel on Muss, and of course, learning at Barrack for seven years, Israel has always been a major part of my identity. On countless family and school trips, I have found myself looking up to IDF soldiers and aspiring one day to join their ranks. Not only that, but I feel responsible to give back to the country that always has given, and always will give me everything, and

give up everything, to protect me. Upon my return from Muss last year, these feelings only intensified and I began researching various IDF Lone Soldier programs. Eventually I landed on a desire to enlist through Machal, a shortened service program

Photo Credit: nbn.org.il/lone-soldiers-program/



for non-Israelis, and the quickest way to enter the Israeli Defense Forces.

In my research, I also came across Nefesh B'Nefesh, a company that helps people make Aliyah as well as provides advice and aid for lone soldiers. Since I enjoy talking to

strangers, I quickly called Nefesh B'Nefesh, who referred me to the Lone Soldier Center (LSC) in Memory of Michael Levin. I spoke to an employee named Gabriella, and it was a pleasant surprise to see how deeply invested she and other LSC

workers are in educating and supporting the new generation of lone soldiers. Through the LSC, I have received several WhatsApp numbers of current and former soldiers, all eager to answer any and all of my questions, and find others who can as well. Gabriella also made me aware of a Facebook group for prospective, future, current, and former lone soldiers from around the world. A

brief post on my part was all it took for many like-minded individuals to reach out to me, offering to help me in any way possible. Current soldiers serving in the paratroopers, search and rescue, artillery, and border safety brigades sent long messages conveying their experiences, challenges, and motivations, and former Machal employees guided me through the application process.

As my potential enlistment date grows closer, so does my appreciation for all those that continue to support me in this journey. As part of Am Yisrael, hopefully soon, in Medinat Yisrael, I feel part of an incredible community that is always willing to help one another. Thanks to these people and innumerable others, I feel safe and ready to enlist and wish that this time next year, I will be deep into Tironut (basic training).

The State of Our Holy State

Maya Shavit, Features and Games Editor

Israel's democratic system is complex. At its core, the State of Israel is a Parliamentary Republic. In simplest terms, this means that the Head of State or Prime Minister works extremely closely with the legislature, the part of government that makes laws, and in turn, the legislature gives power back to the Prime Minister. Israel has three main political groups with parties that each have their own candidates for office. In April of 2019, Israel held its election for Prime Minister. During any Israeli election, the candidates must first

"Netanyahu will attempt to hold his ground for another term."

survive a vote to be eligible for their position and then need to rapidly form a coalition. Benjamin (Bibi) Netanyahu has been the Prime Minister since 2009, but this spring he was almost dethroned. His Likud

Party could not form a coalition in time, so even though he won the election, he did not technically win a new term. Benny Gantz's Blue and White Party came extremely close to dethroning Netanyahu, the nation's longest-running Prime Minister. The many parties and chairs were not united in choosing Bibi to lead Israel for another designated term, so this

September there will be a new race.

On September 17, 2019, Netanyahu will attempt to hold his ground for another term. His political rivals have been cooking up a powerful fight to make this election one of the most anticipated yet. Of the 120 Knesset seats, the Likud Party does not hold a majority. Benny Gantz's Blue and White Party currently holds the most with 30 seats. In addition to the Blue and White Party, other newer parties hope to snag the lead, like the Yisrael Beiteinu Party, headed by former Defense Minister, Avigdor Lieberman. Lieberman served under Netanyahu and heads a secular, right-wing party, mainly comprised

of Russian speaking immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Lieberman was one of the reasons the Blue and White Party and the Likud Party tied in their initial race. Many who voted for Lieberman probably would have wished for Netanyahu once again if Lieberman did not run.

This fall, Israelis will finally get to see if a change of power is in store for the Knesset. America and the rest of the world will finally get to witness what the people of Israel truly want. Everyone will see if the majority of the citizens of Israel really do want to keep the same thinkers in government or if they are ready for a fresh start.

HOW DO YOU SPEND

CAMP: More Than a Met Gala Theme

Rebecca Shaid, School News Editor

Every summer, there is a lot of pressure upon older teen camp-goers to stop their ‘childhood fun’ in order to get a job or internship that will help them get into college. Even though overnight camp may not look as impressive on a resume, it has tons of other qualities that can give teens a boost on the Common Application.

First, the friendships made at overnight camp are bonds like none other. For many people, their camp friends are relationships they will keep for their entire lives. Camp provides the foundation to create irreplaceable lifelong friendships. Additionally, many camps have international counselors. Creating friendships with them gives teens an eye into the rest of the world. Comparing cultures and learning about differences with people from over 10 different countries enables people to travel the world while staying right at home -- much more cost-effective than traveling, as well.

Second, most don’t understand the real

difficulty of being a counselor. Taking care of a child’s every need twenty-four-seven is no small feat. Now multiply that by ten or more

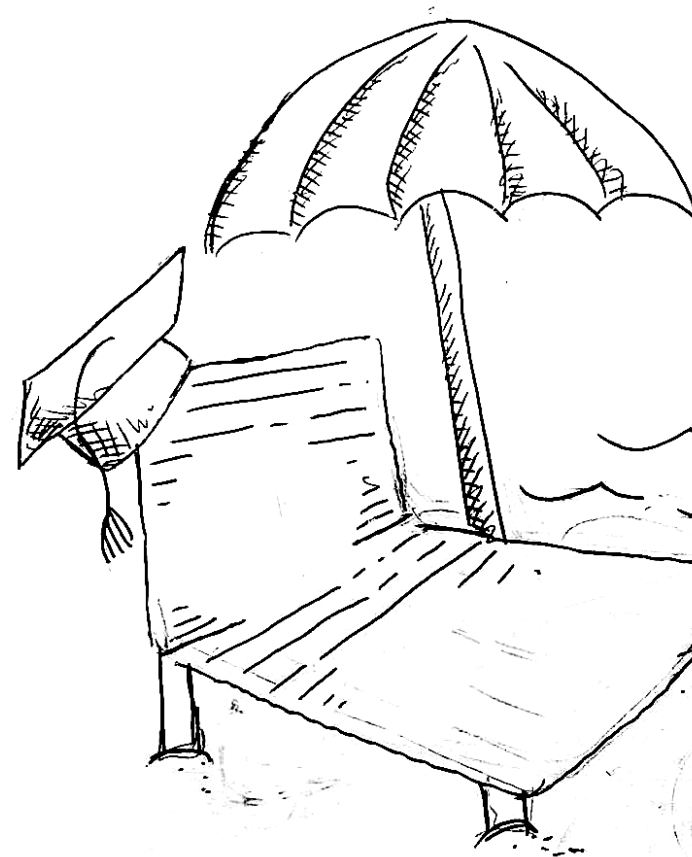
"If *your* fun is camp, don’t hesitate -- do it while you still can."

kids per bunk. Not only are counselors responsible for all children, their allergies, phobias and more, but they’re also responsible for knowing every clique, gossip and problem within the bunk. Being a counselor builds an extreme amount of responsibility and discipline in a person, and there is no arguing that.

