

New Ort Times

Ort Binyamina newspaper

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This months edition is late however its special: not only did we celebrate Christmas in The German colony in Haifa but we also incorporated our friends` school (from Berlin) articles.

We chose to write about the Colony`s famous and outstanding buildings featuring special design and elements rare in this region. Each house and it`s unique history and residents.

Also in this edition we added our friends` articles. As you know we are in touch with the John Lennon Gymnasium in Berlin which is a 6 –year high school. The following writers are our pen- pals and hosts when we arrive in Berlin.

Finally an interview with the retired principal in JLG, Dr.Pfeifer who shares with us a little of his 12 year experiences. We were lucky to meet him last year and I guess its due to him that these relations between our schools have been established.

Thank you all for the hard work!

Tsilla

The Templars Colony in Haifa

The Temple Society (German: *Tempelgesellschaft*) was a German Protestant sect whose members referred to themselves as Templars.

Christoph Hoffmann and Georg David Hardegg (1812–1879) founded the Temple Society in Wurretemberg and in 1869 the first pioneers of the movement landed in the Haifa harbor in Palestine) and established the first Templars colony, on the remains of the old Haifa city, on the footsteps of the Carmel mountain.



This special society built one of the most beautiful settlements in Israel.

They built their houses on a typical straight road, both sides of which, lay their stone brick houses with such windows, wooden shades, balconies and a gable on top of the roof.



Above the entrances they added a scripture from the bible in German. The Templars continued building several more colonies all around Palestine cooperating with the Zionist movement who were busy establishing their own villages, they helped by teaching them modern technology brought from Germany. But tragically in 1933 Hitler the new Reich's chancellor called on the German Aryans everywhere to come home or lead the ideological war wherever they were.

This notice also arrived in Palestine. Some (around 30%) of the German Templars joined the Nazi party but remained in Palestine establishing the Hitler's youth movement and spreading the Nazi ideology in and around Palestine in Arabic, but only in 1939 did they become formal enemies to the British empire (who ruled in Palestine). They were put on arrest, some were sent to Germany as POW exchange and most were deported to Australia where they live until today.

The only physical remnants are their beautiful aesthetics houses and a tragic story of hatred, antisemitism and its victims on both sides.

Ben Gurion street, 16

by Yoav Kats and Jonathan Friedman

Monday morning, Christmas day we went to visit the Templars colony in Haifa.

As part of the group`s research we were given house number 16 which was built by a German Templar but was rented by the famous Sir Laurence Oliphant.

The house was built in 1870. It is now abandoned and neglected sadly. But its special characteristics are still visible :

- The house has a gable
- The house has Shingles
- Above the entrance door there is a German inscription that says: "Happy are they who keep justice and are righteous at all times", (Psalms 106.)



Who was Oliphant?

Laurence Oliphant was a South African-born British author, traveller, diplomat and Christian mystic.

Oliphant and his wife, Alice, settled in Palestine, dividing their time between a house in the German Colony in Haifa, and another in the Druze village of Daliyat al-Carmel on Mount Carmel. Oliphant's secretary Naphtali Herz Imber, author of the Israeli national anthem, Hatikva, lived with them. After Alice died tragically and Imber left for the USA, Laurence also left and eventually died in England.

Ben Gurion Avenue , 11

by Oded Fragman

The first building of the germen colony was designated to be temporary residence and later was used as a place for gathering, a place for communal prays and used as school. It was built on 23 rd September 1869, and the work was done by Arabs. The building became a model of design for many houses in the colony: stone building, combination of classic germen with eastern motifs such as bows, pediments, wooden balconies, a basement and an inscription from the bible on top of the entrance.

This building had a great big bell which was meant as a calling for the community.

On the entrance to this building was an inscription: "werde meiner Rechten vergessen 1869".



