



Keeping it Positive

By Pam Morris, Early Learning Center director

So, it happened. That safety and security, the feeling of bliss that I so flippantly cited, it cracked. Not shattered, mind you, thank HaShem, but definitely has a little fissure now. An upcoming meeting in my corner of the world has been announced, with a lead speaker whose views are diametrically opposed to what I stand for; to what supporters of Israel stand for. I do believe in healthy debate but when the other side blatantly ignores facts, well it is hard to have a civilized conversation.

I read an opinion piece from someone in Israel and it resonated with me. The author took the position that all of the protestors that she can see on the news, in person and on social media, are protesting against Israel but it is as if they don't see what is happening all around them. "Where were the tens of thousands of demonstrators who support the Palestinians, where were they in 2001 when the U.S. fought the Taliban regime in Afghanistan? Were they out in the streets protesting against the U.S., calling for a "Free Afghanistan," or did they understand that the horrors of 9/11 justified a war to eradicate evil, protect the world from terrorism, and eliminate moral deterioration?" asks Leah Garber, JCC Association Center for Israel Engagement .

False Narrative

Leah asks, "Did anyone notice that when Hamas accused Israel of bombing the hospital, just last week, they claimed hundreds of dead, but from the moment it was proven beyond a doubt that the bombing was carried out by Islamic Jihad, suddenly the number of dead dropped to a few dozen?"

The media seems to want to portray Israel as the "bad guys". There is a story they want to tell and facts, shmacts - they have written the story and twist reality to make it fit their ending, their hypothesis.



Reality and Positivity

So I circle back to who I am at my core. How can I focus on the positive when the world around me is falling apart? I look for facts and then build my narrative. Not the other way around. It is important to remember that in 2005, the Israelis left Gaza in charge of the Gaza residents who then voted in a Hamas government in 2006. At this time, the oceanfront property has not been developed nor has any industry grown out of this relatively new partnership. And the fact is, Israel is knocking it out of the park!

They Made What?

In 2019, InterestingEngineering.com, published an article showcasing 11 Israeli innovations that just might surprise you. From drip irrigation to cyber security to a camera you can swallow to aid in medical procedures, Israel has made the world a better place. Read the written version of this WOW for a more detailed synopsis.

Israel is a desert and they have taken their role seriously when it comes to ensuring that crops in an otherwise arid environment will thrive. The story of modern drip irrigation begins with a man named Simcha Blass. Born November 27, 1897 in Poland, Blass studied engineering before co-founding Mekorot, Israel's national water company, which provided water for Israel's southern Negev desert in the 1930's. Working at Kibbutz Hatzerim, Blass and his son developed drip irrigation systems both in Israel and abroad. He soon found investors within the Kibbutz to purchase his technology and erect a facility for large scale manufacturing of drip tubing and emitters. Taking Blass's original "spaghetti" tubing, along with a new inline emitter developed with the aid of other engineers, they formed Netafim, the world's first drip irrigation company. You can read more at dripworks.com

Others include:

DiaNose: Leveraging 10 years of research on nanosensors, NaNose has developed an innovative device for real-time, simple to use, early detection and monitoring of diseases via breath. NaNose Medical was founded by private investors together with the Technion Israel Institute of Technology and Hadassah Medical Center. "NaNose" is able to detect things like cancer, Parkinson's, and Multiple Sclerosis with an 86% to 93% accuracy rate. Learn more at NaNosemed.com



[ReWalk](#) is a battery-powered exoskeleton that has been developed to help paraplegic patients walk again. Its inventor, Dr. Amit Goffer, devised the system after being left paralyzed due to a tragic accident.

The exoskeleton is operated using a wristwatch and allows patients to recover the ability to walk, stand up and climb stairs. It has been available to the public since 2014 and has even made appearances in the London Marathon and Paralympics. To learn more, visit [Rewalk.com](#)

[The PillCam](#), as the name suggests, is a camera device that is designed to be swallowed. It was developed to help diagnose and treat infections, such as intestinal disorders, and digestive system cancers. Think the dreaded endoscopy!

The camera is digestible and disposable and is now FDA-approved for use. Because of its unique design, it is able to access areas of the digestive system that are typically out of range during a conventional procedure. Visit [Medtronic.com](#) for more information.

The first commercially viable [Firewall software](#) was first developed in 1993 by a team of Israeli computer scientists at Check Point Software Technologies. Since then, Check Point has expanded, opening subsidiaries overseas and partnering with major tech companies, including Nokia.

This type of software is the cornerstone of most computer security systems and keeps millions of people a little safer from malicious cyber activity. Visit [Checkpoint.com](#) to learn more.

Turn it Around

That is just what I am going to do. There are many examples like the ones I shared. And pictures of hope and kindness around the world. Leah Garber shared the following uplifting signs of support and understanding: an exhibition of baby carriages in London with pictures of the children who were abducted by the terrorists; an empty Shabbat table for 200 in Rome honoring those who were abducted by Hamas; pictures of the 222 abducted are displayed on the Jumbotron in New York's Times Square.



I know better than to try and reinvent the wheel.

Leah ends with “The pain spans the world. Stretching from the *kibbutzim* in the south of Israel— the burned homes, and the endless newly dug graves—into the hearts of Jews and people of all faiths around the world. This is the chain of brotherhood and solidarity, the chain of truth that must prevail over lies. Please help the truth be revealed, facts prevail over ignorance. Otherwise, as long as there are those who support and justify the atrocities, they will never stop. Not here. Not anywhere. Together, united, we will overcome.”

Shabbat Shalom.