

TORAH ACADEMY OF BERGEN COUNTY

Book Day - Wednesday, March 27, 2019 Coordinators: Dr. Carol Master and Mrs. Leah Moskovits

Spare Parts Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle For the American Dream

By Joshua Davis

8:50 - 9:25	Regular Period One
9:40 - 10:25	Keynote Address: Beit Knesset Mr. Michael Wildes, Mayor of Englewood and Immigration Lawyer
10:40 - 11:25	First Set of Sessions
11:40 - 12:25	Second Set of Sessions
12:25 - 1:05	Lunch: Old Gym (9, 10 and 11), Lunchroom (10)
1:15 - 2:15	Mr. Oscar Vazquez (Beit Knesset)
2:30 - 3:10	Third Set of Sessions
3·15	Mincha: Entire School in Beit Knesset

Book Day 2019 - Bios of Outside Presenters

Mrs. Debby Alter - Debby Alter has been the Director of Immigrant and Refugee Services at Jewish Family Services of Middlesex County since 1999 and has been accredited by the US Dept. of Justice for the last 12 years. She has assisted immigrants from all over the globe in petitioning for family members abroad, in becoming lawful permanent residents, and in successfully completing the naturalization process. Mrs. Alter has represented hundreds of immigrants at their green card and citizenship interviews at United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Mr. Joshua Arrington - A patient advocate who lost his limb in an accident, Joshua Arrington is a former army cadet who, previous to his accident, was also a player on the Knicks Youth team and was sponsored by ESPN for the 2016 Olympics in Brazil. His goal is to never let anyone or anything stand in the way of his living life to its fullest.

Dr. Shalom Fisch - Bitten by a radioactive typewriter, Shalom (Sholly) Fisch is an award-winning writer who has spent the wee hours writing books, comics, TV scripts, and online material for over thirty years. His comic book credits include roughly four hundred stories about characters who run the gamut from Superman to *Star Wars* to Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck. His recent projects include *Scooby-Doo Team-Up* (pairing Scooby-Doo with everyone from Batman to the Flintstones), *Teen Titans Go!*, and Spider-Man stories for *Marvel Super-Hero Adventures*.

By day, Dr. Fisch is a mild-mannered developmental psychologist who helps to create educational TV shows, digital games, and other media for kids. In between, he somehow manages to squeeze in a little time to spend with his lovely wife Susan and brilliant children Nachum (a TABC graduate), Chana, and Miriam.

Mr. James Fry - James W. Fry was rocketed to Earth as an infant, just barely escaping the destruction of his home planet. Since then, Mr. Fry has worked for most of the major comic book publishers (including Marvel Comics, DC Comics, Archie Comics, and Disney), drawing stories featuring Spider-Man, Batman, Sonic the Hedgehog, and a thousand characters you've probably never heard of. He has also drawn book illustrations (including a series of young adult *Star Trek* novels), done animation work on the cartoon features *G.I. Joe: Ninja Battles* and *Ultimate Avengers 2*, and taught animation design in Parsons School of Design's adult education department. He's exceptionally proud of his wife Kymba Nijuck, an award- winning mixed-media artist, and their son lan, who has no interest in art whatsoever, but is a pretty cool dude.

Coach Gila Guzman - Coach Gila Guzman JD CINHC is a certified integrative nutrition health coach with a local, national and international following due to her popular private and group nutrition coaching programs. In addition to teaching nutrition and healthy cooking classes at Ma'ayanot, she is the in-house nutrition Coach at Grand and Essex in Bergenfield, New Jersey, and has her own line of "Coach Gila approved" healthy takeout foods at the store. Gila is the Camp Nutritional Specialist at Camp Mesorah where she is responsible for all the special dietary needs of the campers and staff as well as teaching nutrition workshops. She is a health contributor for the Jewish Link where she has her 'Ask Coach Gila' column. Gila teaches nutrition and healthy cooking at Yavneh Academy and at Yachad's vocational program. As a recipe developer specializing in family friendly nutrient dense food with an expertise in gluten free and allergen free cooking, she sees her mission as teaching busy families how to reach their health goals with real nutrient dense food that they enjoy. She can be reached through her website at www.mainassethealth.com and at 917-647-1788.

Mr. Amos Nachum - Mr. Nachum is an Israeli Air Force veteran and current Advanced System Analyst for the Israeli government.

Mrs. Delia Nagar - Mrs. Nagar (mostly known as Señora Nagar) was born in Mexico, immigrated to the United States in 1997, and became an American citizen in 2009. She works as a Spanish Interpreter for Early Intervention and as a Spanish teacher at Ma'ayanot High School for Girls.

Mrs. Elit Rimberg - Born in Mexico City to parents who were also born and raised in Mexico, Mrs. Rimberg spent her childhood there, attending Beit Yaakov Elementary School and Keter Torah High School, although for college, she chose Michlala Yerushalayim L'Banot. She worked at the Yavneh School in Mexico, in charge of the teacher resource center, but for the past twenty-one years has been living in Teaneck, New Jersey. Married with five children, this homemaker also loves to paint, play the harp, exercise, ski and be a soccer mom.

