

THE REPORTER

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Federation to hold calendar meeting on June 4

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold its annual calendar meeting on Tuesday, June 4, at 3 pm, at the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. During the calendar meeting, all Jewish organizations can place their organization's meetings and events for the 2019-20 year on the calendar. The purpose of the meeting is to prevent conflicts and allow all organizations the opportunity to maximize the number of people who can attend their events. The events are then placed on the Community Calendar, located

on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's website. (Visit www.jfgeb.org and click on "calendar.")

"Why do we have a calendar?" asked Sima Auerbach, executive director of the Federation. "It's to prevent two wonderful events being held on the same day and time. We have such a great community with so much to offer and we want people to be able to attend as many events as possible."

Auerbach noted that having the calendar online offers another advantage. "Have you forgotten the date of your organization's event? Can't remember when the CJS lec-

ture is? Do you want to hear what's happening at the next Federation board meeting? Are you planning an event and want to make sure there are no conflicts? Then go to www.jfgeb.org and hit 'calendar,'" she said. "This is your Community Calendar! All the events this amazing community holds are listed – and if you do not see what you were looking for, call us at 724-2332. In a community of this size – where people belong to several organizations or synagogues – we want to make certain that people don't miss an important event or meeting."

Shelley Hubal, incoming executive

director of the Federation, also noted the importance of the meeting. "Some people don't even realize that the Federation has a calendar," she said. "But it's an important tool for all of us to use. I look forward to seeing how our community actively works together and this is a wonderful opportunity to see us in action."

Updates or additions of events for the calendar can be made throughout the year by contacting the Federation through its website (click on "calendar" and then "click here to request a change to the calendar") or by calling 724-2332.

Jewish International Film Fest of Greater Binghamton continues

By Reporter staff

The Jewish International Film Fest of Greater Binghamton will feature six films on five nights. The films will be shown at the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. Each screening will be followed by a discussion of the picture led by a community member. The event is open to the entire community. Tickets cost \$10 per film. To purchase tickets in advance or for more information, call 724-2332. The event is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and donors are soon to be announced.

"Join us for a wonderful group of films," said Sima Auerbach, executive director of the Federation. "The Film Fest Committee thought long and hard about which films to show this year to ensure you will have five fantastic nights at the movies."

Federation Annual Meeting and "My Polish Honeymoon" on Sunday, May 19, at 7 pm

A very short annual meeting will begin at 7 pm and be followed by a showing of the film. (See "Annual meeting" sidebar.)

"My Polish Honeymoon" tells the story of Anna and Adam, a young Parisian couple with Jewish origins, who are about to travel to Poland for the first time. They are just married and technically speaking this will be their honeymoon. They plan to attend a ceremony in memory of the Jewish community in the village of Adam's grandfather, which was destroyed 75 years ago.

Adam is not really enthusiastic about this, but sees it as an occasion to spend some quality time with his wife, away from their baby boy. Anna, on the other

hand, is both extremely anxious and overly excited about the trip to her grandmother's country. She is hoping to reconnect with her roots and finally discover more about her own family's history, which was always a mystery. The discussion will be moderated by Dora Polachek.

"Capernaum" on Thursday, May 23, at 7 pm

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, Nadine Labaki's "Capernaum" ("Chaos") tells the story of Zain (Zain al Rafeea), a Lebanese boy who sues his parents for the "crime" of giving



Zain Al Rafeea stars in "Capernaum" ("Chaos").

See "Film" on page 3

Federation annual meeting to be held on May 19

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a very short annual meeting on Sunday, May 19, at 7 pm, before the showing of the film "My Polish Honeymoon." During the meeting, officers will be elected to the Federation's Board of Directors. The new executive director, Shelley Hubal, will be introduced to the community.

The new slate of Federation board members for 2019-22 includes President Suzanne Holwitt, Immediate Past President Howard Warner, Vice-President Mark Walker, Treasurer Jeff Shapiro, Assistant Treasurer Lee Schechter, Secretary Eileen Miller, Assistant Secretary Charles Manasse, Campaign Co-Chairwomen Rita Shawn and Marilyn Bell, Endowment Committee Chairman Michael Wright and CRC Chairman Arieh A. Ullmann. Board members to 2020 are Lisa Blackwell, Rita Bleier, Steve Gilbert, Jeff Platsky and Susan Walker. Board members to 2021 are Nancy Dorfman, Mark Epstein, Dennis Foreman, Lillian Levy and Cathy Velenchik. Board members to 2022 are Neil Auerbach, Brendan Byrnes, Sondra Foreman, Charles Gilinsky and Richard Lewis.

