

The Cougar Chronicle

Jack M Barrack Hebrew Academy • Purim 2023 Edition • thecougarchronicle.org

JBHA Staff Doppelgangers

Lila Elkins, Centerspread Editor

With the utmost respect and for the sake of a joke, here are some teacher doppelgangers:



Mrs. Gersenson



Olivia Octavius from Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse



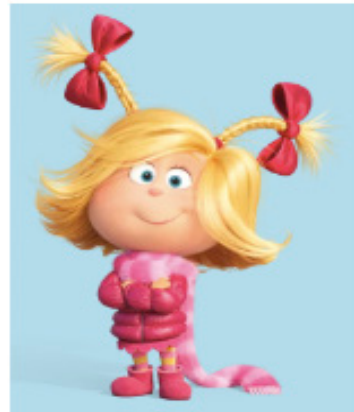
Mr. Hatfield



Barry B. Benson



Dr. Kwon



Cindy Lou Who



Rabbi Lesack



Franklin the Turtle



Rabbi Lev



Where's Waldo



Morah Lerner



Margo from Despicable Me



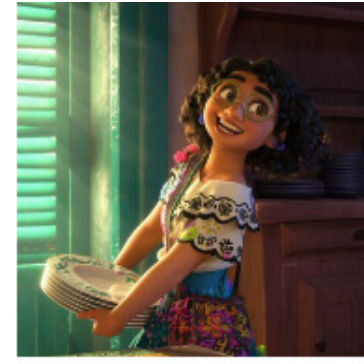
Ms. Wilson



Honey Lemon from Big Hero 6



Dr. Ziskind



Mirabelle from Encanto



Angela



Barbie



Dr. Fry



Fred Flintstone



Mor



Yocheved from The Prince of Egypt

Unsolvable Word Search

Sophia Mittman, Arts, Features, & Games Editor

Purim Special

O G E U M C T D M U E G R M V D H C H C
 T I O O G L Q M Z W I W T C R X Q T R C
 I F S O T W O M Z J X I K V E M W D W Y
 I X F M B H V M A M Q I F A H O V T O Q
 Z O U P I S U U U S Y O F B T Y Z S U L
 Z P W O V I V K U O C R V U R H V E H G
 N E U Z F C I G O U Y C P H R L Q E M R
 E U X E Y L J Q E S Z X T C S D R Y R Q
 B J Q E E I V Z G V B O K S Y U R V G F
 L O M E Z Z K S T W L K Z N I K C A K S
 T Y B Y D R F V M I A E K B Y K W A S L
 E V N M U S B P C P P B D R W V A P A U
 M X A A W L B O X Y P H T A Z M W R K W
 P M V J E P G W O Z C U F O S N I L K C
 V I V A U I R H U O A G R K R Q T D T U
 S M E O Q V Q V P A Y S E Z K G E K W W
 M H I N M C C X I E J Y X U Y C H O W T
 H L J Y H I C B P V F P W Z T R U C I R
 J C N F M E Z R N Q U U E M R T V D O R
 W A G U O I U A V Q Y T M C B G M B U G

Vashti
Haman
Purim

Esther
Mordechai
Hamantaschen

Achashverosh
Persia
Mishloach-manot

The Shroud of Shabbos Shmooze

Rachel Loeb, Managing Editor

The day had come. It was Friday, 9:45 AM, and I was itching to get out of my seat. The entire week had led up to this moment, and as the minutes passed, you could see every student in the class getting increasingly impatient and focusing their gaze on the clock. Nothing will stop us from getting to the lobby on time. The second hand seemed to be going backward, each minute more excruciating than the last. I overheard the classic debate between two of my classmates about whether challah bites or pretzels are tastier and which one would be chosen for this shabbos shmooze. I quickly chimed in with my own opinion- soft pretzels are clearly the superior option. The debate grows heated as other people from my class add their thoughts. The teacher desperately tried to change the topic, but this worked to no avail as all the students had their minds focused on matters far greater than class. Finally, realizing the futility of her efforts, the teacher admitted defeat and let us out a minute early so we could race to the place that had been on our minds for the past week, the table in the lobby. I had been waiting for the Shmooze

