

THE REPORTER

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Cornell Jewish Studies Program announces two spring community events

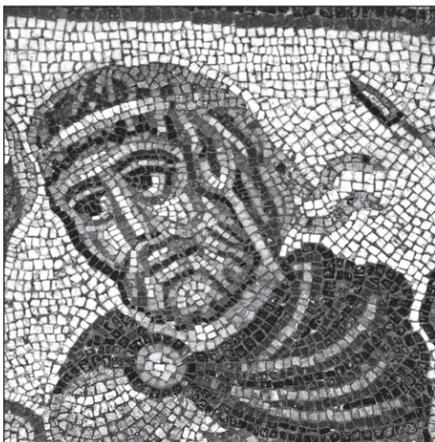
The Cornell Jewish Studies Program announced its final two spring events.

On Monday, April 15, at 4:15 pm, in 132 Rockefeller Hall, Cornell University, Jodi Magness, professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will give a talk, "More than Just Mosaics: The Ancient Synagogue at Huqoq in Israel's Galilee." Since 2011, Magness has been directing excavations in the ancient village of Huqoq in Israel's Galilee.

"The excavations have brought to light the remains of a monumental late Roman (fifth century) synagogue building paved with stunning and unique mosaics, including biblical scenes and the first non-biblical story ever discovered decorating an ancient



Jodi Magness



An image from a Huqoq mosaic. (Photo provided by Jodi Magness)



Jonathan Karp

synagogue," organizers said. "In this slide-illustrated lecture, Professor Magness describes these exciting finds, including the discoveries made in last summer's season." For more information, visit www.huqoq.org.

The final event of the year will be on Tuesday, April 30, at 4:30 pm, in 132 Goldwin Smith Hall, Cornell University. Jonathan Karp, professor at Binghamton University, will speak about "Overrepresented Minorities? Some Peculiar Parallels between Asians and Jews in the Modern U.S."

Admission for all events is free and faculty, students and community members are all invited. More information is available on the website jewishstudies.cornell.edu.

Mativetsky to speak at TI/TC adult ed. brunch

On Sunday, April 7, at 10 am, the Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education Group will host Hadassah Mativetsky, who will reflect on "My Israel Year," in a brunch program at Temple Israel.

Mativetsky said, "It has been 10 years since my academic year in Israel studying traditional Jewish texts and interning. Since that time, many of the details have faded. What remains are vignettes, photos, friendships and themes. In my talk, I will share personal stories of experiences filtered through 10 years of memory and photographs, primarily organized into two thematic categories – Jewish Pluralism, and the Israel Palestinian Conflict. My stories will not reference specific political leaders, discuss policy or provide any suggestion as to action the government should or should not take, as I am not an expert on any of these – then or now. In-



Hadassah Mativetsky

stead, what you will hear are the musings of a 23-year-old filtered through the voice of a now 33-year-old woman."

Mativetsky started as a software quality engineer at Universal Instruments in September 2015. Prior to working as an engineer, Mativetsky was the Binghamton religion and spirituality research coordinator at Binghamton University under Distinguished Professor David Sloan Wilson, as well as the interim assistant director at Hillel at Binghamton. Between her B.A. and her M.S., she worked many odd jobs, volunteered and traveled the world. Mativetsky currently serves on the joint Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education Committee. She tweets about Binghamton, public speaking and STEM at @Haddie.

To make a reservation, call the Temple Israel office at 723-7461 or e-mail titammy@stny.twcbc.com. There is a \$5 charge for the brunch.

U.S. envoy hints at peace deal with Israeli security control

By JNS staff

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – The Trump administration understands the need for Israel to have "overriding security control" in the West Bank in any future peace deal with the Palestinians, U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman said on March 26.

Friedman is part of a White House team spearheading a still secret Israeli-Palestinian peace plan that Washington has said will be unveiled after Israeli elections on April 9. Palestinians have called any peace proposal by U.S. President Donald Trump a non-starter.

Addressing a convention of the pro-Israel lobby group AIPAC in Washington, Friedman gave no details of the U.S. blueprint, but he appeared to suggest it was in Israel's best interests to engage now on the deal,

while the United States has a president sympathetic to its security concerns.

"Can we leave this to an administration that may not understand the existential risk to Israel if Judea and Samaria are overcome by terrorists in the manner that befell the Gaza Strip after the IDF withdrew from this territory?" said Friedman. Friedman, who used the biblical terms for the West Bank, was referring to the 2005 pullout of Israeli troops and settlers from Gaza, the coastal enclave seized by Hamas terrorists two years later in a brief yet bloody war with Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas's rival Fatah movement.

"Can we leave this to an administration that may not understand the need for See "Envoy" on page 3

Federation PJ Library event on April 7

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a PJ Library event for children 2-6 years old on Sunday, April 7, from 11 am-1 pm, at the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. There is no charge to attend the event.

The event will feature the reading of Passover-themed books, along with food and activities. Graduates from Hillel Academy will help with the readings.

Sima Auerbach, executive director of

the Federation, noted that the PJ Library offers a variety of books with Passover themes. "There is something for every child," she said. "There are new versions of old tales that offer Jewish slants to the story, and stories showing how contemporary children can relate to the holiday. Some of the stories are so good that adults will love them, too."

To RSVP for the event, contact the Federation at 724-2332, dirjfb@gmail.com or clitvin1@binghamton.edu.

Big Galut(e) to perform in Oneonta on April 7

The Oneonta Concert Association will present a klezmer performance by Big Galut(e) on Sunday April 7, at 3 pm, at Foothills Performing Arts Center, 24 Market St., Oneonta. The Jewish music ensemble has appeared regionally numerous times, most recently at Cornell University and at the Glimmerglass Festival. The ensemble's programs include a variety of Jewish music spanning five continents and six centuries. "Bring the whole family for a program of klezmer arrangements of familiar classical pieces and, of course, some humor," said organizers of the program.

Winners of the Simcha Prize at the 2017 International Jewish Music Festival in Amsterdam, Big Galut(e) has appeared at the National Yiddish Book Center, New York City's Center for Jewish History, at colleges and on chamber music series across the country. Tickets for the event can be purchased online at www.oneontaconcertassociation.org or by calling 607-433-7252

The Oneonta Concert Association has been hosting cultural offerings since 1928. Past presentations include the Vienna Boys Choir, Count Basie Orchestra, Alvin Ailey Dance Company and many other artists the world over.



At right (l-r): The members of Big Galut(e) Mark Rubinstein, Sasha Margolis, Richard Sosinsky, Robin Seletsky and Michael Leopold.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Medical innovation
The Israeli startup Diagnoz.me has created an optics add-on to turn smartphones into mini labs.
..... Page 6

Clean water for children
Israeli technology is providing schoolchildren in Sierra Leone with clean drinking water.
..... Page 8

News in brief...
U.S. considers more Iran sanctions; Harvard student gov't funding Israel Apartheid Week; more.
..... Pages 9, 11-12

Special Sections
Legal Notices..... 4
Dine Out 5
Personal and Business Services..6-7
Classifieds 12

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE NOTES

The recipients of your generosity speak for themselves

ROZ ANTOUN, DIRECTOR

In order to protect the privacy of those who were interviewed for this article, their names have been changed.

Whether it is just after Purim, Passover, the High Holidays or Hanukkah, the answering machine at Jewish Family Service is filled with “thank you, Roz” greetings. I feel that the thanks are somewhat misplaced because I am a small part of the picture. Yes, it is true that I do identify the needs of the people and sign the checks that they receive, but the bigger picture focuses on you. It is your donations that add the complex colors and sheen to the picture, for without you, there would be no masterpiece.

Let me explain to you what this is all about. Over the years that I have been the director of JFS, the collections and distributions of funds that help our Jewish neighbors in need of extra support has developed and grown. That’s good, right? “Yes.” But, not necessarily, because what it

shows is that people continue to need the money you give from your own pockets to help them celebrate a Jewish holiday, or need financial supplementation to keep a roof over their heads, or to buy the basic necessities of life. Don’t we all wish that wasn’t the case?

So, from me, I do say “thank you” for your overflowing generosity and kindness, but the recipients can say it much better than me. Take a few minutes to digest the essence of their words and you’ll see why I am choosing for them to speak to you directly.

When I asked Tracy to write a quote for this article after she received the Purim gift, she said she would think about it and send me something. She wrote in the subject line, “Hope this is OK.” Judge for yourselves. “No matter our situation, life throws us a curveball at times. It’s hard not to feel alone. Almost intuitively, JFS reaches out to comfort and help to ease the struggle. The caring,

compassion, the empathy expressed in a phone call, a box of food, direly needed funds for extra trips to a doctor and pharmacy, even the cards from the children – all of these things let me know I matter and am not forgotten. I am so very grateful.”

And Jim wrote so simply of the Purim check, “It makes life a little easier.”

In some instances, even after knowing people for a long period of time, I am often blinded when observing their strengths because their struggles overshadow other things. But, with Lily, you and I can observe not only her feelings, but her strength in expressing herself with the written word: “It isn’t easy living paycheck to paycheck and wondering if you’ll have enough. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

So, as Purim is complete and Passover is on its way, a “thanks again” to you all.