Lastly, but maybe the most important reason: fun. High school is a time when kids grow up, but are not adults yet. Students work and push themselves so hard all year long that it is important for summer to be a time to have much-needed fun. High school is a point in life

when people still *can* have fun in the summertime. Some people’s fun may be doing an internship or having a job, but if *your* fun is camp, don’t hesitate -- do it while you still can.

Some people would consider a summer at camp wasted, but truthfully, it’s a summer building lifelong friendships, experiencing extreme personal growth, gaining responsibility, and having fun. Who wouldn’t want that?



Love Where You Learn During the Summer, Too: Summer for College

Serena Levingston, World News Editor

There is an unfortunate stereotype that accompanies students who spend their summers learning or volunteering. They are scorned for their efforts and written off as shallow students who only care about how colleges will view them. Though it’s true that some students spend their summers trying to bolster their college applications, most genuinely enjoy the activities they choose to do. However, regardless of whether you do activities that impress colleges for yourself or for college admissions officers, you can’t go wrong.

Let’s take the first group of students, the ones who spend their time trying to impress colleges. Even if you’re part of this group, there is value to what you do over

the summer. For example, if you volunteer at an animal shelter or



Photo Credit: Sarah Bartos

Sarah Bartos ‘20 (right) with friends from a summer program at Georgetown University.

soup kitchen, you’re helping to make the world a better place, whether you like it or not. If you have an internship, you’ll end up learning something new and acquiring some life skills along the way. Though the motives behind

these activities are questionable, their impact is not. And who knows? Maybe you’ll even end up enjoying yourself.

Now for the second group of students: the ones who genuinely enjoy learning and working over the summer. Sarah Bartos ‘20 has had a great experience with pre-college summer programs, which she began attending the summer after ninth grade. For her, the conversations at her overnight camp felt “superficial,” since they were mainly about “boys and looks.” Pre-college summer programs were the perfect place to delve into more in-depth topics, such as “government policies and public health.” Not only does Bartos feel she has “made life-long friends,” but the programs she

attended were “life-changing experiences.”

For some, traditional summer activities are not a good fit. Like Bartos, some kids are able to bond better with others in a different setting. For others, camp can be boring, and being away from home can bring out feelings of homesickness. “It makes me sad,” Bartos lamented, “that there’s this stereotype of people doing things just for college,” as opposed to doing things because they genuinely enjoy it. According to Bartos, “Summers are for fun,” and if fun means doing research in a lab with PhD students, then so be it.



Photo Credit: Google Images

Did Your Summers?

Slacking Shouldn't Be a Derogatory Word: Summer for Fun

Helen Rudoler, Editor-in-Chief

When May and June approach, most students work hard to pin down summer plans. High schoolers must weigh a lot of factors: making money, filling up college resumes,

spending time with friends, and family vacations. While there is a lot of merit in each of these options, and every person is different, it is important to make the underrated case for simply having fun.

In an environment where many students have been resume-padding since freshman year, it is natural for people to feel pressure to do something productive with their summers, such as work in a lab, get an internship, or enroll in a college class. Such options are amazing for those who are passionate about them. However, when people sign up for things they think colleges will want to see, they often end up unhappy. It's important to remember that the Common Application only has ten spaces for activities -- there is no use in having twenty activities that aren't true to yourself. The Yale University admissions website recommends that "you demonstrate a deep commitment to and genuine appreciation for what you spend your time doing," and the University of Pennsylvania reminds applicants that it is "not looking for a specific, predetermined list of activities." Even the top colleges don't care whether you would rather conduct research or be a camp counselor,

as long as you come across as genuine and committed.

Another important factor is the high rate of anxiety among high schoolers. Summer break is an opportunity to take a couple months to not worry about grades, stressful social situations, or keeping up with the thousand and one extracurricular activities in which every Barrack student participates. Resetting and relaxing can do wonders for a student's mental health. The accounting firm Ernst & Young did a survey of their employees to determine the effectiveness of vacation, and discovered that their end-of-the-year ratings by supervisors went up eight percent for every additional 10 hours of vacation the employee took. According to this and other similar studies, taking time to relax can actually boost productivity during the school or work year.

A final and important reason to take the summers off is that high school summers are basically the last time to do nothing. You have your entire life to be productive and high achieving; when you look back on your teenage years, those happy summer memories will be what make you proud.



Artwork by Sivan Barzeski

Back to School Is Fun and Games!

Unscramble Your Summer!!

Rivkah Wyner, Executive Editor

Unscramble:

1. EAMACDY _ _ _ _ _
2. MREMUS _ _ _ _ _
3. FOREDEM _ _ _ _ _
4. IWMS _ _ _ _
5. APYL _ _ _ _
6. NFU _ _ _
7. XLEAR _ _ _ _ _
8. WUDNNI _ _ _ _ _

	3	9		6				4
	5			9		4	1	3
1						2		7
	8	1			4			5
5				8	7		4	1
7					3			8
					9			6
3	9			6		7		4
8	1				2		5	7

Credit: TheTeachersCorner.net

Answers: 1. Academy 2. Summer 3. Freedom 4. Swim 5. Play 6. Fun 7. Relax 8. Unwind

A Sneak Peak Into Upcoming Barrack Shows

Rivkah Wyner, Executive Editor

On the opening night of *Mamma Mia* this past spring, the upcoming shows for the 2019-2020 Barrack Drama Department were revealed. A buzz of excitement circled the audience and backstage as the producer, Tony Oriente, announced: *Our Town*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Frozen Jr.*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

The upper school will be putting on Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* this fall on November 10th, 11th, and 12th. *Our Town* takes place in a fictional American town, Grover's Corner, in the early 1900's, telling the story of the everyday lives of its citizens. This play calls for

minimalist theatrical style sets, and it remains one of America's most popular plays for its universal themes about love, family, and community.

"We are thrilled to be putting on *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*."

The next production, Emma Whipday's adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, will premiere on February 2nd, and will be student-directed by Rivkah Wyner '20 (yup, that's me!). A dramatic

comedy set in Regency Era England, the play tells the story of sisters Marianne and Elinor as they experience the intricacies and difficulties of society.