Mr. Rene Samayoa - Mr. Samayoa is the Enrollment and Admissions Operations Office at Seton Hall University Army ROTC.

R.O.T.C. Cadets - CDT Abass, Aisha – RU-N, CDT Dejesus, Gianna – SH, CDT Martinez, Felix – SHU, CDT Horvath, Raynard – SHU, CDT Mercado, Nelson – SHU are currently enrolled at Seton Hall University and Rutgers, Newark.

Mr. Oscar Vazquez - Arriving from Mexico to the United States as a child, Oscar attended middle school and high school in Arizona. He felt the impact of his undocumented status while trying to enlist in the US Army. Oscar went through a year-long "self-deportation" after college, voluntarily returning to Mexico in order to enter the U.S. legally. Six months after coming back to the United States, he decided to enlist. He subsequently served one tour in Afghanistan and now works as a Business Analyst for BNSF Railway.

Mayor Michael Wildes - Michael Wildes is the managing partner with the leading immigration law firm of Wildes and Weinberg, P.C. An adjunct professor at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York, teaching Business Immigration Law, he is also a former federal prosecutor with the United States Attorney's Office in Brooklyn (1989-1993) and author of *Safe Haven in America: Battles to Open the Golden Door* (Foreword by Alan Dershowitz). Having represented the United States government in immigration proceedings, Mr. Wildes is a frequent participant on professional panels and commentator

on network television. He has testified on Capitol Hill in connection with anti-terrorism legislation and is internationally renowned for his successful representation of distinguished individuals and corporate clients.

Mr. Wildes' boutique law firm specializes exclusively in the practice of U.S. immigration and nationality law. It was established in 1960 by his father Leon Wildes whose best known accomplishment was his successful representation of John Lennon in his widely publicized deportation proceedings, the circumstances of which have inspired several films, documentaries. Foreword. More than fifty years since its inception, the firm continues to serve a distinguished domestic and international clientele and covers all areas of U.S. immigration law,. Some of Michael Wildes recent clients include First Lady Melania Trump, Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sachs, famed artists Sarah Brightman, Lionel Richie, Boy George, many of the former Miss Universes' as well as soccer icon Pele, master Chef Jean-Georges, and many other talented artists.

Michael Wildes is also the mayor of Englewood, New Jersey, where he resides.

Book Day 2019 - A Description of Each Workshop

Session One: 10:40 - 11:25; Session Two: 11:40 -12:25;

Session Three 2:25 - 3:05

Rabbi Yosef Adler - Why Every Teacher Must Win an Oscar

Sessions Two and Three, Room 15

Student success is often dependent on effective teaching. This session will model what I look for in a teacher and see why a group of Mexican immigrants could succeed and challenge MIT students.

Mrs. Debby Alter - The Legal Journey From Immigrant to Citizen Sessions One and Two, Room 16

How does one become a legal immigrant and then a U.S. citizen? Come hear the answers from the Director of Immigrant and Refugee Services at Jewish Family Services of Middlesex County.

Mr. Joshua Arrington - Technology and Prosthetics Sessions One and Two, Room 4

In this session, Mr. Arrington will discuss prosthetics—how they are built and how he experiences wearing them. Mr. Arrington, a former basketball player, will then offer a live demo and show us how he uses his computerized leg.

Dr. Michael Atlas - Is "Empathy" Really a Good Thing? Sessions One and Three, Room 5

Listening to the stories of undocumented immigrants evokes within us, among other feelings, a sense of empathy. "Empathy," the ability to "walk in someone else's shoes," is typically viewed as a wonderful trait--one that should be carefully nurtured and developed. Recently, however, researchers have begun to explore whether identifying with the pain of others is actually helpful in terms of our own emotional well-being as well as useful in moral decision making. In this workshop, we will learn about the different forms of empathy and compassion and engage in activities to find out how we behave in response to our own empathic feelings.

Rabbi Steven Finkelstein - Odd Man Out: The Subtle Art of Bullying Sessions Two and Three, Room 17

This session will explore bullying--old school and new age. What is it all about?

Rabbi Shaya First - Robots, Artificial Intelligence and Understanding Our Own Minds, Sessions One and Three, Room 20

In this session, we'll explore some of the latest developments in robotics and AI (artificial intelligence), and will walk away with a newfound understanding of our own minds and how we develop intelligence of our own.

Dr. Shalom Fisch and Mr. James Fry - Comic Relief: Where Comics Come From, and Making Your Own, Sessions One and Two, Room 6

Long before the blockbuster movies, comic book superheroes have thrilled readers of all ages for generations. In the first of this two-session series, Dr. Fisch and Mr. Fry will reveal the behind-the-scenes secrets of how your favorite comic books and graphic novels are created. By the second session, students will be ready to build comic book characters and stories of their own.

Freddy - Fix-It With Freddy and his son Nelson Curez Sessions One and Two, Parking Lot, Amsterdam Ave. Side of Building

In this session, students will learn how to take an old car and give it a new burst of life.