Opinion

American Jewish community debate about Israel

By Ben Kasper

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was expected to address the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC, in Washington, DC. This is the lobbying organization accused of having major influence over U.S. policy toward Israel and the Middle East. This is also the institution that has been attacked by Representative Ilhan Omar, who represents Minnesota’s Fifth Congressional District. Her comments about the influence of money and dual loyalty among Jews has raised charges of antisemitism.

There has been a spike in antisemitism in the country, according to recent reports from the ADL. Incidents include the violent demonstrations involving white supremacists in Charlottesville, VA, and the shooting of Jewish worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA. There have also been reports of several incidents of antisemitic crimes in Crown Heights, NY. It is important, however, to differentiate the antisemitic violence among white nationalists and the rhetoric and actions related to Israel.

In this environment comes a revealing and disturbing book about the debate within the Jewish community over Israel. “Trouble in the Tribe, The American Jewish Conflict over Israel,” by Dov Waxman (2016), is an important book for both Jews and non-Jews. Some readers may have been influenced by another book that generated much controversy: “The Jewish Lobby,” by political scientist Stephen

Walt and John Mearshiemer (2016) portrayed a powerful, effective, monolithic group with tremendous influence over U.S.-Israel foreign policy.

Waxman describes how the Jewish-Israel relationship has evolved since 1948. He argues that, in the early days, there was much of a consensus about defending and supporting Israel. That level of support may have reached a peak following the Six-Day War in the Middle East. The support included a host of Jewish organizations who tended to speak with one voice. That consensus began to erode in the 1970s. The Oslo agreement was not met with unanimous approval. The construction of settlements has been a divisive issue both for Washington administrations and the Jewish community. The peace process, the two-state solution, the situation in Gaza and the West Bank, and the boycott movement have all eroded previous unity.

According to Waxman, the current debate in the Jewish community has become divisive, emotional and nasty. Jewish film festivals have been caught up in a conflict over films and speakers. Jewish Federations, Hillel at various colleges and other Jewish organizations have muzzled or banned some individuals and organizations. Rabbis are disinclined to broach the topic in a sermon in fear of alienating members of their congregations.

The fault lines are many when it comes to Jewish support of Israel in 2018-19. Waxman analyses these in his

work. One of the variables he sees is age, with younger Jews, those in 20s-30s, being more critical, while older, senior citizens are more supportive of the state. Second, he notes there are significant differences based on religious affiliation, with those who identify as Reform being more critical to those who are Orthodox being most supportive. Third, he believes there may be some overlap, but political identification also is a factor with stronger critics on the left and strong support for Israel on the right.

If this analysis by Waxman is correct, there are serious ramifications. Jewish policy toward Israel no longer speaks with one persuasive voice. There are conflicting, competing groups that attempt to influence U.S. policy. Support for Israel at colleges, in the academic community and in the U.S. Congress is compromised and undermined.

The other issue the author touches on, which may be of even greater significance, is the future of the Jewish community. A polarized Jewish community is not a healthy one nor an encouraging sign for the future. What will the Jewish community represent a decade from now? Will there exist a unique religious, emotional, political connection to Israel, or will the majority of Jews be indifferent to the plight of the state? Part of the answer depends upon whether Israel can be both a Jewish state and a democratic one. The question also depends on whether the special bond between the American Jewish community and Israel can be repaired.

In My Own Words

Purim to Passover: holiday musings

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Last year, I was so sick from vertigo that I missed my synagogue’s Purim celebration. That meant putting my costume on hold until this year. (In case you’re interested, I was a banana.) Although the holiday is officially over, my chaplaincy celebrations are not, due to the way the holiday fell this year. That means I still have hamantashen to deliver and Purim stories to read. By the time this column appears in the paper, the holiday should be completely over for the year. Then it’ll be time to start thinking about the next one.

Actually, this year, the holidays of Purim and Passover have overlapped. I attended one seder – the Children of Abraham seder on March 3 – that took place before Purim. Then on March 24, while in the midst of my Purim deliveries, I helped lead the Temple Concord Sisterhood seder with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. This year, I’ll actually be attending fewer seders than usual. So far, I only have two more scheduled: a first night seder at a friend’s home and my annual Afton gathering just after the holiday. That one uses my favorite haggadah, the Reconstructionist one.

Even with all these celebrations, it’s been a bit hard for me to get into the holiday spirit. In fact, I’ve had to work hard and focus on the Purim and Passover celebrations. Part of the problem with Purim was that I was at the start of a very bad cold that left me feeling tired and out of sorts. Fortunately, that feeling was balanced by the joy of bringing hamantashen to the places I visit as chaplain. During Adar, I am very popular: people really love the cookies.

Getting myself in the mood for Passover, especially for the early events, has been difficult for a very different reason: something occurred that brought back memories. While happy ones, they returned because of a sad event: one of my cousins died. He was the second son of mother’s sister, Naomi. My childhood memories of Passover take place in Scranton, where my Aunt Naomi lived. My most vivid memories are of the last few years she was alive: I was in college at the time and would go to her house a few days before the holiday to help her prepare.

In fact, the time spent with her was the best part of the holiday. Even the years my parents didn’t go, because of tax season, I was there. I had a cousin invite me to drive from Philly to Scranton with them, but they were only going to be there for the seder. As much as I hated riding a bus, I wanted to arrive early.

My aunt died during Passover my last year of college, of which my family is reminded of every year when her *yahrzeit* arrives. Fortunately, I still love the holiday and I’ve been to many wonderful, meaningful seders since then so these thoughts don’t negate more current memories. I am appreciative of all the people with whom I’ve shared this holiday – whether in my home or theirs. But the things we do for holidays in our childhood tend to stick with us – to be the template by which we judge everything else. Just as apples, nuts, cinnamon and wine will always be the real charoset to me because that’s the way my aunt and I made it, so, too, will there always be a part of Scranton and my aunt in every Passover I celebrate.



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LETTERS

The Reporter welcomes letters on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. All letters must be signed and include a phone number; names may be withheld upon request.

ADS

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BD luncheon on April 13: "The Number Four and its Significance on Passover"

How many times does the Torah command us to relate the story of the Exodus from Egypt? How many questions does the youngest child at the Passover seder ask? Besides *Chag Hamatzot* (Festival of the Matzos), how many other Hebrew names are used to refer to the holiday of Passover? To find out the answers to these questions and many more, the community is invited to attend the Saturday, April 13, Beth David luncheon, where the featured speaker will be Rabbi Zev Silber. The number four and its significance on Passover will be the subject of his talk.

"Numbers play an important role in Jewish life," says Silber. "For example, number one represents our conception of God and also the unity of the Jewish people. Number 10 is used in the Ten Commandments and also the ten plagues."

Since April 13 is the Shabbat before Passover, known as Shabbat HaGadol, Silber will tailor his talk to the significance of the number four as it relates to the Passover seder, during which the Exodus from Egypt is retold. During his talk, Silber will discuss the importance of this number, and the different meanings attached to its presence.

"We are delighted," organizers say, "to have a program that prepares us in such a meaningful way for the upcoming holiday, which begins on Friday night, April 19."

Silber has served as rabbi at Beth David Synagogue since 2005. He earned his bachelor of arts degree in math and his master of science degree in Talmud at Yeshiva

University. He received his *smicha* (rabbinic ordination) from Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University in 1970. In addition, he holds a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Silber has been a teacher and principal in Jewish day schools in small and medium-sized Jewish communities for more than 40 years, including at Binghamton's Hillel Academy of Broome County for 13 years, until his retirement in 2012. He continues serving in his position as rabbi at Beth David, and is now in his 14th year.



Rabbi Zev Silber

Beth David's luncheon speaker series takes place the second Saturday of the month after Shabbat morning services, and is open to the community. There is no charge for the luncheon, but Beth David welcomes donations to the Luncheon Fund in order to keep the program going. Donations can be made in honor or in memory of someone, or to mark a special occasion. Those wishing an acknowledgment to be sent to the person being honored, or to the family of someone being remembered, can indicate that, along with the necessary information. Donations may be sent to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905, Attention: Luncheon Fund.

JFS seeks Passover funds for needy

With people beginning to prepare for Passover, Jewish Family Service is asking the local community to do a mitzvah by contributing funds to help the needy. "Your kindness and generosity will enable 12 Jewish families who are struggling financially to purchase Passover foods required to celebrate a seder and to help them carry on the Jewish traditions that are so important to us all," said Roz Antoun, director of Jewish Family Service. "Please

send your check made out to Jewish Family Service, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850 and note on the memo line: JFS Passover donation."

Donations must be received no later than Tuesday, April 9, so that Jewish Family Service will have time to process and distribute the funds.

"In these difficult economic times, the community's generosity will surely brighten the celebration of Passover for the recipients and remind those families that they are being remembered," said Antoun.

Chabad to hold community seder, make *shmura* matzah available for purchase

Reservations are being accepted by Chabad Center for the community seder it is hosting on Friday, April 19. Services will begin at 7:30 pm, followed by the seder at the Chabad Center, 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal. The seder will include all of the traditional observances, a full course dinner, handmade *shmura* matzah and mystical insights. The haggadah will be read with participation from all present in both Hebrew and English, and the many customs and traditions of the seder will be explained. No prior knowledge or level of observance is required of those wishing to attend. There is no charge for the seder but a suggested minimum donation of \$18 per person can be sent to Chabad before or after the holiday.