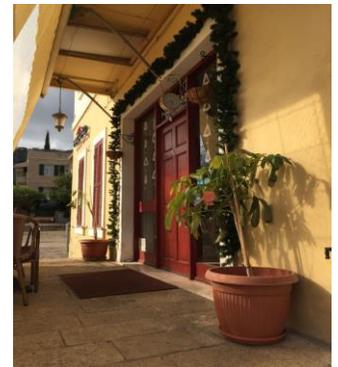
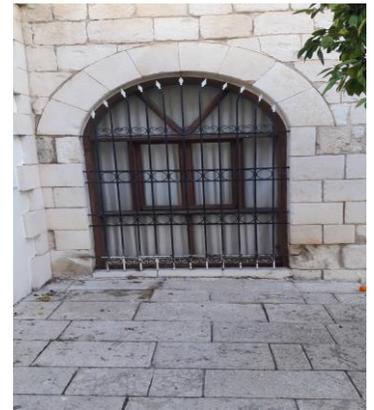
Ben Gurion Ave.26

By Hailey Levy and Leann Lulav

On the 25th of December, Hailey and Leann went on an English Excellence trip to Haifa in Israel. We got a number of a olden German Templar, we had to discover about the past of the German Colony. The mission was to find out about the



history of the building. What we discovered was really interesting, we found out that there are 3 buildings and one is a private residence, the second one is now a guest house, and the third one now is Consular Agency of the United States of America. Before it became to what it is today it served as one big house and a storage house next to it. The owner of the first house is Jonathan Fridman, the owner of the second house is Handrawes Hadad, and the owner of the third house is the same owner like the second house. In the guest house there is a German inscription written on the wall: Immanuel Gottmituns. We found some architecture characteristics inside the building: the wooden ceiling, the brick wall, the olden windows and the antique staires. The Fisher family used to live there ack in the old days, we know they use to do low job work to earn money.



Ben Gurion Ave. 12

By Yoav Roth, Roy Shyman and Liam Kogman

The Schumacher house was built in 1870; his number was 12 and was the second house built in the Haifa German colony. On the entrance there was a German inscription that said: "herr lass leuchten dein antlitz über uns" which means "Lord let your face shine over us". That inscription was a psalm in the New Testament.

The houses in that district have a unique architecture. In all of the houses there are pegs which cross every corner of the building, on the bottom and the top which act like supporting pillars to the building.

The house formerly belonged to the Schumacher family. Jacob, the father of the family was the CEO of the Templar guild. He was the main engineer of the Templars guild.



The Colony Hotel Haifa

By: Noa Fatael and Ayelet Litman

On December 25th we went on a trip with the English Excellence Group to the German colony in Haifa.

On this trip, every pair got a house that used to be a German Templar's house, hotel and even store. Every pair researched that house: architecturally, who lived there, and whatever information they could gather.

We got The German Colony Hotel (number 28) which was built in 1905. This hotel used to be run by two daughters from the Appinger family- German family, and it became the best hotel in Palestine.

Each Templar house has special features such as: original 19th century such windows, entrance with three step stairs, beautiful balconies and what most drew our attention was the amazing floor which was decorated with special original patterns and colors.

In the hotel they added original furniture in order to stay in style of the period.

In 1978 the hotel was bought by an Israeli guy named Haim Morobty, who lives in Los Angeles. The hotel has a management company.



Here are some of our friends from the JLG school in Berlin



My name is Emily and I'm 14 years old. I come from Hamburg but I've lived in Berlin for about 5 years now. I like surfing and I play football and volleyball. I'm interested in politics and literature. I like making things.



My name is Jana. I live in Berlin. It's a great city, very modern und multicultural. By the way, I speak Russian as well. In my free time I play badminton, sing in a choir, meet friends, go to the cinema and read books. I like traveling, to the East or the West, but home is best!



Hello, my name is Lara and I'm 14 years old. I was born in Berlin but moved to Frankfurt when I was three years old. There, I attended an international school, where all the classes were taught in English, which is how I came to love and appreciate the language. I moved back to Berlin 3 years ago and am currently attending the John Lennon Gymnasium. My favorite classes are Music, Spanish, English and Art.

My name is Greta Elisabeth Schneider, I'm 14 years old and in the ninth grade at the John Lennon Gymnasium. My hobbies are drawing, writing and swimming. I live in Berlin, together with my parents, a sister and two cats.