"Come greet our new executive director, see a good movie and eat popcorn!" said Sima Auerbach, executive director of the Federation.

Report: Violent antisemitism rose by 13 percent worldwide in 2018

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Violent antisemitic attacks rose by 13 percent worldwide in 2018, with the highest number of incidents reported in Western democracies including the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Germany, an annual report revealed.

According to the report published by Tel Aviv University's Kantor Center and the European Jewish Congress, 2018 saw a 13 percent increase in "major violent" antisemitic incidents: 387 compared to 342 in 2017. The report notes that far-right and far-left activists, in addition to Islamists, were behind many of the attacks, though noted that antisemitism is also becoming more mainstream.

"Antisemitism is no longer an issue confined to the activity of the far-left, far-right and radical Islamists triangle; it has mainstreamed and became an integral part of life," the report said.

The report found that the most serious antisemitic incidents were recorded in the United States, which has the largest Jewish population outside of Israel and saw more than 100 in 2018. This was followed by Western Europe, with the United Kingdom at 68; France and Germany at 35 incidents each; Belgium with 19; and the Netherlands at 15. In Western Europe, the report said that the increases were being driven far-right movements and antisemitic sentiment among the growing Muslim populations in those countries.

Notably, the report found that violent incidents targeting Jews were considerably lower in Eastern Europe than the West, with Ukraine the highest at 12. Other notable countries with major incidents include Canada with 20 and Argentina at 11. The report defined "major violent" incidents related to antisemitism as the proven motivation, including vandalism, threats, arson and use of a weapon.

"If I have to summarize in one sentence the situation concerning antisemitism in 2018 and the beginning of 2019, I would say it is the increasing sense of emergency among Jews in many countries around the world," Kantor said at event at Tel Aviv University.

"Antisemitism has recently progressed to the point of calling into question the very continuation of Jewish life in many parts of the world. As we saw with the second mass shooting of a synagogue in the U.S., many parts of the world that were previously regarded as safe no longer are," Kantor said. "Additionally, as we recently witnessed with the disgraceful cartoon in *The New York Times*, antisemitism has entered gradually into the public discourse. Threats, harassments and insults have become more violent, inciting to even more physical violence against Jews. It feels like almost every taboo relating to Jews, Judaism and Jewish life has been broken."



Arthur Igual and Judith Chemla star in "My Polish Honeymoon."

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Opinion

What if there's no way to stop another synagogue shooting?

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS) – Who caused a madman to enter a synagogue in Poway, CA, and begin shooting? And what can we do to stop another such extremist from committing the next atrocity?

These, aside from our grief at the murder of an innocent woman and our pride in the courage of the rabbi and the congregants, are the questions that all of us are pondering in the aftermath of the latest attack on an American synagogue. That we should be posing such queries after the tragedy at Chabad of Poway is natural. And it would be as irresponsible for society not to debate how to cope with extremism, as it would be for those in charge of houses of worship and other public institutions not to consider how best to improve security at all such places.

But the problem we face as we mourn the loss of 60-year-old Chabad congregant Lori Gilbert-Kaye and praise the heroism of those who stood up to the killer, as well as the first responders, is that there are no easy answers to our demands for scapegoats and solutions.

As was the case after the even more murderous assault on the Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha Synagogue in Pittsburgh last October, we want someone to blame other than just the man who pulled the trigger. And we want our leaders to do something to make sure it doesn't happen again. The fact that this is the second such incident at an American synagogue in six months makes our anger and frustration even more pressing.

But as much as the need to succumb to those impulses seems irresistible, such talk will lead us nowhere. Even more to the point, the venting of this frustration and the exchange of accusations by those who have injected politics into the discussion does more harm than good.

At the top of most lists for chief scapegoat on Poway is the same person many chose to blame for the Pittsburgh shooting: U.S. President Donald Trump.

It's a narrative that has been repeated so often that it has now been treated as self-evident conventional wisdom. According to critics, including the Anti-Defamation League, Trump's un-presidential behavior and willingness to use invective against both political opponents and his own list

of scapegoats for society's ills has emboldened extremists and opened a Pandora's Box of social pathologies that is creating a surge in hate crimes.