"We will be serving a full course, traditional holiday dinner but I do urge participants to have a bit to eat earlier in the evening to tide them over the ceremonial, opening portion of the Seder which precedes dinner," added Rivky Slonim.

For more information and reservations e-mail aslonim@Jewishbu.com or call the Chabad office at 797-0015.

Handmade *shmura* matzah will be available for purchase through the Chabad Center for \$15 a pound (three matzahs can be purchased for \$9) as long as the supply lasts, interested parties are urged to place their orders as soon as possible. To order *shmura* matzah, call the Chabad Center at 797-0015.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Lewis Hecht on the death of his sister,
Joan H. Groen

- Neil & Sma Auerbach
- Mrs. Marilyn Bell
- Larry & Rita Bleier
- Rabbi & Mrs. Zalman Chein
- Chaim Joy & Cathy Velenchik
- Celia Klin & Sue Krause
- Dora & Solomon Polachek
- Ilene Pinsker & Ronald Sacks
- Mr. Lee Schechter
- Marlene Serkin
- Rabbi & Mrs. Zev Silber
- Rabbi & Mrs. Aaron Slonim
- Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine

Thank you for being so thoughtful in sending me Shalach Manot!

Rite E. Shawn



Community Passover seder at TC

Temple Concord will continue its tradition of offering a Passover seder for the community. This year, it will be on the first night of Passover, Friday, April 19, at 6 pm, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton.

Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell will lead the seder rituals. The kosher-style Passover meal will be catered by Phantom Chef Catering chef Michelle Bank McIlroy. Traditional seder foods will be served, as well as Passover desserts, kosher wine and other beverages.

Paid reservations are due by Friday, April 12. Contact the Temple Concord office at 723-7355 or templeconcord-binghamton@gmail.com to make reservations. The cost will be \$38 per person, \$15 for children younger than 13, and free for children 2 and younger.

For financial assistance to attend the seder, contact Rabbi Goldman-Wartell at 723-7355, or Jewish Family Service or the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton at 724-2332.

Envoy. . . . Continued from page 1

Israel to maintain overriding security control of Judea and Samaria and a permanent defense position in the Jordan Valley?" he said.

Israel has long rejected any return to what it has described as indefensible boundaries that existed before the Six-Day War in June 1967. It has said it must maintain military control of the West Bank, which it captured in that conflict, along with eastern Jerusalem and Gaza.

Friedman's comments did not say what "overriding" Israeli security control in the West Bank would entail. But his reference to a permanent defense post in its eastern sector, bordering Jordan, seemed to suggest at least a partial troop presence. The Palestinians demand a full Israeli pullout from the West Bank and a return to the pre-1967 borders.

Trump's Middle East adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner is spearheading Washington's peace efforts, but has not disclosed details. Unlike his predecessors, Trump has not endorsed the goal of Palestinian statehood. On March 25, he signed a decree recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Early deadlines for The Reporter

The Reporter will have early deadlines for the following upcoming issues. No exceptions will be made.

Issue	Deadline
Friday, May 3.....	Tuesday, April 23
Friday, May 17.....	Tuesday, May 7

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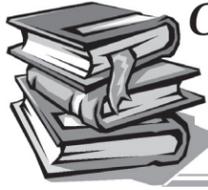
Passover with PJ Library
Sunday, April 7
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
at the JCC

Join us for food and fun activities!
RSVP to Cherie, the PJ Library Intern, at clitvin1@binghamton.edu

storytime • hametz scavenger hunt • afikomen cover making

IT'S GAME TIME! BINGHAMTON RUMBLE PONIES OPENING WEEKEND APRIL 11-17

	6:35PM 11 2019 Opening Night OPENING NIGHT FLEECE BLANKET GIVEAWAY FIRST 1000 FANS	7:05PM 12 TOYOTA FIREWORK SERIES 2019 MAGNET SCHEDULE GIVEAWAY, FIRST 1000 FANS SPONSORED BY EMPOWER FCU
2:05PM 13 DOWNTOWN DOUBLE HEADER 2019 MAGNET SCHEDULE GIVEAWAY, FIRST 1000 FANS SPONSORED BY EMPOWER FCU	2:05PM 14 FAMILY FUNDRAISER HEART RADIO 2019 TEAM PHOTO GIVEAWAY FIRST 1000 FANS SPONSORED BY CUSTOM SYSTEMS INTEGRATION LE GALLOWAY'S KICKOFF DAY PRE-GAME CATCH ON THE FIELD & SENIOR STROLL (1-130) SPONSORED BY HOME INSTEAD SENIOR CARE	6:35PM 15 MULTI HUNDAYS SPONSORED BY ANIMAL CARE SANCTUARY SILVER DAY SPONSORED BY SABRETT
6:35PM 16 TAKE IT BACK TO THE 90'S SPONSORED BY HEART RADIO PREGAME AUTOGRAPHS (5:30-6:30) SPONSORED BY JACK SHERMAN TOYOTA	6:35PM 17 WE CARE WEDNESDAY SPONSORED BY M&T BANK	FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT: BINGRP.COM OR CALL 607-722-3866



Off the Shelf

Tales of darkness and hope

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Some Holocaust novels mix fact and fiction, creating purely fictional characters while hewing close to the reality of what people actually experienced. Others focus on a real-life person – telling their story by creating dialogue and background information to add depth to what might otherwise be dry facts. Examples of these different types of novels can be found in two recent works, “The Girl from Berlin” by Ronald H. Balson (St. Martin’s Press) and “The Tattooist of Auschwitz” by Heather Morris (Harper). Although Balson includes a few life-real people, the majority of his characters came from his imagination. However, his story attempts to show what Jews living in Germany and Italy experienced during the war. Morris, on the other hand, has fictionalized the experience of a real person – Lale Sokolov – in order to show the reasoning behind the difficult decisions Sokolov made during his time in a concentration camp.

Balson’s novel started out a bit slower than expected, but that was because I’d just finished his prior novel “The Trust.” “The Trust” is told in the first person and the excitement began on the very first page. (The novel has one minor Jewish character, which is why it has not been reviewed in this column. However, anyone interested in

a thriller about Ireland will enjoy this fast-paced work.) The action in “The Girl From Berlin” builds more slowly, partly because the contemporary story is told in the third person. It features lawyer Catherine Lockhart and private detective Liam Taggart, who have appeared in all of Balson’s works. The couple is invited by a friend to travel to Italy to prevent his Aunt Gabi from being evicted from her house and land. No Italian lawyer has been willing to do the work necessary to prevent a very powerful and rich corporation from getting a court order to expel Gabi from her home.

Catherine and Liam don’t believe there is much that they can do, but a trip to Italy without their young son sounds like a perfect vacation. Once there, they begin to realize that something is not quite right with the corporation’s claim that Gabi has never had proper title to her land. A big problem, though, is that Gabi refuses to talk to them about the past. Instead, she gives them a journal written by Ada Baumgarten, a young violinist whose father was a member of the Berlin Philharmonic. Liam and Catherine (and the reader) read the translated journal, which tells the story of Ada’s life. Although Liam and Catherine do their own research, the connection between past and present only becomes apparent close to the journal’s end,

which also reveals the reason Gabi is unable to speak about her past.

Balson is a master storyteller and his ability to create characters I come to care about is amazing. Although I normally don’t enjoy knowing that a novel will have an emotionally satisfying – if not exactly happy – ending, I make an exception in Balson’s case. If his books ended any other way, I’d probably be tempted to throw them across the room and stomp on them. However, his works always leave me wanting to cheer and “The Girl From Berlin” is no exception.

While Balson focuses on life in Germany and Italy, the overwhelming majority of Morris’ work takes place in a concentration camp. Lale is a Slovakian Jew who agrees to be transported for a work detail in order to protect his parents and siblings. His train rides end at Auschwitz-Birkenau, where Lale is appointed a *tatowierer* – one of the men who gives tattoos to those entering the camp. Lale tries to keep out of trouble and refuses to look at people’s faces when he’s giving them tattoos. That way he won’t get emotionally involved or feel anything for the numerous people who pass by him. That changes when he notices prisoner 34902.

See “Hope” on page 5

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

- The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is JCJ Property Management, LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 19, 2019.
- The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
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- The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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Notice of Formation of 3CE Renovation, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed

with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/28/2019. Office Location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom service of process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: James Bishop, Jr., 3301 Foster Avenue, Apt. 1C, Brooklyn, New York 11210. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Goldenrod Studios Design, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/4/2019. Office Location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom service of process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Erin Slavik, P.O. Box 285, Binghamton, New York 13903. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Hemp Geek LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/22/19. Office: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 279 Front St, Binghamton NY 13905. Purpose: Retail Store

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: The Back 40 Acres, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was November 30, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Alexandra Sullivan, Esq., 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that **T.RICH CONTRACTING LLC** was formed by the filing of Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State on February 5, 2019. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process to the company at 265 Greenwood Road, Lisle, NY 13797, the principal office of the company, which is located in Broome County. The company is authorized to conduct any lawful act or activity except one which requires some other business entity or natural person to be formed or used.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Lucas Little Enterprises, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the

Company with the Secretary of State was March 19, 2019. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

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Notice of Formation of Nova Lehigh JV 1 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/29/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Ron Kutas, 24 Commerce St, Ste. 1200, Newark, NJ 07102. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of CGC Memorial Properties LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/26/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 64 Sweetland Hill Rd., Chenango Forks, NY 13746. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

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- The Secretary of State of

the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 113 Hawley Street Binghamton, New York, 13901.