Growing up in Berlin

by Jana Gajdadin

Every day lots of tourists arrive in Berlin to see the sights and attractions. The first one that they may see already from the plane is the TV Tower. When the sun shines on it, the reflection usually appears in the form of a cross. It receives over 1 million visitors a year. The visitors may reach the observation deck with a lift in 40 seconds, it is at a height of 203m and the restaurant at 207m. The restaurant has an outer ring of revolving tables, serves coffee, snacks. It revolves once around its axis every 60 minutes. It gives a great opportunity to have a look at the big city.



Berlin is gorgeous from an eagle-eyed view. It is also quite different from other metropolises. The Eastern part of it is reminiscent of the Soviet period, while the Western one is the picture of old town. New quarters and places incorporate modern visions.



The capital of Germany grows and unites all styles and all people. It is a multicultural city that speaks many languages. Going by underground you may hear a mother speaking German to her son but he answers in Spanish because he visits a Spanish kindergarten and his father would understand him.



Berlin is the city where I grow up with pleasure.

The #metoo debate: a summary and commentary

by Greta Elisabeth Schneider

Summary

The so called #metoo debate has been going on for quite a while now and it has brought up many dark secrets and fights, but also an opportunity for once quite voiceless people to raise their voice and tell the world their stories.

The hashtag originated in 2006 when the activist Tarana Burke wanted to raise empathy for Afro-American women who had to experience sexual abuse. A heated debate started in October 2017, when actress Alyssa Milano posted a message on the social media Twitter under the hashtag #metoo. On the same day the hashtag was used around 200 000 times, on the next there were already over half a million tweets. In her message she replied to the Harvey Weinstein scandal, where several women who worked with him, accused him of sexual harassment and abuse. She also wanted to raise awareness of the problem of sexual harassment in general.

“If all the women who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote 'Me too.' as a status, we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem.” tweeted Alyssa Milano.

Throughout the debate many other actors were accused of sexual harassment, such as the German actor Dieter Wedel.

A new turn was brought to the debate when Catherine Deneuve and many other women wrote a letter to the French newspaper Le Monde. In this letter they say that they think the #metoo debate has gone too far and serves “the enemies of sexual freedom, of religious extremists, of the worst reactionaries.”

“Rape is a crime. But insistent or clumsy flirting is not a crime.” is what it said in the letter.

This letter has split the opinions. One side agrees with the letter, the other one is outraged and thinks it is disrespectful toward the “victims” in the debate. Soon after she apologizes - not for her letter though.

“I welcome all the victims of odious acts that may have felt aggrieved by this letter published in Le Monde. It is to them and to them alone that I apologize.”

Commentary

Like many people I've followed the #metoo debate on the news since it began with the Harvey Weinstein scandal and I'd first like to acknowledge the many girls and women who were brave enough to speak up and share their stories. Also, I want to recognize the many popular women who used their fame to raise attention and help. I think talking about rape and sexual harassment instead of hushing it up is a great step into the right direction and something we can all do.

However, I must agree with Catherine Deneuve and her letter. Just like her, I do not intend to criticize women who speak up about being raped, but I want to draw a line between rape and actions like touching a woman's knee or complimenting on her body at the workplace. If every woman who didn't like the way her boss looked at her or the way her co-worker talked to her complained about that on the internet the really bad things like rape will drown in the many messages. This is kind of a rough comparison, but do you know where I'm heading?

I think that complaining about men not respecting women and asking them to stop for example in the workplace is not the right thing to do, because it makes the woman look like a victim that can't defend herself. Instead of reacting later on the internet in a non-personal way we should react in the situation, tell them to stop if we don't like something they do and fight back. Because that is what a strong, independent woman looks like.

"German Food and Drink"

by Johann and Egon

Typical German food is Weißwurst, Leberkäs, Brezel and Haxe. The Germans like to drink beer a lot. They also sometimes eat steak, potatoes with vegetables and sauce. We really love German food because it is very delicious. However, in Germany, you will not find that many German restaurants. But still, there are some of them which preserve traditional German food and add a new personal style to them. One of them is the "Tucholskys" around the corner of my flat. My family, including me, often eat there. Also, near my school there is one of the around 1000 Currywurst stalls you find all over Berlin. In our opinion, this place is by far the best one."