Shortly following the student-directed-play is the Middle School Musical, Disney's *Frozen Jr.*, which will be performed on March 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. The Barrack Drama Department is delighted to be bringing this charming modern classic to our very own stage.

Lastly, the biggest production of the year is the Upper School Spring Musical, and we are thrilled to be putting on *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. It will be performed

on May 17th-20th at St. Joseph's Bluett Theater. This musical, written by Robert Holmes, is based on an unfinished mystery novel by Charles Dickens. Intriguingly, it will be up to the audience to determine the ending of each performance.

Overall, it will be an exciting and promising year for the Drama Department with three period productions and several well-known classics. Whether you are interested in performing, helping out, or just seeing the shows, you do not want to miss out on what this year has in store.

Growing Up With Toy Story

Stefanie Rose, Executive Editor

Childhood creates many memories, and some of the greatest include watching movies. Whether it was at the movie theater with that big bucket of buttery popcorn that my mom would allow me to get, or at home snuggled up on the couch, movies were my escape into imagination. My favorite movie series, that in fact I grew up with, was the *Toy Story* franchise. Looking back on it now, Woody, Buzz, Rex, Jessie, Bullseye, and the rest of the gang taught me to cherish the fun times with those that I love.

The first and second movies of the series came out before I was born, in the late 1990s, yet I still loved to watch them all the time at home. Woody and Buzz Lightyear were the most iconic pair of best friends on TV; I knew that I when I got older, I would find the Woody to my Buzz. And once Jessie and Bullseye were added to the mix in the second movie, the group was finally complete. I liked how one of the main themes in the movie was that your friends always have your back. I'm a senior in high school, and the idea of having my own Woody,

Buzz, and Jessie friend group is still a constant. From the first two movies of the franchise, I learned that having a core group of friends, whether it be



Photo Credit: tvtropes.org

two or twenty, is so extremely important because I know that I can always count on them, and they can always count on me. The third movie came out in 2010, when I was eight years old. All of my friends thought they were too cool to watch a movie about toys, but I was obsessed. I had all of the stuffed animals lined up on my couch as I watched the movie. I loved the part when the toys were initially brought into the preschool, because it showed

me that change is good, and that new friends can be the result of said change. But when the leader of the preschool's toys, Lots-o the Bear,

turned out to be mean, Woody's and Buzz's friends banded together to defeat him. For me now, the ending is the most touching part, because it shows me that growing up is a good thing, and that all of my childhood memories will never disappear.

When I heard that there was a fourth movie in the series coming out this summer in 2019, I initially was not very thrilled. I thought that the series bookended perfectly, with Andy going to college and all the

toys going to Bonnie; there was a great sense of closure. But that did not mean that I would not see the new offering. I went into the movie theater thinking that nothing could have been a better ending to the story than the third movie, but boy was I wrong. Introducing a new character, Forky, was genius. What I loved most about the movie was that Woody cared so much about this new character, and that he went to any length to save him. The intertwining of the old and the new was something amazing, showing that both are equally as important. I definitely have changed my mind about the fourth movie; it is the perfect bookend to the franchise. When Woody gave Jessie his sheriff badge and then departed with Bo, leaving all of his friends, I was in tears. That moment was orchestrated beautifully, symbolizing that Woody's legacy would live on in the friend group forever. *Toy Story* really has come full circle, from Woody's introduction to Woody's departure, creating a perfect end to this Disney Pixar tale.

From Broadway to Broad Street

Rivkah Wyner, Executive Editor

Have you been walking down Broad Street recently and found yourself thinking, 'Why go to Broadway when I can just stay in Philadelphia?' It's true that although Broadway is still the center of quality theater, Philadelphia's theater industry has really improved tremendously over the past few years. Now, you don't necessarily need to schlep all the way down to New York City to see a top-notch professional production!

Philadelphia is currently home to dozens of flourishing theater companies, and Broad Street is home to dozens of theaters. The Arden Theatre Company, in addition to its various programs and drama school, puts on about eight professional productions a year. They will be premiering with *Ragtime* this upcoming September. The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts is constantly home to various events, and the beloved Broadway tour of

Hamilton is being performed there through November. The Walnut Street Theater also has many productions throughout the year; its mainstage is currently producing *Young Frankenstein*.

With the plethora of quality theater companies and classy theaters, it is so easy to experience wonderful theater locally. Even

though there will always be a thrill to seeing a show on Broadway, it is now possible to see productions equally as good, and nearby too. So the next time you are looking for theater exposure, consider exploring the newly refined and continuously improving theater industry in Philadelphia.

"It is so easy to experience wonderful theater locally."

UN Climate Action Summit 2019: What's the Plan?

Serena Levingston, World News Editor

According to certain climate projection models, by the year 2030, if humans don't drastically change their actions, climate change will become out of control. With this model in mind, the UN called the 2019 Climate Action Summit to encourage countries to keep to their Paris Climate Agreement pledges. On Monday, September 23rd, world leaders will gather



Greta Thunberg, 16-year-old Swedish climate activist, aboard a boat that will cross the Atlantic Ocean to get to the UN Climate Action Summit in NY

in New York City for the 2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit.

The goal of the Paris Climate Agreement is to keep the globally rising temperature under 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and ideally, under 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Since 2015, about 125 countries worldwide have signed on to the Paris Climate Agreement, setting goals for themselves to limit their carbon emissions. As for the United States, President Donald Trump has vowed to exit the accords, but this won't happen until fall of 2020.

At the Climate Action Summit, one of the goals is finding ways to meet the Paris Climate Agreement expectations, and through this, "reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent over the next decade, and to net zero emissions by 2050," according to the UN website. While it seems like a lofty goal, the UN has ideas for how to achieve it. First, fossil fuels should cease to be subsidized, and carbon pollution should become costly, to discourage its use. Jobs in the fossil fuel industry should be replaced with

jobs in the clean energy industry, such as an installer of wind turbines and solar panels, or a transportation engineer.

Interestingly, one of the ways the UN summit plans on tackling climate change is through youth engagement. Two days before the UN Climate Action Summit, the UN Youth Climate Summit will be held at the UN Headquarters in New York, in the same place as the UN Climate Action Summit. Young leaders on climate change from all over the world will attend, bringing their ideas and motivation along with them.

Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish climate activist, will be attending the youth summit. She rose to fame when she began skipping school to strike outside the Swedish Parliament every Friday to demand climate action. Since then, Thunberg has kicked off a global movement called Fridays for Future that holds strikes from school on Fridays around the world. Because of her concern for the large carbon footprint of airplanes, she will arrive at the Youth Climate Summit by boat. Regarding her attendance at the UN Climate Action Summit two days after

the youth summit, she told reporters that "this is a big opportunity for those world leaders who say they've been listening to us to actually show that they've been listening to us, to actually prove that."