- The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Qualification of RENEW PC 4 LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/11/19. Office location: Broome County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 09/11/17. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Renew Energy Partners, LLC, 745 Atlantic Ave., 8th Fl., Boston, MA 02111. Address to be maintained in DE: National Registered Agents, Inc., 160 Greentree Dr., Ste. 101, Dover, DE 19904. Arts of Org. filed with the DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St. #3, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of 600 Trim Street, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/18/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 3 Valley View Ct., Binghamton, NY 13904. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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Notice of Formation of 96North2017, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/14/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: PO Box 315, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Oasis Outdoor Living LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/18/19. Office location: Broome

County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o John Sacco, 100 Oakdale Rd., Johnson City, NY 13790. Purpose: any lawful activities.

SECTION #206

102 Chapin Owners LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 2/22/2019. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 102 Chapin St., Binghamton, NY 13905. General Purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

- The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is 3660 St. John LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is March 28, 2019.
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- The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 24 Ford Lane, Roseland, NJ 07068.
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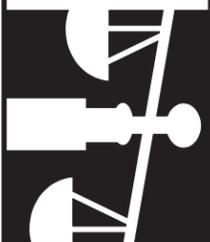
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THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton



With a bit of huffing and puffing, rabbis and Christian Zionists conquer the Jerusalem Marathon

By Judy Lash Balint

(JNS) – The ninth annual Jerusalem Winner Marathon attracted a record 40,000 runners from 80 countries who took over the streets of the capital on March 15 while thousands of onlookers cheered them on. While the Jerusalem run has its professional side and attracts many elite runners (Ronald Kimeli Kurgat, 33, from Kenya tore through the course to take first place at the finish line in 02:18:47), the event is also a community carnival, promoting the holy city as a place open to all.

Under the marathon umbrella, most participants take part in the 10K, 5K or 1.7K family race, with many running in costume or pushing strollers. Fourteen Israeli nonprofit groups organize their own teams to benefit from thousands of local runners who solicit friends and family as sponsors.

This year, two American organizations, RabbisCanRun and Run for Zion, a Christian group, sponsored runners to take part. Runners from both groups raised money for a variety of Israeli social-service needs.

Rabbi Ben Hassan, 36, religious leader of the Sephardic Bikur Holim Congregation in Seattle, who describes himself as “very unathletic,” completed the 10K and raised almost \$8,000 for Olami, a Jewish outreach initiative that sponsors RabbisCanRun. Other rabbis who ran under the RabbisCanRun banner raised funds for Kav L’Noar, a counseling and mentoring program for youth in distress.

Elizabeth Wong, 38, a self-described Christian Zionist from Phoenix and veteran of 10 marathons, said the Jerusalem race, which she finished in 5:31:11, was the “hardest, yet most amazing and breathtaking marathon I’ve ever run.” The 18 hills of the full marathon course were challenging, she noted, despite her running experience. Wong, an advisory board member of Run for Zion, said she raised \$3,500 for Israeli nonprofits, including Meir Panim and Just One Life.

Hassan and Wong agreed that running in Jerusalem is not just a physical challenge. “It feels like a gift from God,” Hassan noted, while Wong explained that running past some of Jerusalem’s religious sites was “filled with spiritual meaning. I can’t think of any more spiritual place to run.”

Run for Zion is a project of the Israel-based Genesis 123 Foundation, headed by Efrat resident Jonathan Feldstein. Feldstein, an observant Jew, is not a runner, but his mission is to connect Jews and Christians, and Christians to Israel. Run for Zion embodies that in many ways, he said.

In his appeal to runners, Feldstein wrote: “If you’re a Christian and a runner, Run for Zion provides the most profound and spiritual experience, combined with a tangible opportunity to bless Israel. Every participant gets the opportunity to set up a crowdfunding page with donations going to support an array of charities in Israel that care for millions.”

Feldstein added that “we are excited because God promises to bless those who bless Israel. Run for Zion is your unique opportunity to tangibly bless Israel, and see Israel as most never get to do, running in the footsteps of Jesus.”

One American pastor who took up the challenge is Ray Hardee, senior pastor of the Pointe Church, in Belmont, NC. An avid runner, Hardee completed the full Jerusalem Marathon in 5:17:20. He thanked those who donated to his Run For Zion page that “support[s] causes of assisting Holocaust survivors, supporting the Right to Life in Israel, helping in the *aliyah* of Jews longing for home, helping homeless people, and uniting Christians and Jews!”

For the 13 Orthodox rabbis who make up the RabbisCanRun team, the emphasis is as much on personal and



Elizabeth Wong from the Christian group Run for Zion took a selfie during the 2019 Jerusalem Marathon. (Photo by Elizabeth Wong via Facebook)



Thousands of runners took part in the 2019 international Jerusalem Marathon in the Old City on March 15. (Photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

spiritual growth as on fund-raising. “It sounds preposterous that you can take a bunch of rabbis, who are not known for being fit, train them for a few months and get them to run more than six miles,” marvels Hassan.

But under the guidance of a professional coach, Dr.

Owen Anderson, Hassan and his fellow rabbis, who range in age from 20s to 60s, progressed in three months from running for one minute to pushing themselves to assault Jerusalem’s hills for many miles.

See “Marathon” on page 8

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Hope.Continued from page 4

Lale’s position has privileges: he has his own room in his barracks and is given more food. But he can’t stop thinking about 34902 and uses his influence to meet her. Unwilling to say more about her prior life than her name is Gita, Lale begins to use his privileges not only to help Gita, but others in the camp. Knowing that he can’t help everyone, he tries to devise ways to be as fair as possible. This makes his life dangerous: his German minder can easily arrange for him to die if any of his plans are revealed.

The suspense in “The Tattooist of Auschwitz” feels muted at times because readers know that Lale survives. The fact that the novel was originally written as a screenplay shows: the prose is blunted and there were few in-depth descriptions. One thing not addressed as much as it might have been is whether or not the other prisoners saw Lale as a collaborator for working so closely with the Germans. Lale seemed concerned about setting the record straight about his behavior when Morris interviewed him, something Morris discusses in her author’s note at the end of the book.

What ties both novels – besides their taking place during World War II – is that each features characters who made sacrifices so others could survive and who also held out hope for a better life once the war was over. Each work is satisfying and moving, and perfect for those seeking more novels about life during World War II.

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Beth David celebrated Purim

On Thursday, March 21, Beth David Synagogue celebrated Purim with the reading of the megillah, followed by a Purim *seudah* (meal), attended by approximately 40 Beth David and community members.



L-r: Toby Kohn, Saba Wiesner and Susan Hubal



Facing camera (l-r): Charlie Manasse, Gerry Hubal, Susan Hubal, Merri Pell-Preus, Tony Preus and Rabbi Zev Silber.



Clockwise from bottom left: Michael Wiesner, Andre Rosales, Cheresse Rosales, Gerry Hubal, Dora Polachek, Solomon Polachek and Saba Wiesner.



Clockwise from bottom left: Ilana Segal, Bernie Segal, Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu, Charles Rubin, Hyman Rubin, Bob Kutz, Maria Kutz and Kathy Shelly.



Clockwise from bottom left: Chaim Joy, Lillian Levy, Ruth Goldstein, Lillian Zodikoff, Sylvia Diamond and Ann Brilliant.

Turn your smartphone into a medical diagnostics microscope

By Abigail Klein Leichman

(Israel21c via JNS) – If your eye is oozing and red, and an infection is suspected, you need to make an appointment with your doctor and get a lab analysis before you can start antibiotic treatment.

Physicist-turned-biologist Ariel Livne wondered if the whole process could be done at home by pairing some simple optics equipment with his smartphone to analyze biological samples in the case of an eye infection, a teardrop.

That is the basis of the startup Diagnoz.me of Jerusalem, co-founded by Livne in November 2017 with Tamir Epstein with the help of a pre-seed grant from the Israel Innovation Authority.

“Our innovation is that we enable the smartphone to see bacteria,” Livne tells ISRAEL21c. “Once you see bacteria, you can perform medical diagnostics. Our technology transforms a low-cost disposable together with a regular smartphone into a high-end medical diagnostics microscope.”

Still in the proof-of-concept stage, the innovation aims to enable patients to run tests at home, receive lab-grade results within minutes and instantly share them with their physician.

“We have shown that our image-analysis software can detect bacteria as accurately as a high-end lab microscope that costs over \$100,000,” says Livne.

The optics add-on would be a disposable chip device sold at a pharmacy for less than \$20. You’d put the relevant biological liquid onto the chip – whether urine, saliva or a teardrop – “in a convenient way so it’s not disgusting or unhygienic. The camera takes and analyzes the pictures, and sends you and your physician automatic results.”

Diagnoz.me is not the only Israeli company pioneering the home diagnostics sector. TytoCare of Netanya and New York sells a home exam kit and app that lets people perform basic medical exams guided by a doctor. The device includes instruments to check ears, throat, heart and lungs, skin and body temperature, and transmits those images and sounds to the physician.