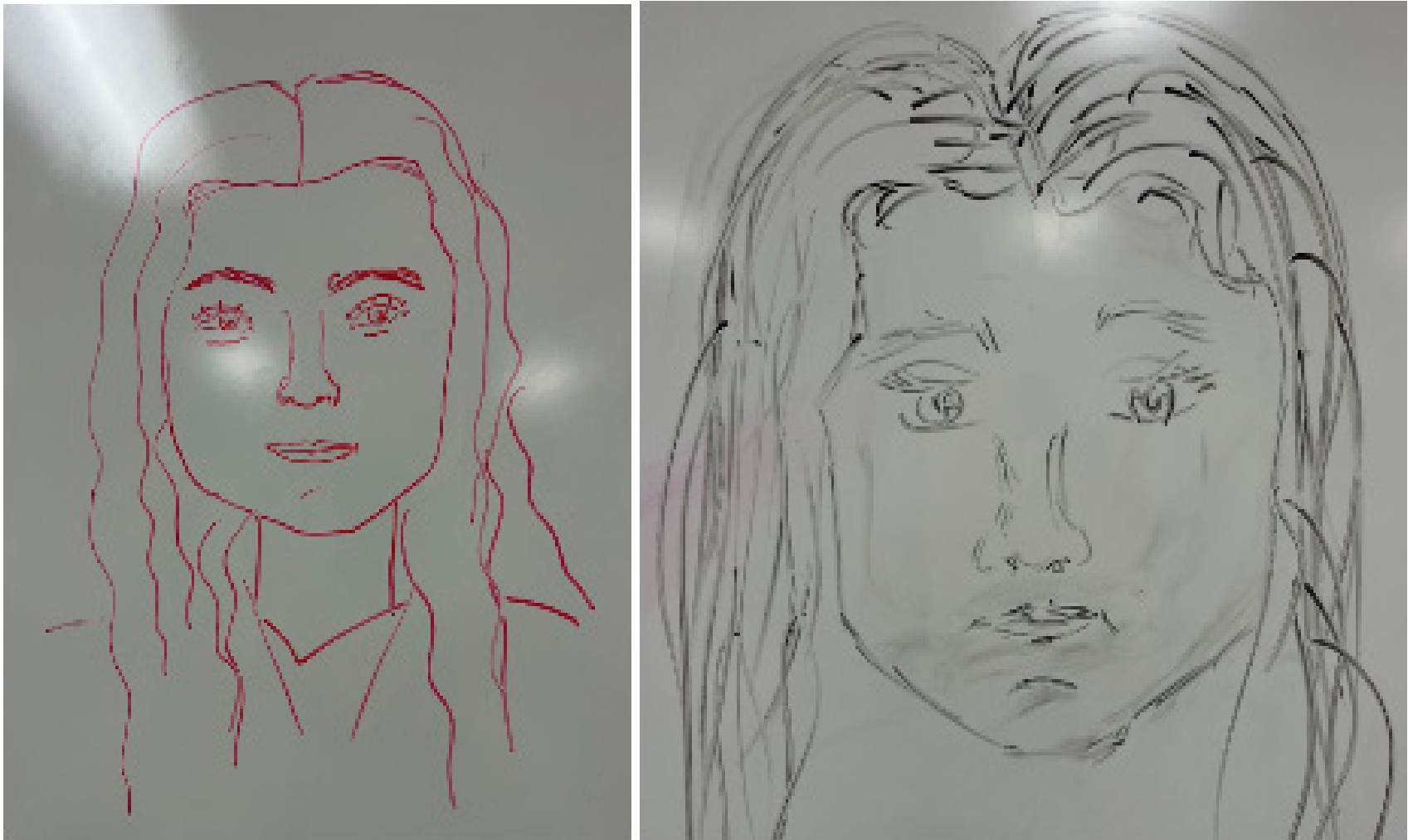
all week, and my mood for the rest of the day, let alone the week, rested on the result of the next ten minutes.

Alongside my classmates, I sprinted down the stairs, almost running into a sixth grader. As I reached the bottom of the stairs, I heard the loud noises of students talking and music playing, and I knew I was late. I anxiously exited the staircase, looking to see how many people had beat me there and, even more importantly, what food the table held this week. Surrounding the table is a dense crowd of students, both middle and high schoolers, hoping to get a taste of whatever is there. Getting to the front requires you to **“I had been waiting for the Shmooze all week, and my mood for the rest of the day, let alone the week, rested on the results of the next ten minutes”**

exert your authority and put your morals aside in favor of pushing others away. You will get shoved around by the other students and their backpacks, but it will all be worth it. So that’s exactly what I did. As I pushed my way through the throng of students, I heard gasps. “What is it this week? What is it?” I finally got to the front, and what I saw shocked me. It was Insomnia Cookies.

Who's that student?