So far, it's unclear that the world leaders Thunberg references have been listening. Climate change has continued in its course; this past July had the highest average global temperature on record, and sea ice on both the North and South Poles was the lowest it's ever been. In a UN report, the Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change, Patricia Espinosa, expressed the sentiments of many, writing that the state of climate change right now "is extremely worrying for humanity's future on this planet," and that "rapid, deep and transformative change is needed throughout society" in order to combat it. Perhaps echoing Rabbi Hillel, who famously said, "If not now, when?", Espinosa perfectly summed it up: "Now is the time for action and implementation."

"Young leaders on climate change from all over the world will attend [the Youth Climate Summit], bringing their ideas and motivation along with them."

Texts and Protests: How a Governor Falls

Aron Shklar, Staff Writer

Puerto Rico recently underwent a massive change: after almost two weeks of protests, Governor Ricardo Rosselló resigned on August 2nd. While mass protests led to Mr. Rosselló's resignation, it is important to consider what sparked the protests in the first place: Rosselló's

private text group chat was anonymously published, revealing many crude, sexist, and homophobic messages. He

and other high ranking government officials mocked other politicians, the residents of Puerto Rico, those affected by Hurricane Maria, and many others. One of the most notable names mocked was *Hamilton* creator, Lin-Manuel Miranda. As a result, he, along with thousands of others, protested against Rosselló.

Now, with Rosselló gone, many people are relieved. Yoni Webner '22 says, "Yes, if he hadn't stepped down, the island of Puerto Rico could have been affected even more negatively due to the hatred towards their governor. Citizens of Puerto Rico would lose what little trust they had left in him and they might even rebel. Ultimately, this was a smart move by the former governor because now Puerto Rico can head in the right direction."

Another factor that contributed to the fall of Rosselló was Hurricane Maria. It struck Puerto Rico in 2017, killing 2,975 people and destroying 110 homes. Many people in Puerto Rico today still do not have homes. The destruction of the natural disaster compounded by Rosselló's unprepared

government led to widespread devastation. Citizens blamed the governor for their struggles, and for the lack of funding and aid provided to them. Today, those same problems persist. It is generally believed that because of the governor's lack of preparation

for Hurricane Maria, unnecessary damage and deaths occurred. This was when calls for Rosselló's resignation began, and many people see this period of time as the beginning of the end for him. But it wasn't over yet. It was going to get worse.

The next big blow to Rosselló's power came in mid-July 2019, when a few messages from Rosselló's private text group chat with fellow high ranking officials from his Cabinet were leaked. Then, on July 10th, the island's former education secretary and the former head of the health insurance administration were arrested on charges of corruption involving millions of dollars. Three days later, on July 13th, over 900 pages of private Telegram chats were leaked. Some of the people included in the chats were the chief fiscal officer, the secretary of state, and multiple aides. These chats, sent between December 2018 and January 2019, were laced with profanity and mocked homosexuals, women, politicians, journalists, and celebrities. Today, this scandal has been nicknamed "RickyLeaks," after the nickname of the governor. The following day, Chief Fiscal Officer Sobrino Vega and Secretary of State Luis Rivera Marin both resigned promptly after horrified and angry reactions from the residents of the island. One such

message, from an aide of Rosselló, joked about the massive numbers of bodies from Hurricane Maria, saying they should use those bodies to attack their enemies. The message was, "Don't we have some cadavers to feed our crows?"

Soon enough, starting July 14th and continuing until July 24th, massive protests spanned the island. Protesters were spread everywhere, marching with signs, chanting,

the four-lane highway Expreso Las Americas (see photo), and launched an island-wide strike. The next day, the chief of staff, Ricardo J. Llerandi Cruz, resigned, and rumors began circling that Rosselló would do the same. Just one day later, July 24th, those rumors were confirmed as the governor announced his resignation through FacebookLive, effective August 2nd. The crowds rejoiced.

The chaos and problems aren't over yet, though. As of August 8th, Puerto Rico was on its third governor. The first was Rosselló, the second was Rosselló's handpicked successor, Pedro Pierluisi, and the third and current one is Justice Secretary Wanda Vázquez Garced. Garced had previously rejected the position, but has now accepted it. Pierluisi lasted for 5 days as governor, before the Puerto Rico



Photo Credit: Joe Raedle, CNN

Protesters on the Expreso Las Americas highway

and eventually resorting to violence. The police responded to the initial protests with roadblocks and barricades, but when those failed, they began using tear gas. The protests swelled and finally arrived in front of the governor's mansion. Famous names joined the protests, such as trap artist Bad Bunny, who left Europe to join the protests; singer Ricky Martin; and rappers Residente and iLe. Bad Bunny, Residente, and iLe wrote a protest song together called Sharpening the Knives, which can be found on YouTube. The angry citizens did not back down, despite clashes with the police and demands from Rosselló. The protests peaked on July 22nd, when the number of people protesting closed

Supreme court unanimously voted to oust him. They claimed he was not confirmed by both legislative chambers. Now, some think that Garced may soon resign, but it's not clear why she would.

It's unsure what's next for the island and for Rosselló. The former governor will likely be arrested and brought to trial. Was it a good decision for Rosselló to step down? Max Hirsh '22, thinks so, saying, "Absolutely, it shows that there is still some form of democracy in their government." It's a time of change for Puerto Rico, and hopefully, with the determination of the people, it will change for the better.

Amazon Fire:
Why, What Now
and How to Help

Rebecca Shaid, School News Editor

As many have already seen on Instagram, the Amazon rainforest is burning. But no matter how many pictures of the fires there are, the one thing Instagram doesn’t give is information. It is vital that people know how these fires began, their effects, and most importantly, how to help.

To start, July and August are Brazil’s driest months. That, coupled with legal and illegal deforestation -- humans setting fires to clear land for farming and ranching -- well, you know how that one turned out. Land-clearing fires are set annually in Brazil and the moist rainforest is rarely subject to the kinds of wildfires caused by dry conditions. But this year, the number of fires and their spread have spiked. The state of Amazonas has been most affected, although smoke is seen above almost half of Brazil. There is so much smoke caused by the burning of the foliage of recently cleared forest that it can be seen from space. The Amazon rainforest generates more than 20% of the oxygen for the entire world, although some scientists dispute that claim. However, an undisputed fact is that the rainforest absorbs significant amounts of carbon dioxide that contributes to global warming. If these fires consume all of the rainforest, it will affect the farms, drinking water, and general climate regulation in North America, 4,000 miles away.