Healthy.io of Tel Aviv, which recently raised \$18 million in a Series B round, sells a smartphone-based home urinalysis kit and is starting a test-and-treat service in the United Kingdom for urinary-tract infections in collaboration with pharmacy chain Boots.

Livne explains that most home diagnostics developers are using PCR, a technology that identifies the DNA of specific bacteria.

Diagnoz.me uses a different technology, fluorescence microscopy, which has been around for more than 100 years, but it wasn’t until around 2017 that smartphones had the right high-level specs to make it possible.

“The physician receives the same kind of information as from a lab, including bacterial count, to know what you have. If you need a prescription, that can be done electronically as well,” says Livne.

The founders won an NIS 3 million (nearly \$830,000) prize at the dHealth 2018 Summit held in Rishon Letzion.

Livne and Epstein have decided that Diagnoz.me’s first-use case will be vaginal infections. That’s the most common gynecological problem, accounting for more than 10 million office visits per year in the United States.

“We looked at a number of different infections and vaginal infections stood out because they are very common, but unfortunately, most women don’t go for treatment because it’s so unpleasant,” explains Livne.

“Possibly 80 percent of women do anything to avoid going to the gynecologist, so they try over-the-counter and home remedies instead. But they are in pain, and it lowers their quality of life. We can help these women because collecting the sample and running the test is very easy and done in private.”

See “Medical” on page 8



The Diagnoz.me prototype. (Photo courtesy of Israel21c)

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Diagnoz.me founders Ariel Livne and Tamir Epstein accepted their NIS 3 million (nearly \$830,000) prize money at the dHealth 2018 Summit. (Photo courtesy of Israel21c)

Community celebrated Purim at JCC party



Children lined up for a guessing game at the Jewish Community Center's Community Purim party on March 24.



An overview of part of the crowd at the Jewish Community Center's Community Purim party on March 24.



Children waited in line for balloon animals at the JCC Community Purim party.



Volunteers who helped at the annual JCC Community Purim party included teen and adult community members, along with JCC staff.

New York state budget allocates security funding for Jewish camps for first time

By JNS staff

(JNS)—For the first time ever, the New York state budget allocated security funding for summer camps.

It also consists of doubling funding available to protect nonpublic schools, day-care centers and cultural museums at risk of hate crimes, with \$30 million for STEM and an additional \$7 million for the Comprehensive Attendance

Policy and for Mandated Services Reimbursement, totaling \$193 million.

The Orthodox Union, through its state advocacy operation Teach Coalition, has fought for security funding on the national, state and city levels, in addition to recently hiring full-time staff to provide direct assistance to schools and synagogues in their efforts to apply for state and federal grant funding.

“Together, with the support of our partners, including nonpublic schools, parents and even the students themselves, our community has raised our collective voice and advocated respectfully but forcefully for the necessary funding for our schools and children,” said Orthodox Union President Moishe Bane.

See “Budget” on page 9



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Israeli technology helps Sierra Leone schoolchildren drink clean water from air

By JNS staff

(JNS) – The St. Joseph’s girls’ school in Sierra Leone’s capital of Freeport has received Israeli technology that produces fresh, safe-drinking water out of air. The technology, which comes in the form of an atmospheric water generator known as the “GEN-350,” offers the schoolchildren a source of clean water that can produce up to 900 liters of water per day.

Water pollution is one of the leading causes of death in the West African country, which has an average life expectancy of 56 years, one of the lowest in the world. Approximately half of the population has no access to clean drinking water, and a little less than three-quarters of urban dwellers have a safe water supply available for use.

Sierra Leone’s water sources, which primarily consist of ponds, unprotected wells and freestanding water, have been contaminated by mining and chemicals used in the agricultural industry. Water-borne infections and parasites have increased the probability of Sierra Leoneans contracting diseases such as typhoid fever and Hepatitis A.

The GEN-350, which offers the school a supply of fresh water on site, is a technological innovation of the Israel-based company Watergen, led by its president, Dr. Michael Mirilashvili. It was purchased from Watergen USA by the local company, SL Watergen. With a weight of just 800 kilograms, the GEN-350 is easily transportable and

At right: Schoolchildren in Sierra Leone’s capital of Freeport lined up for clear water on campus, supplied by an atmospheric water generator known as the GEN-350. (Photo by Drusso/Shtevi Photography)



can be installed easily. The GEN-350 units are provided with an internal water-treatment system and need no infrastructure except a source of electricity in order to operate.

“Watergen is currently operating in many African countries,” said president of Watergen USA, Yehuda Kaploun, “and even more announcements about other

countries in Africa using our machines and technology will be forthcoming.”

Watergen’s efforts to make fresh, pure water available around the globe earned the company its place on the World Economic Forum’s list of the world’s top technology pioneers in 2018.

World’s longest salt cave (and still in the process of being measured) declared in Israel

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Israel’s Malham Cave appears to now be the world’s longest salt cave, said Israeli researchers on March 28. The title was previously held for 13 years by Iran’s Cave of the Three Nudes.

Located at the southern part of the Dead Sea, Malham spans more than six miles in length. The survey was done by researchers from Hebrew University’s Cave Research Center, in addition to Bulgaria and other nations.

“The Malham Salt Cave is a river cave,” said CRC Director Amos Frumkin. “Water from a surface stream flowed underground and dissolved the salt, creating caves – a process that is still going on when there is strong rain over Mount Sedom about once a year.”

Malham was first discovered by the CRC back in the 1980s. Later, tens of CRC expeditions surveyed Mount Sedom and found more than 100 salt different caves inside, the longest of which measured more than 3.5 miles. Carbon-dating tests showed the cave as around 7,000 years old, with successive rainstorms creating new passages for cavers to explore. When international expeditions resumed at Malham in 2018 and 2019, their surveys discovered the cave’s record-breaking, double-digit length.



Malham Cave. (Photo by Ruslan Paul/Hebrew University)

“Thirty years ago, when we surveyed Malham, we used tape measures and compasses,” said Frumkin. “Now we have laser technology that beams measurements right to our iPhones.”

“We cavers worked 10-hour days underground, crawling through icy salt channels, narrowly avoiding salt stalactites and draw-dropping salt crystals. Down there, it felt like another planet,” said CRC member Efraim Cohen. “Our next and final step is to map the tightest spots and the most difficult ones to reach. When we’re all done, it’s likely we’ll add a few hundred meters to Malham’s impressive 10-kilometer length.”

Medical. . . . Continued from page 6

The technology can be adapted to detect each type of relevant bacteria, in this case those that cause vaginal infections.

Diagnoz.me is now raising seed funding. Livne estimates that it will take about two to three years for the product to reach the market.

Meanwhile, Livne and Epstein are seeking strategic partnerships and continuing to develop the product with a medical advisory board, including, among others, the former head of the Women’s Health Department at the Lin Center in Haifa and an OB-GYN who heads Femicare VZW in Belgium.

Marathon. . . . Continued from page 5

“We didn’t walk any of it,” Hassan said with pride at the end of the race. “It’s all about believing in yourself and putting one foot in front of the other. I think we achieved the goal to improve our health, learn how to push past our limits, all while raising money to support worthwhile Israeli causes.”

The brainchild of Meir Kaniel, a running enthusiast and social worker from New Jersey who works as IT director for Olami, RabbisCanRun provided tangible ongoing motivational support and running tips for the rabbis, along with inspiration from the Torah.



Rabbi Ben Hassan, 36, religious leader of the Sephardic Bikur Holim Congregation in Seattle, completed the 2019 Jerusalem Marathon. (Photo courtesy of Facebook)

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New olim settle near Gaza with help from International Fellowship of Christians, Jews

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Around 250 new immigrants (*olim*) from Ukraine landed in Israel on March 25 on a flight organized by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews. The flight was the sixth *aliyah* flight of the Fellowship since the beginning of the year. Fifteen of the *olim* are moving to Israel’s Negev region and five to the Gaza periphery, a region that has dealt with renewed rocket attacks from Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

“The Fellowship’s first concern is to secure Jews from the threats and dangers of antisemitism, which is why we’re bringing them to Israel,” said the organization’s president, Yael Eckstein. “At the same time, we leave it up to the *olim* to decide for themselves where to settle in Israel. It is inspiring to us all that the passion and Zionism is so intense among some of them that they insist on moving to the Gaza periphery, and feel fully confident and excited to do so.”

Vladimir Levin and his wife are following in the path of their son and settling in

Kibbutz Tze’elim, located in the Eshkol Regional Council, which borders the Gaza Strip. Levin said that like his son, he is not deterred from living there.

Yelena Tackshenko and her family moved to Kibbutz Ein HaShlosa, also located in the Eshkol Regional Council, though much closer to Gaza. Ein HaShlosa absorbed the largest number of rockets during Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012. The *kibbutz* received the second-largest number of mortar shells during Operation Protective Edge in 2014.

Despite the ongoing security threats in the region, 25-year-old Daniel Popov said, “I am not afraid of the situation. My friends have served in the army for four years and told me of their experiences. I know that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is strong, and I am happy to be here!”

The new arrivals come from a variety of localities in Ukraine, including Odesa, Kiev and Zaporizhia. They range as young as 8 months to 82 years old. About 22 percent of the *olim* are settling in the coastal cities of Haifa and Netanya.