What are the best things to see in Berlin?

by Alejandro Martinez

Berlin is a big city with many buildings, monuments and places worthy of being seen by tourists all over the world. In this article I'm going to tell you what the five best things to do and to see in Berlin when you come to Berlin.

1. Take a boat tour down the "Spree"

The Spree is a river which flows right through Berlin, so why not get on a boat and take a tour down the river? The boat will take you on a 30 min. trip right through the heart of Berlin., showing you cool and new places. I would recommend you to do it as the sun goes down, because then the already impressive looking places are going to look even more impressive.



2. The Berlin Hauptbahnhof (Train Central)

If you're travelling through Berlin, the chances are high, that you'll stumble across the Berlin Hauptbahnhof, or the Berlin Central Station, as you would call it in English. So why not take a break there? You'll be able to get a snack from all the different food stores and you'll get almost anything here, from makeup to tech-gear, you can find everything here.



3. The Berlin-Wall-Memorial

As part of the Berlin history, I'd recommend to visit the last, standing pieces of the Berlin Wall here in Berlin. Scattered all across the world and known by everyone, it's only right if you'll see them here in Berlin.



4. The Brandenburg Gate

Almost every post card you can get in Berlin will feature the Brandenburg Gate, the most famous tourist attraction of them all. It looks very polished,



even though it's very old. Did you know that Napoleon once stole the statue on top of it, the „Victoria“?

5. Die Siegessäule

This gigantic, tower looking monument is the best thing you can see in Berlin. Not only does it look good, no, you can even get on top of it! From there you have a stunning view of the surroundings, like the surrounding park or the buildings in the distance. It gets even better: If you'll visit at night time, (or at any special event) there are going to be lights projected onto the monument, which is just beautiful.



Those are the things I'd recommend you to see, but there are still things to discover.

Interview with Mr. Pfeifer, the principal of JL school in Berlin

First, can you introduce yourself in not more than 3 sentences, please?

- I'm 64 years old.
- I have been in the position of a head master in this school for 22 years.
- As a teacher I had the subjects political science, German language, philosophy and history. I also taught drama courses.

As the principal of the John Lennon Gymnasium there are probably often good days and sometimes very difficult days. Describe a good and a difficult day.

- First of all a good day would be that all teachers are on board and maybe some extra money comes in or a new cooperation is started successfully.
- A bad day would be that we have more than 5 ill teachers in the morning or one very long-term illness of a teacher (which takes a long time to heal) and maybe that a project failed for example of an unsuccessful cooperation. Also there is always a kind of fear that a promised new teacher is withdrawn, which means that he or she showed interest but decided not to come.

How many hours do you work for our school every week?

- That depends: On average, I usually works for 40 to 44 hours. But I often have a day of 14 hours (08:00-22:00).

How many hours every week do you teach and what do you teach?

- Usually I teach 5 h a week in political science which is an advanced course.

Do you have a large family?

- Depends on what you count as family. I have two children, but my wider family with my whole brothers and the brothers of my wife is a huge family.

Were you an A-Student, when you were my age?

- I was a good student, yes. Except for Latin: It was a subject that I was not good at. Latin was very difficult for me, especially to remember the vocabulary.

Do you have a special family tradition on Christmas Eve?

- Yes, on Christmas Eve we eat “Fondue” with my whole family.

We heard, that you go to Israel very often. Do you have a favourite place there?

- The beach in Tel Aviv.

How come we have so many exchanges with Israel going on and trips to Israel at our school?

- That was by accident, because 10 years ago students asked me whether we could visit Israel as a class trip. And then I wanted to go to Israel with that group only one time but it turned out that an exchange program is much better. And the students were so excited and overwhelmed that we have kept this program for 10 years now.

If your three wishes were granted by a fairy: What would they be (whole life, not just wishes for school)?

- Keeping my good health for the next 25 years.

- Good conditions for my family like health, luck, a nice family atmosphere, etc.

- The third one would be a peaceful life for our country and the world.

Thank you for this interview and have a merry Christmas and a splendid 2018.