Now, how to help? Posting about it on social media is always effective but evidently, that’s already been done and more change is needed. Most people don’t realize it, but there are many ways to support a cause without giving away all of your money. One option is to join change.org, a petition website. A lawyer has collected 77,000 signatures on a petition to create an investigation into this devastation. Simply cutting down on your paper, wood, beef and dairy consumption could make a difference. Much of the beef used in processed meat and fast food chains comes from parts of the Amazon rainforest that have been cut down to make room for farms. However, hurting the livelihood of many poor Brazilian farmers must also be taken into account. Ecosia.org is a search engine that plants a tree for every 45 searches. Come to Barrack’s very own Environmental Action Club to learn more about this issue and decide how you will make a difference.

This destruction is severe, especially because you don’t see the effects right before your eyes. What are you going to do about it?



The town of Sao Paulo in the middle of the day

Photo Credit: Shannon Sims Twitter

Meet the 2020 Democratic Presidential
Candidates

Shirin Kaye, Centerspread Editor

It is *that* time again: the United States’ presidential elections. An overwhelming number of Democratic candidates are running, compared to only three Republican candidates, and quite a few of the Democrats are women. Here are the current candidates (at the time the Chronicle went to press) and some of their platforms; however, more candidates may drop out as the season continues.

Twenty-four Democrats announced their campaigns earlier this summer, but only 20 were eligible to participate in the original debates.

It is important for everyone to have his or her voice heard and to save the environment. Michael Bennet, a Colorado senator, aims to confront the problem of climate change and edit the system of voting to ensure that every eligible American’s voice is heard. Montana Governor Steve Bullock wants to make every American’s voice heard in elections by requiring all companies to disclose details about their political spending; this would end the use of dark money (nonprofits contributing to campaigns and influencing elections).

There are many new ideas for the economy in this race. Joseph Biden, former vice president and Delaware senator, envisions strengthening the middle class. Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren proposes “the Ultra-Millionaire Tax” which would force the extremely wealthy to pay a higher tax for the greater good of the economy, especially to rebuild America’s middle class. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont senator, is running again for the Democratic nomination with the same democratic-socialist perspectives as in his last campaign, including healthcare for all, tuition-free college, and taking on major money-making industries. Florida mayor and college football champion Wayne Messam believes that the best course of action to reform student debt programs is to cancel all 44 million Americans’ existing debt (totaling \$1.5 trillion) and start fresh. Meanwhile, former tech executive Andrew Yang is known for his plan to provide a Universal Basic Income of \$1,000 per month to every American adult.

Some candidates wish to adopt a new approach toward those who have suffered in the past. New Jersey Senator Cory Booker wishes to reform the criminal justice system by practicing restorative justice (when the victim and offender discuss effects of the crime on the other party and decide upon a meaningful punishment, which is shown to reduce recidivism) instead of mass incarceration (going through the process of law and ending up in jail). Since Marianne Williamson, inspirational author and speaker,

believes racism still exists even centuries after slavery, she proposes \$200 to \$500 billion worth of reparations to be given to African Americans over 20 years, in order to fund various community-benefiting efforts.

Immigration is another hot topic in this race. Julián Castro, former San Antonio mayor and

Photo Credit: NY Times



Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, proposes to create a “people first” immigration system so as not to separate families. Beto O’Rourke, former Texas congressman, promises to protect immigrants’ human rights, remove the fear of deportation and separation from families, and create opportunities for them to be naturalized.

Some candidates highlight their plans to help the more vulnerable communities. Tulsi Gabbard, Hawaiian congresswoman and veteran, envisions a peaceful country and world that is free from the fear of war. Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan will fight to reduce veteran suicides by reforming the Veterans Administration and strengthening its Whole Health program. Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar includes reducing high costs of prescription drugs in her plan to make healthcare more affordable. Joe Sestak (former Navy admiral and Pennsylvania congressman) emphasizes his care for senior citizens through his priorities of supporting long-term home care and increasing funding for organizations that help fight diseases common to the elderly.

All candidates address major issues in their speeches and on their websites, but here are some other issues that some brought up. One proposal in education that is unique to California Senator Kamala Harris is to raise teachers’ pay because they are monetarily valued too little for the important work that they do. Former hedge fund executive Tom Steyer is now a philanthropist who is an activist for fighting climate change and impeaching President Trump. Former Maryland congressman and businessman John Delaney strives to not only find solutions to hot issues, but to unite Americans who are currently divided based on political beliefs. Since he is relatively young, Pete Buttigieg, a mayor in Indiana, emphasizes that his winning the election would give the next generation of Americans an opportunity to lead their country. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio

explains that, because of his accomplishments as mayor, such as creating free prekindergartens, he would make a good president.

Unlike the enormous field of Democrats, few Republicans are competing for their party’s nomination.

President Donald Trump is running for a second term. Highlighting his track record of keeping his promises, he promises to continue implementing his plans (such as maintaining the booming economy and protecting borders) for the good of the American people. Former Massachusetts governor William Weld is President Trump’s only challenger. He showcases his accomplishments in governing Massachusetts with bipartisan approval and hopes that the country will also favor him, as he has the qualifications and wants all parties to work together. In August, Joe Walsh (former Illinois congressman) entered the race as the third Republican. Since 2016, he has withdrawn his support for the president; one of his campaign issues is restraining the power of the Executive branch of government.

The third Democratic debate is scheduled for September 12th. (No Republican debates are scheduled before the primaries.) In order to qualify, candidates had to gain at least 130,000 donors and two percent support in four election polls by August 28th. These 10 candidates were successful in meeting the requirements, and will be featured in the upcoming debate: Joe Biden, Cory Booker, Pete Buttigieg, Julián Castro, Kamala Harris, Amy Klobuchar, Beto O’Rourke, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Andrew Yang. These candidates met the polling requirements, but not the donor threshold: Tulsi Gabbard, Tom Steyer, Marianne Williamson. These candidates did not meet either qualification for the third debate: Michael Bennett, Steve Bullock, Bill de Blasio, John Delaney, Wayne Messam, Tim Ryan, Joe Sestak. These candidates dropped out of the race: John Hickenlooper, Jay Inslee, Seth Moulton, Kirsten Gillibrand. Even if a candidate did not qualify for the September debate, he still may stay in the race, hoping to make it into the fourth debate in October.

This election is especially significant and exciting because of the wide range of people and political perspectives that are competing for the presidency. The Pennsylvania primaries will take place on April 28th, 2020 and the general election on November 3rd, 2020. Even though not all members of the Barrack community are of voting age, it is important for everyone to know what is happening in the country by researching candidates’ positions and discussing the issues with family and friends. Members of the Class of 2020 will be able to vote in this election and should use their invaluable right to support who they think will best lead the United States.

