

Israel's Sodastream Inks Deal With Kitchenaid

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Israeli company SodaStream agreed to develop a home system for making carbonated drinks for KitchenAid appliances.

No financial details of the deal have been disclosed, according to the Israeli business daily *Globes*. The product is expected to be launched at the end of the year.

SodaStream is headquartered in the West Bank city of Maale Adumim and has been a frequent target of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, or BDS, movement.

Its products are available in 45 countries, including in 15,000 retail stores in the United States. ✪

Israel, P.A. to Renew Economic Cooperation, Finance Ministers Agree

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel and the Palestinian Authority will resume economic cooperation, their finance ministers said.

Israel's Yair Lapid and the P.A.'s newly appointed finance chief, Shukri Bishara, at a meeting Sunday in Jerusalem agreed to the resumption of economic ties, according to reports.

The ties will be renewed over the course of time, the Palestinian *Ma'an* news agency reported.

Economic cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian Authority was suspended last

November in the wake of the latter's attempt to gain recognition of a Palestinian state at the United Nations without peace negotiations.

Israel as a consequence withheld hundreds of millions dollars worth of taxes it had collected on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, which Israel began handing over in March.

Future meetings will include discussions on promoting joint investment and trade projects, the finance ministers said, according to *The Times of Israel*. ✪

Tel Aviv Joins Honolulu, Rio Among Top 10 Beach Spots

(JTA) — Tel Aviv was named one of the world's top 10 beach cities by *National Geographic*.

"Call it Miami Beach on the Med. Tel Aviv is the Dionysian counterpart to religious Jerusalem," the magazine wrote in describing Tel Aviv. "In the 'bubble,' as it's known for its inhabitants' tendency to tune out regional skirmishes, some restaurants, discos, and clubs

are open until dawn.

"By day, the scene shifts to the city's promenade and eight miles of beach literally steps from town. Head to wide and sandy Gordon Beach to sit in a seaside cafe or take a dip in the saltwater pool."

Tel Aviv is in good company, joining other top beach cities as Honolulu, Hawaii; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and Sydney, Australia. ✪

House Committee Triples Missile Funding, Seeks Role in Iron Dome

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The U.S. House of Representatives Armed Service Committee tripled President Obama's request for missile defense collaboration with Israel and sought to include the United States in Iron Dome development.

The increase in the National Defense Authorization Act from \$96 million to \$284 million referred from the committee in a 59-2 vote June 6 to the full House includes an additional \$15 million in funding for Iron Dome, the short range anti-missile program Israel used against Hamas last November during the Gaza war.

The stipulation in that increase, in an amendment proposed by Rep. Joe Heck (R-Nev.), is that it "may be obligated or

expended for enhancing the capability for producing the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense program in the United States, including for infrastructure, tooling, transferring data, special test equipment, and related components."

Unlike other missile defense collaborative programs, such as the Arrow, Israel until now has maintained propriety over Iron Dome.

A number of lawmakers in Congress have sought to involve the United States in Iron Dome's development as the United States increases funding for the program.

Moneys for missile defense collaboration are separate from the average \$3 billion annually in defense assistance Israel gets from the United States. ✪

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Congratulations to Temple B'rith Kodesh Confirmation Class of 2013. Front row L-R: Bayley Axelrod, Madeline Heilbronner, Samantha Ring, Julia Kohn, Rachael Maciag, Julia Scott, Elana Pogal. Middle row L-R: Jake Henning, Parker Finestone, Casey Goldberg, Zoe Chodak, Alyssa Yudelso, Cameron Yudelso. Top row L-R: Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman, Cantorial Soloist Keri Berger, Rabbi Laurence Kotok.

Mazel tov to **Kai Gross**, son of **Eric Gross** and **Rie Takashima**, on his Bar Mitzvah, which will be celebrated on Saturday morning, June 22, at Temple Sinai, 363 Penfield Rd.

Congratulations to **Caroline Korn**, daughter of **Rhonda & Ira Korn**, on her Bat Mitzvah, which will be celebrated on Saturday, June 22, at Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave.

Mazel tov to **Dr. David & Helena Shrier** on the engagement of their daughter, **Ilana** to **Aaron Rosenson**.

Mazel tov to **Rabbi Eliezer & Fraidel Lehrer** on the birth of their son, **Shmuel**. Shmuel is the grandson of **Byrech & Linda Lehrer**, of Queens, N.Y. and **Rabbi Dovid & Rochel Vinitsky** of Queens, N.Y. and great-grandson of **Esther Lehrer** of Tamarac, Fla.

Congratulations to **Helen Senzel** on the birth of her great-granddaughter, **Tsofia Leah Schwartz**. Tsofia is the daughter of **Ari & Shaindy Schwartz** of Jerusalem, Israel.

Mazel tov to **Dr. Eric & Marcia Birken** on the birth of their grandson, **Samuel Henry**.

Acclaim to **Joshua Davis** who was awarded a PhD. fellowship to the University of Maryland in Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition. He received a Master of Science in Education from Temple University and taught ESL extensively at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the son of **Susan Davis**, of Wilmington, Delaware and grandson of **Marge Gilbert**, of Rochester.

Nazareth College, one of five colleges nationwide, received a Presidential Award for Community Service. Nazareth President **Daan Braveman** stated that their students volunteered about 550,000 hours of community service this past school year.

Mazel tov to **Susan Bussey** who was recently named Vice President of Senior Housing at **Jewish Senior Life**. She is responsible for overseeing all operational aspect of **The Summit at Brighton independent living and Wolk Manor assisted living and memory care**.

Congratulations to **Christine VanVessem** on her promotion to Vice President of Staff and Organizational Development at **Jewish Senior Life**. She will provide administrative oversight to the assessment and implementation of clinical and non-clinical education to staff, and facilitate quality assurance and performance improvement initiatives throughout the organization.

Mazel tov to **Josh Herz** and **Ruth Fried** who carried the Torah for Shabbat service at TBK's sister synagogue in Hamelin, Germany in honor of his father, **Arthur Herz z'l**. **Arthur & Gertrud Lind** were instrumental in fundraising for the Hamelin community.

Mazel tov to **Gerry & Maxine Rosen**, whose son **Steve** wrote and starred in *The Other Josh Cohen* which was recently nominated for 6 Drama Desk awards, including Outstanding Musical, Outstanding Book, Lyrics, and Music in a Musical, and for Steve, Outstanding Actor in a Musical. ✪

Sweden Will Cut Aid to Palestinians Unless Peace Talks Resume, Minister Warns

(JTA) — Sweden will reduce its aid to the Palestinians by 28 percent unless progress is made in peace talks with Israel, a Swedish minister said.

In a June 13 interview with Sveriges Radio, Development Aid Minister Gunilla Carlsson said that unless talks on a two-state solution move forward, her country would slash 28 percent of its annual aid package of \$107

million to the West Bank and Gaza.

"Is there any merit in pursuing the prerequisites for a two-state solution when Israel and the Palestinians themselves do not want to sit down at the negotiating table?" Carlsson asked during the interview.

The Palestinians have refused to engage in peace talks with Israel unless it halts construction

in the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem.

Israel has declined to meet any preconditions and has expressed its readiness to discuss the issue in the framework of talks.

"I don't want to haggle using aid money, but I can only take the perspective of the Swedish taxpayers," Carlsson said. "One wants results." ✪