One of the families in a group of 250 new immigrants from Ukraine who landed in Israel as part of a flight organized by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews on March 25. (Photo by Olivier Fitoussi/IFCJ)



Some 250 new immigrants (*olim*) from Ukraine landed in Israel on a flight organized by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews on March 25. (Photo by Olivier Fitoussi/IFCJ)

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

U.S. considering further Iran sanctions, extension of certain waivers

The United States is considering additional sanctions against Iran that would hit areas not previously targeted, a senior Trump administration official told reporters on April 1. The fresh sanctions would be enacted in May, a year after the U.S. withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, reported Reuters. “We just want a continued chilling effect,” said the official. “We want businesses to continue to think doing business with Iran is a terrible idea at this point.” ...The more we can do around the anniversary, the better,” added the official, who also said that it takes time for the U.S. Treasury Department to issue sanctions. Finally, the official predicted that the United States will reduce the number of waivers it has given to several countries to import Iranian oil: “That, I think, is where we’re headed.” The waivers were given after America reimposed sanctions in November that were lifted under the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Turkey, India, Japan, South Korea and China are likely to be given waivers after they expire in May that could limit Iranian crude oil exports at around 1.1 million barrels daily, while Greece, Taiwan and Italy would not be given another waiver.

U.S. halts F-35 equipment shipments to Turkey

The United States has halted all F-35 aircraft shipments to Turkey, announced the Pentagon on April 1, due to the latter planning to acquire a Russian missile-defense system. “Pending an unequivocal Turkish decision to forgo delivery of the S-400, deliveries and activities associated with the stand-up of Turkey’s F-35 operational capability have been suspended while our dialogue on this important matter continues with Turkey,” said the U.S. Department of Defense, according to CNN. Reuters first reported the development, citing sources familiar with the situation. The U.S. announcement comes as Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu was to visit Washington, DC, that week for a NATO summit. Turkey and the United States are NATO members. The two countries have been at odds with one another regarding the ongoing situation in Syria, as well as U.S. sanctions on Iran. Turkey is also demanding that America extradite Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen.

P.A. halts patient referrals to Israeli hospitals due to tax issues with Israel

The Palestinian Authority will no longer allow patients to be referred to Israeli hospitals, according to reports on April 1. In an interview with *The Times of Israel*, P.A. Health Ministry spokesman Osama al-Najjar said that Israeli hospitals have been overcharging for services and “taking funds for medical bills without our permission.” An estimated 50,000 Palestinian residents are sent to Israeli hospitals a year, primarily for specific treatments that Palestinian hospitals do not provide. Now, they will only have access to P.A. hospitals, including six that operate in eastern Jerusalem, as well as in Jordan, Egypt and other countries. The Finance Ministry deducts the cost of medical bills from taxes collected by Israel for the P.A., according to al-Najjar, who said the ministry was unwilling to discuss solutions. The Finance Ministry responded that “in accordance with the Paris Protocol and Israeli law, the Finance Ministry deducts, from [tax] funds that are collected for the Palestinian Authority, payments that it or parties under its control owe. Charges, including those for Palestinians referred by the P.A. for treatment in hospitals in Israel, are carried out in a fully transparent manner and in accordance with clear procedures.”

Budget.....Continued from page 7

“More than 700 people came to our mission in Albany earlier [in March] and helped make the Jewish community’s voice heard,” said Orthodox Union Executive Vice President Allen Fagin. “We encourage more

parents, grandparents, teachers and school administrators to get involved because the greater our voice the more we can achieve to benefit our schools. It’s important that people join us and act for our children.”

Moving any time soon?
 Whether you’re moving across town or across the country, please let *The Reporter* know so you can quickly receive the paper at your new (or temporary) address! E-mail treporter@aol.com with “Reporter Address change” in the subject line, or call 607-724-2360, ext. 254.

PASSOVER 2019 Greetings

Deadlines: April 11 (April 19 issue) and April 18 (April 26 Health Care Greetings issue)

Passover is traditionally a time for sharing with family, friends and strangers. While your seder table may not be large enough to fit all these people, you can share the warmth of this holiday with the entire local Jewish community by placing a Passover greeting in *The Reporter*. You may choose from the designs, messages and sizes shown here - more are available. You may also choose your own message, as long as it fits into the space of the greeting you select. (Custom designs available upon request.) The price of the small greeting is \$18 (styles C & F), the medium one is \$36 (styles A & D) and the largest one (style G, not shown) is \$72.

To ensure that your greeting is published, simply fill out the form below and choose a design that you would like to accompany your greeting, or contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereportergroup.org. Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter* and sent to: *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

Wishing you and your family peace, health and happiness this Pesach

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Style C • \$18 Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"



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Drawing near to the source of life

RABBI PEG KERSHENBAUM, CONGREGATION B'NAI HARIM, POCONO PINES

Tazria is a Torah portion that is sometimes read in combination with another section from Leviticus, Metzora. This year, it shares its week with the special reading for Shabbat HaChodesh, from the book of Exodus. Often much is made of the rabbinic “take” on Metzora (someone manifesting *tzaraat*, a type of scaly affliction that shows up on people, cloth or houses). Our sages deduced that this affliction appears on those who bad-mouth others. According to Maimonides, until they repent, the affliction worsens, spreading from the walls of the house in which they dwell, as if their speech poisoned the atmosphere of their homes, to their clothing or furnishings to themselves, in worsening stages. *Motzi shem ra* – slander, or “bringing forth a bad reputation,” sounds like Metzora; thus, one who is so afflicted is assumed to be suffering for his or – notably

in the case of Miriam – her slanderous speech.

This year, let us briefly examine Tazria (Leviticus 12-13) with the wonderful section read in honor of the beginning of the month of Nisan and the imminent arrival of *Pesach* (Exodus 12:1-20). Could there be a connection?

The opening chapter of Tazria describes how a woman who has just given birth to a son or daughter must be purified. The sacrifices asked of her (a burnt offering and a sin offering) are similar to those required (in Metzora) of people who have had a discharge from their generative organs. What have these conditions in common? They seem to bring a person closer to a death-like state. Birth, in those days, was an event fraught with danger for mother and child alike. The blood and discharges, even though associated with bringing forth new life, were powerful

sources of miasmatic and physical contamination. So, too, were seminal emissions (representative of the loss of potential life). Judaism celebrates life; we're told to choose life. We toast one another, “L'chaim, to life!” We praise God as the source of life, and the commandment to preserve life outweighs almost all other commandments.

When we were enslaved in *Mitzrayim*, we were not only brutalized and confronted with the danger of sudden death, we were surrounded by a culture that celebrated and monumentalized death. Although we did not build the pyramids, they were certainly a conspicuous part of our daily scenery. When God begins to set us free, it is not only from bondage that we are taken, but from that poisonous atmosphere.

See “Life” on page 11

Congregational Notes

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
 Rabbi: Zev Silber
 Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Phone: 722-1793, Rabbi's Office: 722-7514
 Fax: 722-7121
 Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm
 Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
 Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
 Website: www.bethdavid.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton
 Shabbat Services:
 Shabbat, April 6 9 am
 Mincha after the kiddush
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., April 7 8:30 am
 Mon.-Fri., April 8-12 7 am
 Evenings:
 Sun., April 7 7:20 pm
 Mon.-Thurs., April 8-11 7:20 pm
 Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
 Rabbi: Molly Karp
 Address: 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 383, Oneonta, NY 13820
 Phone: 607-432-5522
 Website: www.templebetheloneonta.org
 E-mail: TBEOneonta@gmail.com
 Regular service times: visit the temple website for days of services and times
 Religious School/Education: Religious School, for grades kindergarten through bar/bat mitzvah, meets Sunday mornings. Rabbi Karp conducts services and holds classes in Torah, beginning Hebrew and Maimonides.
 For the schedule of services, classes and events, see the website.

Penn-York Jewish Community

President-Treasurer-Secretary: Harvey Chernosky, 570-265-3869
 B'nai B'rith: William H. Seigel Lodge
 Purpose: To promote Jewish identity through religious, cultural, educational and social activities in the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, including Waverly, NY; Sayre, Athens and Towanda, PA, and surrounding communities.

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive
 Rabbi: David Regenspan
 Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815
 Contact: Guilina Greenberg, 336-1523
 Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.
 Adult Ed.: Saturday morning study is held at 10 am. Call for more information and to confirm.

Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch
 Rabbi: Aaron Slonim
 E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu
 Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
 Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095
 Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com
 Chabad on the West Side
 Rabbi: Zalman Chein
 E-mail: zchein@JewishBU.com
 Address: 27 Bennet Ave., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Phone: 722-3252
 Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.
 Linking Hearts for youngsters with special needs: This program connects Jewish special-needs children and teenagers, ages 5-14, who have mental, physical and/or functional disabilities, with student volunteers who will visit participating youngsters weekly in their homes.
 To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
 Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell
 Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm
 Phone: 723-7355, Fax: 723-0785
 Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com
 Website: www.templeconcord.com
 Regular service times: Friday, 8 pm; Saturday, 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.
 Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 5:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year unless otherwise noted.
 On Friday, April 5, at 8 pm, there will be Shabbat evening services, including remembrance of the 10th anniversary of the American Civic Association shooting, led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

On Saturday, April 6, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study; and at 10:35 am, there will be Shabbat family services geared to younger children with birthday blessings, led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell, Jeff Strosberg and the assistance of the kindergarten-third grade students, followed by a potluck lunch.