They Got 4 Stars on Their Shirts

Stefanie Rose, Executive Editor
Jena Rose, Sports Editor

The US Women’s National Soccer Team (USWNT) made headlines this summer, winning their fourth FIFA (International Soccer Association) Women’s World Cup; it is their second consecutive win. This all-star team is comprised of twenty-three very talented women, ranging from the ages of twenty to thirty-seven. These women worked tirelessly from June into early July, bringing their ‘A game’ into all of their matches. They played seven games in multiple cities in France; they played against Thailand, Chile, Sweden, Spain, France in the quarters, England in the semifinals, and finally, the Netherlands in the finals. After arriving back in America, they were celebrated in New York City at a Ticker Tape Parade and appeared on Good Morning America.

Their first game was against Thailand on June 11. It was one of their last games for the first group stage of the World Cup. And, wow! The USWNT made World Cup history by scoring the most goals in a game. A record thirteen goals were scored in a shutout. These women scored more goals in one game than the men’s team has scored in every World Cup since 2006 combined. These goals were scored by seven different members on the team. Alex Morgan (#13) scored 5 goals, Rose Lavelle (#16) scored 2 goals, and Sam Mewis (#3) scored 2. Lindsey Horan (#9) scored one in the 32nd minute, Megan Rapione (#15) scored one in the 79th minute, Mallory Pugh (#2) scored one in the 84th minute, and Carly Lloyd (#11) scored one in extra time. This was an extraordinary first win for the USWNT, but there was controversy over the amount of goals they scored and their celebrations to follow. Some



Photo Credit: Getty Images

USWNT are the 2019 FIFA World Cup Champions!

thought that it was unnecessary to keep scoring when it was obvious that the USWNT was going to win. The USWNT responded that it would not be very sportsman-like and respectful to stop scoring, causing them to play easier against their opponent.

After their major first win, placing them in the top spot in their group, they played Chile and then Sweden, one of their biggest rivals. The USWNT won both of those games, winning 3-0 against Chile and 2-0 against Sweden. These wins allowed the team to advance in the top spot to play Spain in the Round of Sixteen. They would next play Spain. During their game against Spain, the team only scored with penalty kicks. Although they won, 2-1, the game was an eye-opener to the women because it showed them that moving forward would not be a breeze as in the first three games. They would need to work even harder throughout all 90 minutes of the game to defeat their opponents and move on to the next round.

In the quarter-finals, the first World Cup game for the USWNT was played against France. Many stated that this game was “a matchup that should have been in the finals”. The women came out strong,

scoring in the 5th minute, courtesy of Megan Rapione. She also scored in the second half, in the 65th minute, and she was the only scorer for the USWNT this game. Although this game was very fairly matched, with French player Wendie Renard scoring in the 81st minute, giving France their first goal, the US team was victorious! Alexi Lalas, who played on the 1994 national team, stated that if the US beat France, he would stand in front of the Eiffel Tower in a wedding dress; that is how certain he was that the women were not going to win. Well, they won, and the picture is all over the Internet. This win put them through to the semi-finals against England, another huge game.

During the game against England, Megan Rapione was out because she had a minor hamstring injury. Although they were missing one of their key players, the women did not get discouraged, and they were motivated to win. Within the first few minutes, Christen Press (#23) scored. This was Press’s first goal in the World Cup. England managed to score in the 19th minute. Then, Alex Morgan scored, making the score 2-1 at halftime. In the second half in the 83rd minute, England had a penalty kick; this kick could have been a game changer, tying up the game. Goalie, Alyssa Naether, saved the kick, making this her World Cup moment. The USWNT were moving into the finals against the Netherlands, with a 2-1 win and an amazing save by Naether.

The final game, played on July 7th, was a do or die game for these women; they had worked so incredibly hard, and they were in it to win it. Both teams started very strong, causing the score to still be 0-0 by halftime. The USWNT knew that they had to step it up and come out stronger in the second half, and that is exactly what they did. Megan Rapione scored in the 61st minute,

with a penalty, making the score 1-0. Newcomer Rose Lavelle had a beautiful shot during the 69th minute, making this goal her World Cup moment; this was her third goal in the World Cup. The Women played extremely tough for the rest of the second half, and it paid off. They were the 2019 FIFA World Cup champions! In recognition of their outstanding play during the World Cup, Meghan Rapione won the Golden Ball and the Golden Boot, Alex Morgan won the Silver Boot, and Rose Lavelle won the Bronze Ball.

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Fly Eagles Fly, on the Road to a Great Season!

Stefanie Rose, Executive Editor

The Philadelphia Eagles acquired many good players through the NFL draft this past April. Some of those players included Miles Sanders, a running back from Penn State, and Andre Dillard, a tackle from Washington State. The Eagles, old and new, have been working hard since July 24th, the start date of training camp. The first full practice took place on July 25th at the NovaCare Complex. During their preseason training, select fans were able to watch their favorite team work; these fans included season ticket holders, charitable organizations, and corporate partners. The team hosted a public practice at Lincoln Financial Field on August 4th. The evening honored and celebrated the country's armed forces as part of Military Appreciation Night, sponsored by Dietz and Watson; all of the ticket proceeds from the night went to support autism research.

After about a month of working hard at practice, the first preseason game was on August 8th against the Tennessee Titans. In the first quarter, Eagles kicker Jake Elliot had a 53-yard field goal, allowing the Eagles to lead 3-0. In the second quarter, Eagles player Marken Michel received a 75-yard pass from Nate Sudfeld, which resulted in a touchdown; Elliot's point after was good, making the score 10-0. Then, Titans' MyCole Pruitt received a

one-yard pass from Ryan Tannehill, resulting in a touchdown; the point after was not good, so the score was 10-6 Eagles. But Titans' Anthony Firkser received a 23-yard pass from Ryan Tannehill, resulting in another touchdown; Tannehill passed to Darius

“Although the Eagles have had an interesting preseason, they will continue to work even harder and will come out stronger when the regular season begins.”

Jennings for a successful two-point conversion. The score was now 14-10 Titans. There were no touchdowns or field goals in the third quarter. In the fourth quarter, Titans' Cody Hollister and Tanner McEvoy both scored touchdowns. Austin Barnard, who kicked the point after, was successful, and the final score of the game was 27-10 Titans.