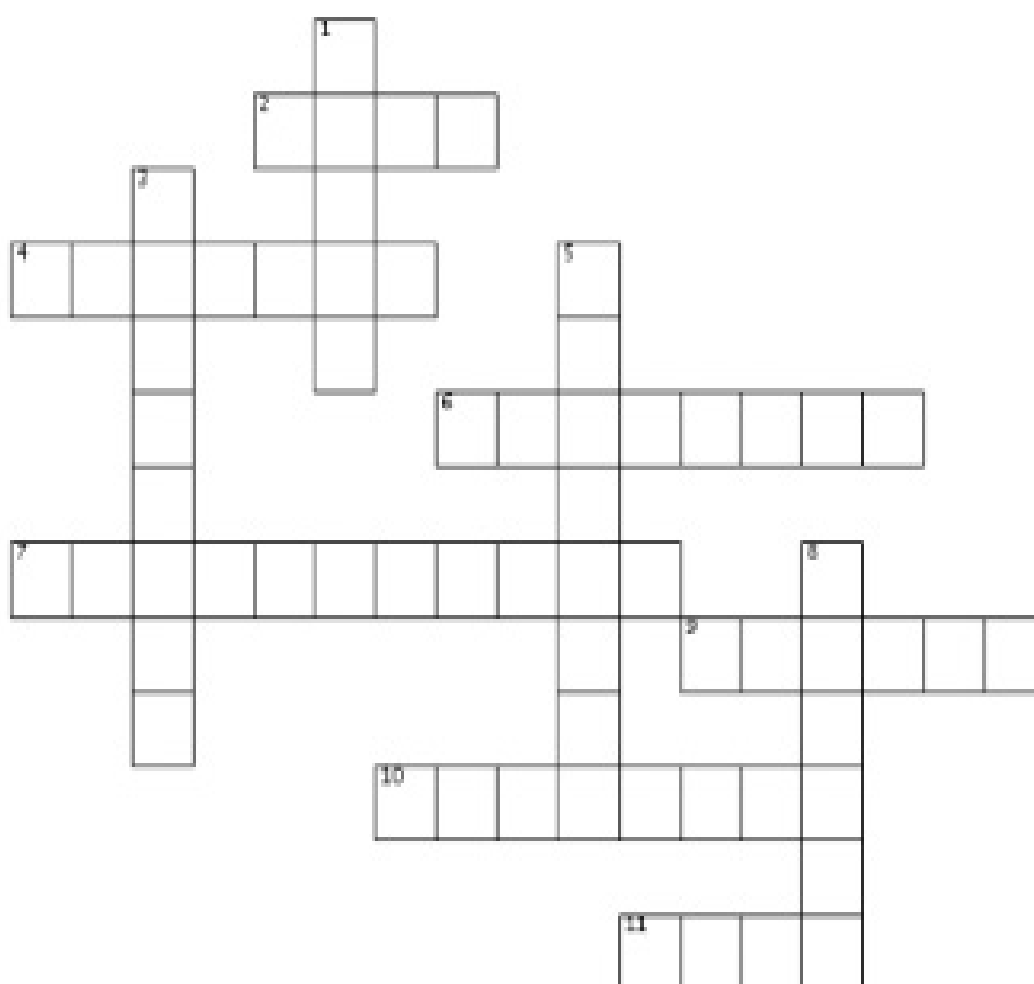
These caricatures depict the same student – can you guess who it is?



By Rosie Ackerman (left) and Becca Miller (right)

Purim Crossward Puzzle

Ariel Shavit, Layout Editor



ACROSS

- 2. What takes place the day before Purim?
- 4. Noise maker
- 6. What Barrack holds every year on Purim?
- 7. Triangle desert that is eaten
- 9. Achaverosh's 1st Wife
- 10. What is read on Purim?
- 11. Month of Purim

DOWN

- 1. Evil man of the Purim Story
- 3. What do people dress up in for Purim?
- 5. The Uncle of the main character
- 8. Who does the Purim story revolve around?

Who I Think Would Win in a Fight

Abby Greenspan, Staff Writer



I can't decide the winner!

Fill out your own!

Metropolis's Plan

By Margot Englander, School News Editor



How to Obtain VIP Member Status

Addison Smith, Opinion Editor

Over the past couple of years there has been one club at Barrack that has rapidly grown in popularity. Nobody knows how it came to be or why, but people love it so much. To see what the hype was about the Cougar Chronicle wanted to get the inside scoop, and hear from the head of the club herself (Maria). Maria did not want to comment on the success of her “underground” club at the moment. Even without a word from the leader you can see it for yourself, there is nothing quite like it. Sometimes there’s even more people there than in the DC during lunch! If you go into her office you can see it for yourself, 5 minutes won’t go by without someone popping in to say hi or staying for a short break of class (which NEVER happens by the way). The club is open 8:15 am- 3:35 pm to anyone from grades 6 through 12, Monday through Friday. It’s stocked up with water, gatorade, saltines and even band-aids if you’ve partied too hard. Sometimes the club even gets shut down to make classroom visits.

