

Connectivity & Purchasing an iPad – 1.28.14

Staying Connected:

Over MLK weekend, I had the opportunity to go to Cuba with my daughter on a UJA humanitarian mission. What most impressed me about the Cuban people we met was their strong sense of community and connectedness. For a country without widespread internet (you can only buy internet in time increments at a hotel or through satellite) and devices (iPhones are primarily used as phones and they are rare), it didn't seem that we were missing much.

My iPhone and iPad went untouched for 4 days and I did not miss it. I loved absorbing myself in the Country and it's people and all it had to offer with my full attention. At the temple we visited on Friday night and most of Saturday, the community was full to brimming with joy, excitement, and involvement. From the younger children to the teens to the senior citizens, everyone was excited to be there, participating in the services, Shabbat dinner, the spontaneous dancing that occurred after dinner to the Israeli dancing all ages groups participated in before the closing Havdalah services on Saturday night. Never had I felt so connected to a community.

As much as I love my computer, iPhone, iPad, HDTV, etc..., I found that sans these devices, the Jewish community of Cuba found a way to connect on a more personal and ongoing basis that has sustained them and brought them together.

I highly recommend, should you have the chance, to visit Cuba and experience this country before it changes. It was definitely a time warp (and we haven't even talked about the cars!), but wonderful to experience first hand.

iPads

One of the most frequent questions I've been getting recently is what iPad to buy. Here are my two cents:

1. Make sure you purchase an iPad with a cellular plan.
 - a. Even if you don't think you will use it, you will regret it at some point if you can't connect to the internet while on a road trip and trying to find a good restaurant at your next stop or just wanting to do a random search.
 - b. You don't have to subscribe to the cellular plan right away, but you do need to choose a carrier. It may make sense to choose a carrier that you use for your phone as most cellular companies offer a data sharing plan that you can use across devices.
2. Get at least 32 GB of hard drive space or more.
 - a. 16 GB gives you nothing to work with. With that small a hard drive, you can't put that much on the iPad, such as pictures, movies, tv shows, apps, etc... The 16 GB is really good for just email, web searches and streaming videos. The 32 GB allows you a lot more flexibility to put

pictures, a few movies, some songs and some apps on your iPad without worrying about filling up your space.

- b. If you are like me, and use your iPad for tv shows when you travel, you may want to consider the 64 GB so you can load 2 seasons worth of a tv show before you go. It is much faster (although it does take time) to download movies and tv shows on your home wifi network than it does when you are away. I would start this process a few days before you travel.
3. Get the latest version.
 - a. For the iPad, it means the iPad Air – Apple only sells the iPad 2 in 16 GB
 - b. For the iPad mini, it means the iPad mini retina display – Again, Apple only sells the iPad mini in 16 GB
 4. iPad Air vs iPad mini retina display???
 - a. This is the million dollar question and I think it is a personal one. I would recommend going to the Apple Store and checking them both out. I have seen both and I like them both for different reasons.
 - b. I love the iPad Air for it's large screen, which is great for watching videos or doing web searches. I also do a lot of typing on the iPad and I find the keyboard not optimal, but fine to work with.
 - c. I love the iPad mini for it's compact size. It fits into a pocketbook, great for reading a book or looking at pictures. I do find it a little small for typing though and have not watched videos on it for long distances.
 - d. **READING:** If you are looking for a device for reading, my favorite is the Kindle Paperwhite. It works in low light, bright light, and almost everything from the type to the spacing is adjustable. Everyone in my family owns one and it is my go to source for reading on the go.

Have a great day.

If there is a topic that you would like to see me cover in my tech postings, please let me know.