On August 15th, the Eagles played their second preseason game against the Jacksonville Jaguars. Knowing the results from their last game, the Eagles knew that they had to step it up even though it was only a preseason game. There were no field goals or touchdowns in the first quarter. In the second quarter, the Eagles' Greg Ward Jr. received a 38-yard pass from Clayton Thorson, resulting in the first touchdown of the game; the point after was good, making the score 7-0. Shortly after, Jaguars' Josh Lambo had a

36-yard field goal, making the score 7-3, with the Eagles still in the lead. In the third quarter, Eagles' Josh Adams had a 1-yard run, resulting in a touchdown with a successful point after; the score was 14-3 at the end of the third. In the fourth quarter, there was a 52-yard field goal by Eagles' Jake Elliot, and the score then became 17-3. Jaguars' Alex McGough had a 4-yard run with a good point after, making the score 17-10; the Eagles were still winning. And with five minutes left in the game, Eagles' Boston Scott had a 1-yard run, Elliot's kick after was good, and the Eagles won with the final score of 24-10. The Eagles had definitely learned that hard work and working together results in wins.

The Eagles' next game was not in their favor like their last; they played against the Baltimore Ravens for their 3rd preseason game on August 22nd. In the first quarter, only Ravens' Justin Tucker kicked a 49 yard field goal, making the score 3-0. In the second quarter, Tucker had a 32-yard field goal followed shortly after by a touchdown run of 4 yards by Trace McSorley. The point after McSorley's touchdown was good, and the score was 13-0 Ravens. Ravens' Michael Floyd recovered a 28-yard pass from McSorley, but their two-point pass conversion failed; the score was 19-0. Towards the end of the second, Ravens'

Jaleel Scott received a 7-yard pass from McSorley with a successful point after kick by Tucker, and the Ravens were still winning; 26-0 was the score at the end of the second. In the third quarter, two touchdowns were scored by Eagles' JJ Arcega Whitesides and Alex Ellis;

Photo Credits: Douglass Defelice/ USA Today Sports



Eagles vs. Jaguars in their second preseason game

there was a completed point after and a completed two-point conversion. There were no field goals or touchdowns in the fourth quarter, so the final score was 26-15 Ravens. Although the Eagles have had an interesting preseason, they will continue to work even harder and will come out stronger when the regular season begins on September 8th, when the Eagles face the Washington Redskins at Lincoln Financial Field.

Inside Barrack's Preseason

Rebecca Shaid, School News Editor

During the last few weeks before the start of school, all fall athletes came to school every day to practice and get in shape for the season ahead of them. This year, we look forward to seeing many of Barrack's upper school teams. This includes the Boys Varsity (BV) and Junior Varsity (BJV) soccer

“Cooper is fabulous as always, providing clever strategies, helpful tips, and motivational words”

teams, the Girls Varsity soccer team, the Cross Country team, and the Girls Varsity tennis team. Every team is optimistic for the season ahead of them; each is hoping to make it to championships at the end of fall.

The BV and BJV soccer teams are working hard, which is necessary, as there are “many spectacular players trying out for spots on the roster,” said sophomore Daniel Wachs. Wachs also notes that Mr. Aaron Silver (Science Department Chair), the coach for the Boys Varsity team, is “working hard to help [them] stop [their] bad habits” and that he has confidence in their victory in the Tri-County League. Their championship is always a fun game to come out to the field and watch; let's hope they make it that far this year.

The Girls Varsity soccer team is looking

great as well. They have many great underclassmen players this year, making up for the loss of the great seniors of last year. Keith Bradburd, their fearless coach, is working hard, as usual, to get everybody back in shape and up to their best playing standards. Everybody on the team this year has a devoted attitude which is sure to get them far in the season.

Photo Credit: Rebecca Shaid



Some members of the Girls Varsity soccer team

Mr. Justin Cooper is not only the Director of Athletics, but also the Cross Country coach, and he is “fabulous as always, providing clever strategies, helpful tips, and motivational words,” said senior Michael Kalman. With many younger runners along with a few seniors, Kalman said they

are ready to “set some personal records,” and of course lead Barrack to victory. Additionally, Barrack has the honor of hosting a meet this year, which will definitely be a highlight for the Cross Country season!

Serena Levingston, senior tennis star, stated that the “team definitely has a shot at championships since [they have] won before,” even with the many new players on the team this year. They have been working hard all of preseason, led by Coach Earlene Riley who, Levingston said, is “super nice and funny, yet also gives good tennis tips.” The tennis team has many new skilled freshman players this year ready to help their team to greatness.

Evidently, there was a lot going on at Barrack before school started and now you're up to date. Mr. Cooper couldn't have put it better when he said, “My hopes remain consistent each fall. That our teams and facilities provide a warm welcome and friendly [atmosphere] to new students over the next two and a half months; where skills will be taught and learned; where lifetime friendships will be formed; where teams will represent their school and each other in competition; [and] where students learn valuable life lessons about sportsmanship, adversity, responsibility and commitment -- all in pursuit of excellence and improvement.” Good luck to every team this season and Go Cougars!

Exit Interviews: These Teachers Have Moved on From Barrack. Find out What They Had to Say Before Leaving!

Talk to Tow Later

Devora Solomon Opinion Editor

Mr. Frank Tow was a math teacher at Barrack, and he moved with the school when it came to Bryn Mawr from Akiba’s original location. He retired last year to focus on cultural issues that he wants to learn more about and help fix.

What is your number one reason for leaving the school?
“I want to explore cultural issues, specifically school culture issues on a broader basis. I also would like to get more of a background in the field of social change -- perhaps a degree in social work or psychology.”

What are your plans going forward?
“It’s hard to narrow it down because the field of social change is undefined without specific jobs, but I would like to spend time figuring

out how to define it. More specifically, I’d like to consult to schools on sexual harassment policies. I’d also love to do more writing because I find that I learn a lot through writing.”

What will you miss the most?
“Definitely the relationships with my colleagues and with students. When making the decision about leaving, I had to put that aside -- otherwise I would never leave.”

What is your best anecdote with a student?
“Every student relationship is its own anecdote because I try to teach each child as an individual rather than teaching them as a class. One of the things that’s most enjoyable to me is learning about how my students understand things through the different questions they ask.”

Ms. Schwartz -- We Will Miss You When You Argon!

Shirin Kaye, Centerspread Editor

Ms. Maxine Schwartz was a Middle School Science teacher at Jack Barrack Hebrew Academy for three years. She also coached soccer, lacrosse, and basketball. The Barrack community will miss her but is excited for her to pursue her plans going forward.

What is your number one reason for leaving Barrack?
“I’m leaving the school to move back to where I grew up: Minnesota. My parents still live there and I want to live closer to them. There, I hope to finish my graduate program in teaching.”