With that being said, it might be open to the public, but what is exclusive and extremely hard to get your hands on is the highly coveted VIP member status. Even getting considered for this status is a challenge. The first part of the process is you have to attend the top secret open house for aspiring VIP member status students. Our latest one was during the health screenings in a hidden back room. Once you have been to one or two of the prospective VIP members’ events then that’s where you really have to pick up the pace if you want to be considered. Maria only picks two students a year to be a VIP, one from the middle school and one from the high school. Only one year back in 2018 where she picked three students that year, only because they were extremely well qualified. Now their



(Clubspace) The most fun during the school day



(Pinterest) The office if just a cover!

identities remain a secret but rumor has it that all three of their pictures are hanging in the nurse’s top secret private headquarters. After events you need to start making regular appearances at the nurse’s office at least once a day to be safe but if you want to show her how dedicated you are then try and push it up to three/four times a day. Now your teachers might not like it but if you say to them I’m a prospective VIP member at club three zero N then they’ll let it slide. Once you’ve done that then it’s up to the board to decide if you’ve made it or not. You can expect your decision letter to come either in the mail or by phone around Pesach time.

Once admitted into the VIP status you have a once a week appearance minimum to keep up with. And attending the open house events is a must to scope out the hopeful new members. Making donations is also an amazing way to be known as a top member, bringing in more refreshments like ginger ale and maybe even Ritz crackers will really set you above the rest. Being a good active member is crucial to keeping your VIP status because it can be taken away at anytime just ask the students from the year 2013 who got it taken away during their first trimester by not being good active members. There is one thing that helps you have immunity for inactiveness which is knowing a VIP alumni, but not just any alumni they had to be from the years 2005-2020, been a member while in high school and have pink or blue hair while in the club; also for an unknown reason anyone that was in the club in 1987 will also work too. This is all a lot easier said than done but it’s worth a try if you want to have something special to put on your college résumé. Just be warned that if you enter the nurse’s office talking about the club she will have no idea what you’re talking about you have to say the special code Club N 98, for her to acknowledge it, use that passcode at your own risk.

If You Give A Mouse An F

Brandon Rosen, Staff Writer

If you give a mouse an F he will come back for a retake. If you let him do a retake and he still gets an F he will cry. When the mouse cries his mom and dad appear and ask the mouse why he is crying. The mouse will say because I got an F on my test when I first did it and then when I retook it. Then the parents of the mouse come to you and ask why he got an F. Tell them because your child is an imbecile. The next time you have that mouse assigned a big project help him on the next project or else he will eat your toes.



Name That Teacher

Mikaela Garber, Israel Editor

1. Who Am I?

- I have moved five times in the last seven years.
- I built my home computer.
- I took magic lessons for several years.
- My Bar Mitzvah was a screening of the second Harry Potter movie.

3. Who Am I?

- Famous spy Jonathon Pollard was my babysitter.

5. Who Am I?

- I was a high school cheerleading captain.

7. Who Am I?

- I found and dug up a brontosaurus femur in Wyoming.

9. Who Am I?

- I never went on a single date, although I am happily married for 15 years.
- I was in a car accident where my car flipped three times, and I walked away without a scratch,
- I took off on a Hercules plane six times but landed only once.
- When I was 30, I meditated for 10 straight days, without speaking, writing, or making eye contact with anyone.
- I used to have long curly hair that reached my shoulders. I also wore eyeglasses.
- I got a cellphone only when I was 18.
- When I was 16, a metal frame weighing 200 pounds fell on my head.
- I love spinach!

13. Who Am I?

- I played quidditch in college.

15. Who Am I?

- I sailed around the world in college.

1. Yoni Nadiv 2. Stephanie Raphael 3. Minna Ziskind 4. Lindsay Siney 5. Erin Beser 6. Matthew Dorsh 7. Henry Dana 8. Thomas McLaughlin 9. Benaya Yehuda 10. Maya Rosenberg 11. Judd Levingston 12. Michael Zimmerman 13. Danielle Wilson 14. Elizabeth Pandian 15. Grant Butler

2. Who Am I?

- I've "met" (shook hands with) three presidents -- Reagan, Bush (the first one), and Clinton.
- I've been to all 50 states. South Dakota is my favorite.

4. Who Am I?

- I have ridden an elephant and an ostrich.
- I have been skydiving.
- I have been a millionaire (in Zimbabwe dollars!)

6. Who Am I?

- I tap dance on the stage at the Kimmel Center.
- I have corneal transplants in both eyes.

8. Who Am I?

- I am two degrees of separation from Bruce Willis, Tom Hanks, Kathleen Turner, and Denzel Washington (I once appeared in corporate training videos with actors who appeared in The Sixth Sense, Philadelphia, and Serial Mom)
- When I was sixteen, I tried out for the Cleveland Guardians.

10. Who Am I?

- I lived in Lagos, Nigeria when I was three.
- I visited Manila, the Phillipines and saw Imelda Marcos's 2000 pairs of shoes collection!

11. Who Am I?

- I almost became Chief Rabbi of Sweden.
- I have biked more than 55,000 miles in 19 years of commuting to Saligman and Barrack.

12. Who Am I?

- I qualified for a level one hang glider pilot's license!