On Sunday, April 7, from 10 am-2 pm, there will be a Temple Concord Sisterhood rummage sale – buy one top, get one free.

On Tuesday, April 9, at 4:15 and 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew school.

On Thursday, April 11, at 4:15 and 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew school.

On Friday, April 12, at 8 pm, there will be Shabbat evening services led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. This is also the RSVP deadline for the April 19 community Passover seder.

On Saturday, April 13, at 9 am, there will be religious school with a Passover seder; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study; and at 9:30 am, there will be Tot Shabbat. There will be no family service.

Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
 Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
 Phone: 607-756-7181
 President: Bruce Fein, bfein@twcny.rr.com
 Service leaders: Lay leadership
 Shabbat services: Either Friday evening at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 10 am from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot. Holiday services are also held. Check the weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.
 Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis. Temple Brith Sholom is a small egalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is “Likrat Shabbat,” while the Saturday morning siddur is “Gates of Prayer.” The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

Kol Haverim

Affiliation: Society for Humanistic Judaism
 Address: P.O. Box 4972, Ithaca, NY 14852-4972
 Phone: 607-277-3345
 E-mail: info@kolhaverim.net
 Website: www.kolhaverim.net
 Chairwoman: Abby Cohn
 Kol Haverim: The Finger Lakes Community for Humanistic Judaism, is an Ithaca-based organization that brings people together to explore and celebrate Jewish identity, history, culture and ethics within a secular, humanistic framework. KH is part of an international movement for Secular Humanistic Judaism and is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism, a national association with over 30 member communities and congregations around the country. Established in the spring of 1999, it offers celebrations of Jewish holidays, monthly Shabbat pot-lucks, adult education, a twice-monthly Cultural School for children, and a bar and bat mitzvah program.
 KH welcomes all individuals and families, including those from mixed religious backgrounds, who wish to strengthen the Jewish experience in their lives and provide their children with a Jewish identity and experience.

Friday, April 5, light candles 7:15 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, April 6 8:17 pm
 Friday, April 12, light candles 7:23 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, April 13 8:24 pm

Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative
 Rabbi: Geoffrey Brown
 Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850
 Phone: 723-7461 and 231-3746
 Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 am-4 pm; Fri. 8 am-3 pm
 E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbc.com
 Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
 Service Schedule: Tuesday, 5:30 pm; Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am

On Saturday, April 6, at 9:30 am, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Leviticus 12:1-13:59. The haftarah will be Ezekiel 45:16-18. Sue Walker and Lillian Levy will sponsor the kiddush.

On Saturday, April 6, at 9:30 am, there will be the baby naming of Howard and Bonnie Brown's grandchild.

On Sunday, April 7, at 10 am, there will be a TI/TC Adult Ed. brunch. Hadassah Mativetsky will speak about “Reflecting on my Israel Year.” The cost is \$5 per person.

On Wednesday, April 10, at 4 pm, there will be a Sisterhood open program meeting.

On Sunday, April 14, at 11 am, there will be a Hebrew/Sunday school parent/student seder. At 4 pm, there will be a Mussar class with Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

On Tuesday, April 16, at 7 pm, there will be a Board of Trustees meeting.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
 Rabbi: Scott L. Glass
 Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292
 Phone: 273-5775
 E-mail: rabbi@tbeithaca.org and secretary@tbeithaca.org
 Website: www.tbeithaca.org
 President: Jerry Davis
 Sisterhood President: Julie Paige
 Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody
 Administrative Assistant: Jane Griffith
 Services: Friday 8 pm; Saturday 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and legal holidays).
 Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday afternoons, 3:45-5:45 pm. The Midrashah (eighth-grade and high school) classes will meet at times designated by their respective teachers.
 Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.

On Friday, April 5, the dalet class service will be held at 6:15 pm.

On Saturday, April 6, Tot Shabbat will be held at 11:15 am.

On Thursday, April 11, at 7 pm, Nava Scharf, senior lecturer in modern Hebrew at Cornell University, as part of the temple's adult education series, will discuss “Hayuta's Engagement Party,” a story by Savion Liebrecht that demonstrates the younger Israeli generation silencing Holocaust survivors even after the Eichmann trial.

On Friday-Saturday, April 12-13, the bat mitzvah of Ella Avgar, daughter of Christie and Ariel Avgar, will be celebrated.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
 Address: PO Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852; 2550 Triphammer Rd. (corner of Triphammer and Burdick Hill), Lansing, NY
 Phone: 607-256-1471
 Website: www.tikkunvor.org
 E-mail: info@tikkunvor.org
 Presidents: Lauren Korfine and Shira Reisman
 Rabbi: Brian Walt
 Religious School Director/Admin. Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky
 Services: Fridays at 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted. Intergenerational Shabbat, music services, and other special services. Call for the weekly schedule.
 Religious School: Preschool through seventh-grade classes meet on Sunday mornings. Sixth-grade Hebrew and seventh-grade b'nai mitzvah classes meet on Wednesday afternoons. Adult Ed: Mini courses throughout the year. Adult Hebrew offered regularly. Call the office for details.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

L.A. hockey coaches, players suspended for antisemitic comments

A Los Angeles-based hockey team has suspended 15 players and three coaches following a video surfacing on social media of one player doing a Nazi salute, while others allegedly made antisemitic remarks such as “f*** the Jews” and f***ing Jews.” The Athletic first reported the development. It is unclear if the alleged antisemitic comments made by the L.A. Jr. Kings 14U AAA recreational club, which is not affiliated with the National Hockey League’s L.A. Kings, were directed towards Jewish players on the team. The Kings said in a statement that it has been in “regular communication” with the Jr. Kings since the former was notified of the March 9 incident. “We fully supported their decision to indefinitely suspend all players and coaches after they conducted an immediate internal investigation,” a Kings representative said. “The LA Kings have zero tolerance for this type of behavior. We now await the results of the SafeSport investigation done by CAHA, on behalf of the Pacific District and USA hockey.” The statement mentioned the coaches and players will be mandated to undergo sensitivity and social media training. “This is outrageous,” said Simon Wiesenthal Center founder and dean Marvin Hier. “At a time when antisemitism is so prevalent all over the world, we discover that in our own backyard an LA Junior Kings hockey team made antisemitic remarks and Nazi salutes mocking Jews. ...Every day, we are shocked to find out how prevalent this cancerous malignancy is in our society,” he continued. “If this is what they can say in their youth, what can we expect of them when they mature into adults?”

U.N.-funded social-studies book says “Zionist occupation started in 1856”

A 2017 United Nations-funded school textbook for

Arab students offers a revisionist history of Israel as part of its goal to incite violence against Israelis. “Since the Zionist movement established in 1856 its first settlement, known as ‘Montefioriyah’ [Mishkenot Sha’ananim, built by Sir Moses Montefiore before the emergence of modern Zionism], south-west of the Jerusalem city wall, the series of division [actions] in Palestine has not stopped,” according to social-studies book for ninth-graders funded by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, or UNRWA, which was established by the U.N. General Assembly in 1949 to assist Arabs who became refugees during Israel’s War of Independence the previous year. “It [i.e., the Zionist movement] established settlements that included training centers and arms depots. After the ‘Catastrophe’ [nakba in Arabic] of 1948 it ruled over more than 78% of Palestine’s territory,” continues the text. “More than 850 thousand Palestinians were made to emigrate and they and their families lived in refugee camps in Palestine and in the Diaspora. Nothing of it [Palestine] was left, except the Gaza Strip and the West Bank that were occupied [later] in 1967.” Palestine has never been a state. In 1947, the United Nations offered a partition plan of the land that the British occupied and then left, which was accepted by the Jews and rejected by the Arabs. The following year, the state of Israel declared independence, leading to victory in war over its neighbors. The Palestinians have been offered statehood numerous times, only for its leadership to reject each offer and respond with further violence. UNRWA’s distribution of textbooks that promote Palestinian violence against Israel has long been documented. The Trump administration slashed all U.S. funding to UNRWA last August.

Harvard student government votes to fund Israeli Apartheid Week

Harvard University’s undergraduate council voted on March 31 to give \$2,050 to the Palestine Solidarity

Committee to put on Israeli Apartheid Week, which was to run until April 4 and consist of a physical “Wall of Resistance,” Palestinian speakers and a student panel, reported the school’s newspaper, *The Harvard Crimson*. The tally was 21-13, with 14 abstentions. The money comes from the student government’s Grant for an Open Harvard College that subsidizes “compelling interests,” which include “mental health, race, culture and faith relations, sexual assault and harassment prevention, social spaces and financial accessibility,” reported the *Crimson*. A student representative said the Palestinian initiative falls under the “race relations” section. However, the funds do not support speakers, according to undergraduate council finance committee chair Noah Harris. While council members told the *Crimson* they support free speech, they do not want speakers who promote violence to be on campus. “I don’t think that the UC should start to approve or not approve different speakers based on their views, but I do think that that line is the incitement of violence,” said Michael Shadpour. “I’ve heard uncontested that there are speakers [at IAW] that have advocated violence in the past.” Jewish students have noted feeling uncomfortable about that week’s events. “One of the speakers slated to come, Omar Barghouti, has said that he supports the euthanasia of Zionism,” said sophomore Gabriel Dardik. “Really, it makes me feel unsafe that this kind of person could come here.”