What was your favorite class to teach?
“I really liked my forensics elective. It was just something different.”

What is your favorite memory from Barrack?

“There are too many to pick one, but I have enjoyed all of my interactions with students. I really liked going on all the trips.”

What will you miss the most?

“The good bonds I have with everyone in the department and my good relationships with the students. I’ll miss seeing friendly faces in the hallways every day.”

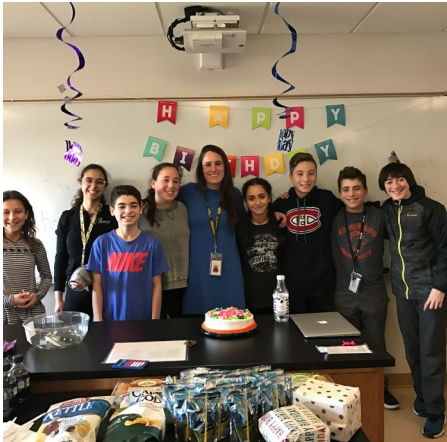


Photo Credit: Ms. Schwartz

Ms. Schwartz with her Advisory.

Dan Baxter: Physics Fiend

Helen Rudoler, Editor-in-Chief

Mr. Baxter taught physics for two years at Barrack after moving to Philadelphia from England. He has now moved on to teach at another school in the area.

What are your plans going forward?
“My plans are to continue teaching, continue enjoying what I do and hopefully having a positive impact on students’ lives and their understanding of physics and the scientific method...continue to be a dad and husband and enjoy those parts of my life.”

What was your favorite class to teach?

“I’ve enjoyed the variety of the AP physics course, AP Physics II, which given that I was the one who chose what goes in the Honors physics course, I’m kind of criticizing my own, but there are certain foundations you need

in physics first before going into the fun stuff. But then in the AP Physics II we got to do the fun stuff.”

What is your favorite memory from the school?

“I like the moments when the whole class is kind of laughing and smiling together. It’s not one particular time because it’s happened, thankfully, a number of times. I mean, just this morning with the 8th grade kind of sharing their favorite experiences from the year, it was nice just everyone together...when a group has really gelled. That’s what I enjoy most of all, and I’m just kind of one more in a group. You kind of lose the “teacher” title, kind of tag, and just...enjoy the company of others and have fun with it.”

What do you think you’ll miss the most about Barrack?

“Hebrew.”

What’s a favorite anecdote with a student?

“Oh, you’re at Barrack now Mr. Baxter, you can’t just be giving people C’s.”



Photo Credit: Dan Baxter

Mr. Baxter with his AP class at prom

Marlene, Math, and Memories

Helen Rudoler, Editor-in-Chief

Mrs. Gefter, department head, calculus wizard, beloved-by-all math teacher, is entering her first year of retirement. Here is what she had to tell the Chronicle before she left after teaching at Barrack for more than 30 years.

What are your plans going forward?

“Well, I'm going to be a grandmother on October 1st, so my kids live in New York and I'm hoping to help them out whenever they need help.... And my husband travels a lot, and I go with him every once in a while but I've turned down a lot of trips, so I'm going to do a lot more traveling.”

What was your favorite class to teach?

“I really love teaching everything, but I guess my specialty is Calculus.”

What is a favorite memory from school?

“I guess my favorite memories are the three times the yearbook was dedicated to me, that meant a whole lot, when students want to dedicate their yearbook to their teachers. So that was very meaningful to me.”

What do you think you'll miss the most about Barrack?

“I'll miss being here every day. I just love teaching every class every single day, and all the teachers that I've become so close with, and the students who thank me when they leave the classroom, and just everything that I do.”

Can you compare your first impressions of the school with how it turned out to be?

“There was always this warmth, there were always teachers who cared very deeply...and the kids were just amazing, and it's been like that ever since.”

Do you have a good anecdote with a student?

“Back in Akiba, when we were in the old building, I had a student

in eighth grade who just could not control herself. She was having trouble in every class and she would sit in the back of the room and as she walked up to sharpen a pencil she would just take her hand and throw everybody's papers on the floor; I mean she was disruptive... I mean she just was always getting into trouble and she was always in Detention. And in the Detention room we had pi up along the border of the walls and she memorized pi to, like, a hundred digits because she was in Detention so often.

“She was really smart, and she was a really good kid, she just couldn't control herself, and we had staffing after staffing and we didn't know what to do with her; it was really tough. I think Mr. Tow had her the next year. And every day I would say ‘How's she doing, how's she doing?’ I really felt like she could do well if they just could get things right with her.

“And so she really grew up, and then I got her again in tenth grade. We had moved her down a level because she had been in Honors and we didn't think she could function well that way. In Algebra II in tenth she started to do really well, and I moved her up back into Honors and then I had her again in twelfth grade, in Calculus. She was a real success story, because she ended up doing very well, but when she left school, she told Mrs. Farrel in her Exit Interview that Mrs. Farrel and Mrs. Gefter were the two teachers in the school that believed in her, and that's what got her through.

“And so I've remained friendly with her since; we went out for a cup of coffee a few years ago. She lives in Boston now. She's terrific. And just thinking about helping, you know, having confidence in somebody. That's what I think about all the time: all the students that I could give more confidence in what they were doing and help them be successful.”



Photo Credit: Helen Rudoler

Mrs. Gefter out to lunch with her junior Calculus class

Goodbye Gottlieb

Serena Levingston, World News Editor

Mr. Allen Gottlieb taught middle school Jewish Studies at Barrack for 17 years.

What was your favorite class to teach?

“In the third year I was teaching, because of what they needed, I taught five courses in 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th at the same time. That was particularly interesting to me because I picked out one topic with specific guidelines and taught it to all five years. I learned a lot about how to make it interesting to each age group and I learned a lot about teaching.”

Favorite memory of the school?

“Being in a classroom with kids, doing rainy day questions. I enjoy doing that the most because my motto for teaching is that I don't teach curriculum, I teach kids, and often I found that when my

"I don't teach curriculum, I teach kids."

students were raising the topics it was addressing what they needed to learn at that point, not what I wanted to teach. I learned a great deal when I got to understand their questions better. “

What will you miss the most?

“The relationships with students and with my colleagues. That's the reason why I worked at Barrack, not the meetings. I love teaching kids, and I always enjoyed my colleagues. A lot of good people work at Barrack.”

Best anecdote with a student?

“The first year that I taught, I gave the class a paper and the first words on one of the students' papers were “on the other hand.” In other words, they hadn't written anything before that. Somehow I thought that was a very Jewish way of starting a paper.”