14. Who Am I?

- I appeared in an Arby's ad as a kid.
- I have been to India six times.
- I went to the same college as the guy who songified the corn kid.
- I have three friends who competed on Jeopardy!
- At the end of the Cold War, I attended a televised town hall



Not Your Average “Judd”

Jillian Shweky, Staff Writer

Two truths and a lie:

Rabbi Lev speaks fluent Chinese

Rabbi Lev has biked 5,000 miles the last 19 years

Rabbi Lev almost became the Chief Rabbi of Sweden

Here is why it's hard to play this game with Rabbi Judd Lev. His “truths” are so interesting that it would be hard to think of a lie that would be unusual enough to confuse people.

After a conversation with Rabbi Lev and some other students at lunch, where he mentioned that he almost became the Chief Rabbi of Sweden I knew I needed to hear more. I was not sure if he was kidding. He was not. But after talking to him, I can say that this may be one of the least interesting things about him. Rabbi Lev is a Renaissance man. He's a scholar, a musician (he plays trombone and piano), he cooks (Mediterranean food), he bikes and backpacks with his family, and is a voracious reader particularly about US history and the colonial period. In his words, “there is no such thing as free time, just unscheduled time”. He would describe himself growing up as “Bohemian, artsy, ironic and a little quirky”. Most of all, he considers himself an optimist. In fact, he actually would wear a pin in school that said “OPTIMIST”, just in case anyone questioned that.

From the start, I knew it was not going to be a run of the mill interview. When you ask a rabbi who inspired him to become a rabbi and he answers the minister at his boarding school, his greatest mentor, you know to pay close attention. Even simple questions like “where did you go to school” had interesting answers.

Rabbi Lev went to Phillips Exeter Academy in Lexington, MA. It is a non-denominational school, but with Christian origins which is why they had a school minister. Through that minister they also had a small Shabbat service on Friday nights with Challah from a local bakery. They were the only students allowed to have wine on campus. Senior year he had a Passover seder in his dorm. From there he went on to Harvard where he double majored in History and Science, and The History of Science. He believes you can't have history without science or science without history if you are going to be objective. His education culminated at JTS in New York for grad school for both a master's degree and a PhD. So yes, he is Rabbi Doctor Lev.



“When you ask a rabbi who inspired him to become a rabbi and he answers the minister at his boarding school, his greatest mentor, you know to pay close attention.”

He originally wanted to be a teacher. It is pretty clear that this started as early in 8th grade he became tour guide, dressed in full colonial costume, of historical sites in Lexington, Massachusetts, and later interned at the JFK Library. In college he was thinking of taking Hebrew until his parents suggested that maybe he should try something he had never done before (which gives you some insight to where his Renaissance outlook comes from), so he decided to take Mandarin Chinese. The summer after his sophomore year of college he went to China to teach English as a second language and really enjoyed it. However, while wandering the streets on Yom Kippur he had a revelation that even though he spoke the language, and was living in China, he was a Jewish guy that was never going to be Chinese. So, he headed home to study more Judaism.

Looking back, he muses “all the seeds were planted along the way” to inspire his ultimate career path, being a Rabbi. He's a people person. As the rabbi at his parent's synagogue told him when he was a teenager; ‘I'm a rabbi because I like people. If I didn't like people I would work in a post office.’ Connecting with people, and helping them to see that Judaism “has something meaningful to say in their own lives.” Teaching what Judaism and Jewish values can say about the world from poverty to homelessness to the environment is at the root of what he hopes to teach. At the United Nations he was the “rep” for Judaism and was part of a global conversation with all the other religious traditions represented there. Even as a Rabbi, although he can describe God's impact on people, he has a hard time describing that impact on himself. When he went to Israel for the first time, he didn't like it. He found that the people were trying to change his Judaic beliefs and make him a different person. But as he came to understand, even if being Jewish is your identity, the secular culture you come from is married to that, which is why when the opportunity to become the Chief Rabbi of Sweden came up, he took a pass. Even though he has the “international bug” and loves cross country skiing, raising kids in Sweden would be challenging.

I think that the top songs on Rabbi Lev's playlist really describe his life and philosophy; he calls it “Happy Tape”. According to him, “You can't always get what you want” (by the Rolling Stones): The path you thought you should take is not always the path that leads to the greatest experiences in life. “Shut up and dance” (by Walk the Moon): Enjoy life, don't overthink an opportunity, try everything. This is a philosophy worth considering because Rabbi Lev is definitely someone “Walking on Sunshine.” (by Katrina & the Waves). So, in case you have not figured out what were the 2 truths and what was the lie... he has actually biked over 55,000 miles since 2003.

Tips From a Senior

Niva Cohen, Editor-in-Chief

English

Poetry: list random surrounding objects using artsy formatting –

The black cap of my

Deodorant

The glass of my perfume

Toothbrush bristles

Frayed USB cord

(and one generic closing line)

Welcome come

Reading quizzes: Sparknotes will be insufficient. Be wary, because the English teachers can use that creativity to craft excruciatingly specific questions.