IsraAID provides relief to Mozambique after Cyclone Idai

The Israeli humanitarian-aid organization IsraAID has been providing life-saving emergency support in Mozambique, after 746 people died in the region due to Cyclone Idai, the organization announced on April 1. The aid group has provided assistance in the medical, water, protection and education sectors. Some 141,000 are currently displaced from their homes in Mozambique, with more than 143,000 children unable to attend school. IsraAID has distributed household water-filtration systems to provide safe water access for hundreds of families whose only water source is a shallow pool of groundwater. The organization has also facilitated training for teachers and educational psychologists, as teachers and students return to school. It will provide volunteers with tools to care for themselves and support the people they are assisting as they recover from the natural disaster. Cyclone Idai has been regarded as one of the worst tropical cyclones on record to affect Africa and the Southern Hemisphere as a whole. According to the World Food Programme, preliminary projections indicate that at least 1.7 million people were affected in the direct path of the cyclone in Mozambique, with a further 920,000 in Malawi.

“Beresheet” passes Earth one last time ahead of lunar landing

The Israeli spacecraft “Beresheet” passed Earth for the final time on March 31 as it was expected to enter the moon’s orbit on April 4. When the spacecraft enters the moon’s orbit, it will perform a complex maneuver to enter the moon’s gravity, called lunar capture, and start orbiting the moon ahead of its scheduled landing on April 11. California-based nonprofit the X Prize Foundation announced on March 28 that it will award a \$1 million prize to SpaceIL if “Beresheet” completes the landing safely. Israel Aerospace Industries valued the development of “Beresheet” at \$100 million. “Beresheet,” named after the first word and the first book in the Torah (meaning “in the beginning”), lifted off from Cape Canaveral on Feb. 22. If it succeeds, it will be the first Israeli spacecraft to land on the moon, as well as the first privately owned craft to do so.

Deciphering the past

Rare ancient seal of Jewish king’s officer discovered in City of David in Jerusalem

By JNS staff

(JNS) – The Israel Antiquities Authority and Tel Aviv University discovered a 2,600-year-old bulla seal impression bearing the inscription “(belonging) to Nathan-Melech, Servant of the King” in the City of David just outside the Old City of Jerusalem, according to an announcement on March 31.

The surprise discovery was lauded as empirical evidence of the veracity of Jewish accounts of their history in Jerusalem.

“Although it is not possible to determine with complete certainty that the Nathan-Melech, who is mentioned in the Bible, was in fact the owner of the stamp, it is impossible to ignore some of the details that link them together,” Dr. Anat Mendel-Geberovich of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Center for the Study of Ancient Jerusalem, who deciphered the seal, said in a statement. Natan-Melech is named as an officer in the court of King Josiah in Kings II 23:11.

The bulla was discovered in a First Temple period public building that is part of the excavations in the City of David National Park’s Givati Parking Lot. Additional artifacts were also discovered.

“Since many of the well-known bullae and stamps have not come from organized archaeological excavations, but rather from the antiquities market, the discovery of these two artifacts in a clear archaeological context that can be dated is very exciting,” Professor Yuval Gadot of Tel Aviv University and Dr. Yiftah Shalev of the Israel Antiquities Authority said in a statement.



A bulla inscribed with the name of Natan-Melech, an official in the court of King Josiah. (Photo by Israel Antiquities Authority)

“They join the bullae and stamps bearing names written in ancient Hebrew script, which were discovered in the various excavations that have been conducted in the City of David until today,” continued the statement. “These artifacts attest to the highly developed system of administration in the Kingdom of Judah and add considerable information to our understanding of the economic status of Jerusalem and its administrative system during the First Temple period, as well as personal information about the king’s closest officials and administrators who lived and worked in the city. The destruction of this building in a fire, apparently during the Babylonian conquest of the city in 586 B.C.E., strengthens our understanding of the intensity of the destruction in the city.”

A stamp-seal made of “bluish agate stone, engraved with the name [‘belonging] to Ikar son of Matanyahu,” was also discovered, according to the release.

Life Continued from page 10

We are given the gift that a free people enjoys when God tells us that Nisan is to be the first of the months for us. As slaves, we did not control our time. The first mark of our freedom is to claim the calendar for our own and fill it with days of celebration of life and freedom and elevation of the soul. We are to associate freely with one another and make sure that every family is able to be included in celebrating that life of freedom. Before we take even one step out of *Mitzrayim*, we step away from its culture, values and influence. Later, we are told how to keep ourselves from being drawn into the stain of death, pollution and alienation from the Divine.

The connection between our two Torah portions emerges from the value and methods of drawing near to the source of life, freedom and spiritual elevation. May we continue to embrace our heritage and preserve its values throughout our seasons of joy for years to come. May our actions help remove the stains of oppression, servitude and despair experienced by others in our world.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Jewish comedian wins first round in Ukrainian presidential election

Despite a lack of political experience and policy specifics, Jewish comedian Volodymyr Zelenskiy won the first round of voting in Ukraine's presidential election on March 31, leading against incumbent President Petro Poroshenko, though he fell short of a majority ahead of the runoff on April 21. Zelenskiy, 41, got 30 percent support of the vote, while Poroshenko, 53, got 16 percent with more than 70 percent of the votes counted. "I would like to say 'thank you' to all the Ukrainians who did not vote just for fun," Zelenskiy told cheering supporters on March 31. "It is only the beginning; we will not relax." Zelenskiy made fighting corruption no laughing matter and a focus of his campaign, which called for direct negotiations with Russia over ending the conflict in eastern Ukraine, in addition to promising a lifetime ban on holding public office for those convicted of corruption.

Holocaust train car arrives in New York for Auschwitz exhibit

A crane lowered a train car onto tracks on Sunday outside the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York – a boxcar that carried Jews and others to their deaths at Auschwitz and other Nazi death camps. It will be featured alongside several hundred Holocaust artifacts for one of the largest exhibits on Auschwitz, opening on May 8, some 74 years after liberation. The memorabilia in the exhibit, titled "Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away," includes a gas mask used by the SS; a helmet and a dagger belonging to Heinrich Himmler, who oversaw the concentration and death camps; and a desk belonging to Auschwitz commander Rudolf Höss, among other items. "There were 80 people squeezed into one wooden car, with no facilities, just a pail to urinate," Ray Kaner, a 92-year-old woman who works as a Manhattan dental-office manager, told the Associated Press. "You couldn't lie down, so you had to sleep sitting, and it smelled." "The freight car is symbolic of the murder of millions of people. Auschwitz is not ancient history but living memory, warning us to be vigilant, haunting us with the admonition 'Never Again.' It compels us to look around the world and mark the ongoing atrocities against vulnerable people, and to take a firm stand against hate, bigotry, ethnic violence, religious intolerance, and nationalist brutality of all kinds," said Bruce C. Ratner, Chairman of the Museum's Board of Trustees. The exhibit will run through Jan. 3, 2020.

In Israel, Netanyahu meets with Bolsonaro, Brazilian president

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on March 31 as the two began "a new era of partnership and cooperation in all areas," said the former in his office in Jerusalem. At a press conference on March 31, Bolsonaro stopped short of his campaign promise to relocate his country's embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, instead announcing a trade and innovation office in the city. Netanyahu welcomed the development and added that it should be the first step towards Bolsonaro fulfilling his promise. The two announced the signing of a series of agreements relating to science and technology, cyber, aquaculture, security and other fields. On April 1, Bolsonaro planned to visit the Western Wall, accompanied by Netanyahu.

Wealthy German family to donate millions after uncovering Nazi past

One of Germany's richest families with business holdings in multiple internationally recognized brands will be donating millions of dollars to charity after learning that their parents and grandparents were ardent supporters of Adolf Hitler who exploited Jewish prisoners for slave labor. In a massive report in Germany's *Bild* newspaper, Albert Reimann Sr. and Albert Reimann Jr. were reported to have used Russian civilians and French POWs as forced laborers when the Nazi regime reigned, according to documents recently brought to light. Peter Harf, family spokesman and one of two managing partners of the Reimann's JAB Holding Company – owning controlling interest in Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Pret a Manger, Einstein Bros and Panera Bread, among other companies – subsequently conducted an independent investigation, to determine the truth about his predecessors. The father and son, who reportedly did not talk about the Nazi era, died in 1954 and 1984, respectively. Revelations about the Reimann company's connection to the Nazis were exposed in 1978, but an expert hired by the family in 2014 led to more detailed information being presented to them several weeks ago. "We were all ashamed and turned as white as the wall," said Harf. "There is nothing to gloss over. These crimes are disgusting." He vowed that his family would give 10 million euros (\$11.3 million) to an as yet unspecified charity and would make the findings of the investigation public. According to the report, Reimann Sr. donated money to the SS even before the Nazis came to power and hung swastikas outside his factory. In 1937, Reimann Jr. wrote a letter to Heinrich Himmler, assuring him that they were a "purely Aryan family business." During World War II, approximately 30 percent of their industrial chemical company's workers were forced laborers – about 175 people. *Bild* reported that the pair were banned by the French from continuing their business after the war, but the judgment was overturned by the Americans.

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