Rabbi Daniel Fridman - Va-Chai Imach: And He Shall Live with You Sessions One and Two, Room 9

A halakhic perspective on the *ger toshav*, the gentile who dwells in Jewish society, as a paradigm for Judaism's attitude towards the immigrant.

Coach Gila Guzman - Mexican Food Cooking Demonstration Sessions One and Two, Room 2

Rabbi Chaim Jachter - Halachic Perspectives on Furor over the Immigration Debate/Crisis, Sessions Two and Three, Room 3

Immigration policies are a source of huge debate in this country these days. In this session, we will look at Torah sources to see what a Jewish approach to this issue might be.

Rabbi Raphi Mandelstam - Can Alexa Turn On the Lights on Shabbat? Sessions One and Three, Room 13

In this session, we will explore when and how halacha can rely on robots.

Rabbi Yoni Mandelstam - Are Reckless Goals Kosher? Sessions One and Three, Room 19

In *Spare Parts,* Joshua Davis writes about the four students, "Suddenly, their desire to see the ocean and learn about robots seemed foolish and maybe even reckless "(p.108). Does the Torah want us to make aliya despite all odds? Is it truly ideal to reach for the stars no matter the cost? This session will discuss the Torah's balance between dreaming big and thinking logically.

Rabbi Duvie Nachbar - The Melacha of Zomer and Its Message for Personal Growth Session Three, Room 4

This session will analyze the nature of the prohibited activity of זומר, pruning, on Shabbat, and explore its implications for understanding Lorenzo's personal growth in *Spare Parts* as well as our own growth in our personal lives.

Mr. Amos Nachum - Innovation in Israel and the Story of the Iron Dome Sessions One and Two, Room 8

Israeli Air Force veteran and current Advanced System Analyst for the Israeli government Mr. Amos Nachum will discuss innovation in Israel, the story of the iron dome and the strong relationship between Israel and the United States.

Mrs. Delia Nagar - Would You Emigrate From This Country? Sessions One and Two, Room 1

In this session, students will hear an insider's perspective on the two sides of Mexico, the beauty and the squalor, as well as the personal story of a Jewish Mexican immigrant.

Ms. Marita Poline - Jeopardy Immigration Game Sessions One and Three, Room 11

Test your knowledge about Jewish immigration to the U.S. Categories will include: famous immigrants, contributions by Jewish immigrants to American culture, and the places Jews emigrated from as well as where they settled. Participants will compete in teams.

Mrs. Elit Rimberg - Gefilte Fish and Salsa: Growing Up in Mexico

Session Three, Room 1

In this session, Mrs. Rimberg will discuss the structure of the Jewish community in Mexico and the different parts that make it unique. Students will get an insider's perspective on what it was like growing up Jewish in Mexico City.

ROTC at Seton Hall University Session Two, Room 10

Mr. Rene Samayoa, Enrollment and Admissions Operations Office, Seton Hall University Army ROTC, and five cadets in the ROTC program at Seton Hall University, CDT Abass, Aisha, CDT Dejesus, Gianna, CDT Martinez, Felix, CDT Horvath, Raynard and CDT Mercado, Nelson will discuss joining the program and their desire to serve in the military.

Mrs. Dassi Silverman - There Is No "I" In Team Sessions Two and Three, Room 7

What are the advantages of working as a team? What are the advantages and disadvantages of doing group projects in school? What skills do you need for a group or team to work well together? What skills can you develop by working together with a group? Why is it that "working well with others" is a skill often sought after by colleges and major companies? In this session, we will attempt to answer these questions. We will then work as a group to determine each student's individual skills and how those skills can contribute to group work.

Mr. Chanan Strassman - Who's Cooking Your Food? Sessions One and Three, Room 14

Two of the students from *Spare Parts* started their own catering business. Customers eat their food every day, completely unaware that the meals are prepared by highly-skilled robotics

champions. That got Mr. Strassman wondering about the chefs in our local restaurants: who's cooking our food? Come learn some of their stories. You may be surprised....

Student-Run Session 1 - Mr. Natan Rifkind and Mr. Yoni Weinreich - Solutions to the Immigration Problem: A Discussion of Different Perspectives Session Three, Room 2

Mr. Aryeh Tiefenbrunn - Underwater Robotics Build-It Yourself Sessions One and Two, Makerspace

In this session, you will be faced with one of the challenges described in *Spare Parts*: creating a waterproof housing for the electronic components of an underwater robot. You will have 40 minutes to build a box that has wires coming in and out, but that does not allow any water to leak inside when it's submerged.

Mr. Aryeh Tiefenbrunn - Mechanical Engineering and Sports Session Three, Makerspace

For an upcoming competition, our very own TABC robotics team is currently building a robot that can shoot baskets on a mini basketball hoop. Join us for a discussion of how the human body can serve as an inspiration for this and other robot designs, and what types of machines are necessary to simulate how human athletes can throw balls.

Rabbi Asher Yablok - Loving the Stranger Sessions Two and Three, Beit Midrash

How might our experience as immigrants to this country impact our perspective towards immigration reform? What inspiration can we draw from the Torah's reference to our Exodus from Egypt as a cause for sympathy towards strangers? In this session, we will explore answers to these questions.