Essays: Don't say utilize when you can say use – they're remarkably unimpressed by big words. And don't expect "form and function" to go anywhere because it will be with you until the end. Learn to use commas correctly. Before it's too late.

Shakespeare: If you see a sexual reference, it's there. Some things never change.

Math

Always go to Math Club for extra credit; always take PMLs.

For PMLs: when in doubt, guess 0, 1, or whatever year it is – and 1 IS NOT PRIME.

If PhotoMath looks like it's using some funky method, you probably haven't learned it yet.

Tests: You can ask a question however many ways you want to, but they still won't give you the answer (except for when they do, and what a wave of relief that sets into motion.)

Science

Tests: Do revisions while you can because they don't exist after sophomore year. Don't worry, though – Ms. Wilson's Physics curve saves lives.

Labs: Not to be boring and banal, but you should read the directions. Blah. Blah. Blah. But seriously: you can save yourself a lot of redoing if you do it right the first time.

Future-thinking: Pay attention to which material interests you the most so that you can make an informed decision about what science class to take in senior year. It's better if you base that decision on what you actually want to learn because I hate to break it to you, but colleges don't really care if you take AP Chem or AP Bio.

History

Study guides: This is an unpopular opinion that no one will listen to, but make your own study guides. Collaborating or using past students' will keep the material from concretizing in your brain. You have to be the one to write it down. Also, this might have only been a ninth-grade-me problem, but DO NOT write IDs for every term before the test. Trust yourself to whip out the significance on the spot, and don't get too detailed because that's how you run out of time.

Research papers: Use Mrs. Sittenfield throughout the process. I went to her this year when I was about to submit my final draft to get a final piece of information. That last push at research can enhance your paper and make it more original.

In class: Mark up your photocopies and use the teachers' knowledge. They aren't scary, I promise.

Jewish Studies

Teachers: Appreciate Rabbi Rosenberg's laugh. Learn from Rabbi Yondorf's cooking expertise (especially hummus!). Engage with Rabbi Razin and Socratic method him back. They are such lovely people who want to help you grow (and look at me getting all condescending!! Loving that senior privilege).

Translation: This is mainly for Beit Midrash students – use Jastrow even if you feel too lazy. It takes less effort than laboring over the same word for twenty minutes while your computer stays safely tucked away.

World Language

Translation: Hopefully this is not self-incriminating, but use Google Translate. Don't stop at Google Translate, though. Check its work to see if it makes sense, and get a second opinion from other sources (Morfix for Hebrew or SpanishDict for Spanish). Depending on how many scoldings I get, I guess I'm about to find out how many of my teachers actually read The Chronicle.

Speaking: I'm a bit of a hypocrite in this regard, so take what I say with a grain of salt. But just speak. Even if you don't have exactly the right words or grammar – just do it, and you'll improve. It works wonders on the participation grades.



Spinny Chair Warfare

Becca Miller, Managing Editor

Dr. Ziskind slammed her fist down on her desk, making the pens rattle in her mug and a few stray dolphin drawings flutter from the wall. Mrs. Scheinmann and Mrs. Taichman turned around from their work, startled.

“What’s wrong?” Scheinmann ventured nervously.

“Youknowwhat’swrong,” Ziskind growled through gritted teeth. “It’s been wrong for nigh on two years now, but this--” she brandished her class schedule-- “This is the last straw!”

Scheinmann and Taichman scooted their roly chairs closer to look at the offending paper and gasped in unison, horrified.

“No!”

“This must be a mistake!”

“There’s no mistake,” Ziskind replied grimly, “This is happening. They’ve finally done it. I’ve taught in the dark, windowless confines of 309, had twenty students in the tiniest third-floor classrooms, and I put up with all of it. I made it work. But never, and I mean never, will I teach in the middle school wing! It’s time, ladies. Time to fight back! Remember the good old days? Room 206 was ours. No ugly gray cabinets, no garish blue paint, just tastefully curated bulletin boards and a giant suffragette flag! And look at it now. Every spinny chair broken, and that giant, completely unnecessary window into the STEAM lab disrupting those few classes we still get to teach in there! I bet the students barely even remember the glory days when that was a history room. They only know it as it is now, fallen into ruin, used for extra storage space by the STEAM department. But they can’t hide the truth forever. They can cover the walls with the most horrifying shade of blue paint, but the walls will still remember. The conference tables remember. The spinny chairs – those brave, injured soldiers – remember. And most importantly, we remember. It’s time to reclaim our territory, to liberate Room 206 and take it in the name of the history department!”

A chorus of “Aye”s and “Hear hear”s echoed around the office. Taichman got up, and with an air of gravity, closed the door, lowered the blinds, and sat back down, fingers steepled.

“If we’re finally doing this,” She said, “We need a plan.”

“They marched in a phalanx formation, wielding hard-cover Brinkley shields and purple dry-erase marker spears.”

The next morning at 8:15, the history office was in disarray, every surface covered in books and old maps, photocopies for different grades opened to the battles of Gettysburg and Thermopylae, no trace of its inhabitants.

Dr. Ziskind and Mrs. Scheinmann were in the main stairwell, leading an army of English and Core teachers they had recruited to the cause. They marched in a phalanx formation, wielding hard-cover Brinkley shields and purple dry-erase marker spears. Watching their advance, Mr. Maiman and the STEAM teachers formed ranks in front of the door and assembled a front line of eighth-grade battle robot projects. The two armies clashed, and carnage ensued. Textbooks crushed battle robots, and markers were knocked out of hands by yardsticks. In the chaos, nobody noticed that Mrs. Taichman was missing. She crept up the back staircase, bare feet making no sound, her loose black clothing blending into the shadows as she slipped into the unguarded STEAM lab. She took a deep breath, did some yoga to stretch and focus herself, and ran into a flying leap, kicking through the glass window between the lab and room 206. The crash startled the STEAM teachers, and Taichman unlocked the door for Ziskind and Scheinmann to successfully push through the last of STEAM’s defenses.

A gleeful shout went up as the history teachers celebrated. They tore through the room, kicking over cabinets and graffiti-ing the offensive blue walls. Dr. Ziskind stood up on one of the conference tables and a hush fell over the room as she hung up the purple, white and yellow suffragette flag of victory. Room 206 was theirs again.



Athlete of the Issue

Brandon Rosen, Staff Writer

The Barrack football team has the best players. We have Vashti, Achashverosh, Esther, and Haman as some of the best, but our most extraordinary member is Mordechai, our amazing QB and Athlete of the Issue. Mordechai managed to miss a 1-foot pass to Vashti. He somehow hit an opposing player in the face getting a 50 yard penalty for the team. But he managed to make a 90-yard pass to himself by using a tube. He made the bold move of going to the judge who called a holding call in the Super Bowl and showing him what a real holding call would be and what he called was while holding him over a pit of piranhas. The team thinks he should be removed, but his parents bribed the coach to let him stay on the team and be the athlete of the issue.

I Sat Down with Benny Scheinmann

Edan Held, World News Editor

By now, we've all heard of the infamous and controversial Batei Barrack sorting quiz. Like almost all BuzzFeed quizzes, you answer a set of questions, and it tells you what house you would fit into. However, there has been some controversy over the quiz — about how your answers are analyzed, if it is completely random, and who would take the quiz to begin with. I sat down with creator, Benny Scheinmann, to ask him his thoughts on it.

Benny, how are you doing?

"I'm doing just ok. I'm a little unsure of why I am here to begin with but I'll let you ask the questions."

How long have you been making these types of quizzes for?

"Around 2 days now."

Do you find joy in creating this?

"No, none at all."

Lets get into the meat of what I need to accomplish here. What was your idea with your most recent quiz?

"I simply wanted people to be able to take a quiz that showed them what house they were in"

Do any of the questions that you asked have anything to do with what house you are in?

"Ummmm, they don't exactly. But that's what makes it fun."

Looks like we have different definitions of fun. Look, everyone wants to know: are the results different every time?

"I cannot speak to this."

Benny, the public is begging to know. Are the results random.

"As I said, I cannot speak to this."

Benny, who is your target audience with this quiz?

At that point in the interview, Mr. Scheinmann barged out of the room, appearing to be in a fit of anger. My big question remains: why would someone that goes to Barrack — someone that already has a Batei Barrack assignment — take the Batei Barrack sorting quiz? That is like Harry Potter taking a BuzzFeed "What Hogwarts House am I" quiz and getting Slytherin — THERE IS NO POINT, HARRY, YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT HOUSE YOU ARE IN, AND EVEN IF YOU GET A DIFFERENT ANSWER, THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO. Instead, maybe we should send the quiz to other schools in the area, and maybe the admissions office can use it to increase recruitment. With that, I rest my case.

Purim MadLibs

Tzofiya Lesack, Staff Writer

Every year I heard that Barrack and the JLI go all out for Purim! This morning as I was walking into school I saw a _____ (adjective) sign that said whoever wears the best _____ (noun) wins a _____ (noun). Isn't that so fun! I saw all our teachers _____ (verb) last year to try and win something but in the end it was a student that won. That student was wearing a _____ (adjective) _____ (noun) and everyone thought that they dressed up the best. The winner of the competition also got a Purim gift basket with _____ (noun) and some _____ (adjective) _____ (plural noun). My friends and I decided that this year we are going to be _____ (plural noun). The costume was almost sold out and we had to _____ (verb) to get the last one in the store. I am so _____ (emotion) to wear my costume to _____ (place). I think that this year I will be able to finally win. I can't wait to see what all my friends are _____ (verb ending in -ing) for Purim.

Purim Scramble

Benny Scheinmann, Sports Editor

AMHAN

RMHOEDACI

HASNUSH

MECTSOU

NOIYR

SITAHV

GNKI

HILAMEG

TSEHER



Are Hot Dogs Sandwiches?

Ari Eisenstadt, Staff Writer

Here's the question everyone is dying to know: can you classify a hot dog as a sandwich? Before I can share the public's opinion on the topic, the definition is necessary, so according to the Oxford dictionary, a sandwich is "an item of food consisting of two pieces of bread with meat, cheese, or other filling between them, eaten as a light meal." Additionally, when asked in a survey taken at the Jack M Barrack Hebrew Academy 2023, 51.4% (19 people) said it does not qualify as a sandwich, 43.2% (16 people) said it was, and 5.4% (2 people) said yes, but only under specific conditions. There is a lot more behind the percentage than just yes or no because most people said one of these three things could make or break its qualifications:

1. The type of bread used
2. The toppings or lack of toppings
3. Whether or not the bun is connected

Many argued that the bread had the same kind and thickness as a hoagie or sub; therefore hot dogs would be considered a sandwich. Especially in comparison to a wrap or tortilla, where the bread is thin and more mobile, allowing it to create shapes that look less like a traditional sandwich. On the other hand, the New York Department of Taxation and Finance states that it doesn't matter if it's "made on bread, on bagels, on rolls, in pitas, [or] in wraps"; it is still classified as a sandwich.

Another way to define whether a hot dog is a sandwich is if there are additional fillers.

The New York Department of Taxation and Finance also has something to add, mentioning that a sandwich is a sandwich "regardless of the filling." Despite this point, various people felt that the toppings determined how a hot dog would be categorized. An anonymous person noted that the additional toppings made it feel more like a sandwich because numerous sandwiches hold more than one garnish and flavor. For example, a traditional sandwich is the PB&J, a global sensation with a mix of flavors that everyone knows, just like a hotdog with ketchup, because most know what that tastes like which makes it more recognizable as a sandwich. Many disagree and think that a hotdog is sufficient because it fills the space between the bread.

Most of the controversy took place when discussing the third topic: how important is it for the bun to be connected? This argument is critical because the definition says there must be two pieces of bread, and a bun is one with an opening. Some think it's acceptable for the bun to be attached because the purpose of the bread is still fulfilled despite there not being two pieces.

With all the information already stated, my verdict is that a hot dog is a sandwich only if the bun has been broken into two pieces because otherwise, it is not following a sandwich's definition.



A Sure Bet

By Raphael Englander, Editor-in-Chief



The Real Reasons Behind the Senior Lounge Closing

By Manny Shklar, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Finally, after a long start to the school year, the senior lounge has reopened to the public. From offices being moved to seniors having to sit in the hallways, everyone is happy with this outcome. But the supposed “broken water pipes” took a suspiciously long time to finish, and that’s led to many students asking the same question: Why did the senior lounge actually close? After thorough research and anonymous experiments, I have come to many possible conclusions.

The most likely scenario has to do with the infamous ping-pong incident. Many students are still unaware of the details, as it appeared to happen very early in the year. I struggled to find a comment from any teachers or seniors about it, as legal actions have forced many to remain silent. I did my own exploring, and after finding just one paddle stuck in a wall of the lounge, while the others remain undiscovered, I believe this could be the breakthrough. While many spectators of the horrific event would likely call it an accident, I’m not convinced. Losing one’s temper during a ping-pong game is nothing new, but to suddenly make the table and almost all the other equipment disappear is almost unheard of. As local police came in and out of the school through all hours of the night in order to make sure students didn’t see them, they were stumped by the lack of clues. Something just didn’t add up in this scenario. Whether it was a teacher or student, on purpose or accidental, we can only be sure of one thing: there will be consequences.

Another possible scenario I’ve found evidence of is that the senior class did not have enough funds to keep the lounge the whole year. They settled on getting it for about two months, as that was all they could afford, despite years of sales and hard work.

Some seniors believe their money was stolen, but in reality we all know they spent too much on getting every student a Batei Barrack lanyard. The rest of the student body is suspicious of a private meeting between the senior class to decide what their next course of action should be. After reviewing security footage, it appears that many were in favor of “borrowing” money from the junior class. This did not end up working as it was immediately shot down by the administration. Others believed they should take out a loan and pay back the school later. They eventually came to a peaceful conclusion and decided to take the school’s offer of two months with the lounge.

Following my thorough research and in-depth interviews from teachers and students, it is clear that there were no “broken pipes” in the senior lounge. The administration is working with the seniors to cover up a big secret, and it’s only a matter of time until we can expose it. No matter the consequences of the eventual result, we can be sure that Barrack will never be the same.

“Legal actions have forced many to remain silent.”

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