The evidence for this largely consists of ADL statistics from the last two years that, while accurate in terms of counting all sorts of troubling acts, tells us little or nothing about causation, and mixes in a variety of incidents and contexts that undermine the broad conclusions these numbers are supposed to support.

There's no arguing with the observation that Trump has helped coarsen our public discourse, but the notion that he is solely or even principally responsible for the bitter and vulgar nature of adversarial political debate is something of an overreach in our 24/7 cable-TV news world, in which conspiracy theories from the left and right fly freely around the Internet every day. Both the Pittsburgh and the Poway shooters were avowed opponents of Trump specifically because they viewed him as an ardent supporter of Israel and a friend of the Jews.

Trump should be held accountable when he says things that can be misinterpreted as support for extremism, as was the case when he conflated the debate over whether Confederate statues should be removed from public spaces with the presence of neo-Nazis marchers in August 2017 in Charlottesville, VA. But the people who demonize him for that gaffe (and his stubborn refusal to apologize for it) ignore his condemnations of hate and antisemitism, as well as his gestures toward American Jews and his historic support for Israel. The attempt to depict him as the patron of white-nationalist shooters is partisan politics, not rational analysis.

Six months after Pittsburgh, it's even more apparent that making Trump part of the conversation about such incidents is a way for his opponents to lump him in with everything they hate about the world. That may make it easier for them to cope with a complex and scary universe, but it does nothing to illuminate the problems of antisemitism and violence.

Though it has not yet manifested itself in violence in the United States, antisemitism from the left has far more influence than the right-wing variety. That includes the

halls of Congress – as we've seen with Reps. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) – and the mainstream press, as with the instances of antisemitism from *The New York Times*.

Even if we take Trump out of the conversation, we are still left with the illusion that government can do something to stop anything bad that might happen. Poway, like Pittsburgh, has led to more calls for a greater focus on stopping right-wing extremism. That makes sense, though groups that encourage extremism have always been under scrutiny from the government.

That was made clear by the discovery of another murder plot in southern California, in which Jews and others were the intended targets. That made the ADL's scolding of the administration for not paying sufficient attention to the issue seem even more absurd than it did when the words came out of ADL leader Jonathan Greenblatt's mouth.

Nevertheless, federal agencies will not always be able to predict when extremist speech that is protected by the constitution will lead to actual violence because these crimes are the actions of individuals, not groups. Expecting some new federal directive or anodyne gun regulation short of banning all firearms to ensure that some other mad individual won't strike elsewhere is absurd.

Accepting that antisemitism is a virus that continues to mutate and attach itself to different ideologies and groups, and particularly inspiring violent individuals, is difficult to accept, but necessary if the problem is to be dealt with rationally. As much as we must protect our institutions and speak out against hate of all kinds, part of living in the real world, as opposed to the realm of magical thinking, means understanding that there is no complete fix to this problem. Picking the right scapegoat or seizing on false solutions can't win the fight against antisemitic hate.

As with every generation that has come before, we must accept that Jew-hatred is not going away, yet still remain confident that it will never defeat the spirit of Judaism and the Jewish people.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor-in-chief of JNS – Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter @jonathans_tobin.

In My Own Words

DNA testing

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I have no desire to have my DNA tested. This was true even before I read Dani Shapiro's "Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love," in which she writes about learning that the man she thought was her father was not her birth father. (To read a review of the book, see page 4.) There is nothing wrong with people wanting to learn more about their family history. People connect with relatives they never knew existed and uncover more about their family's national and ethnic backgrounds. Since there can be so many positive results, why am I still not interested? That's because even if DNA proved I was the product of different parents or that I was not Jewish, I would still be the same person.

Let me explain: We are a combination of our genetic coding and our environment. Together they have made me who I am – something that would not change if I learned I had different parents or that they came from a different religious or ethnic group than we previously thought. I understand why knowing your medical history is important, but, for me, learning it is different doesn't change the essence of who I am as a human being. Why should my current feelings change due to an accident of birth? The sum of my experiences has made me who I am right now.

For example, why would my feelings about Judaism change? Even before I increased my religious practice, and

decades before the thought of being a rabbi crossed my mind, being Jewish was important to me. That meant not hiding my heritage in high school even when it was clear there was antisemitic prejudice. I know I have ancestors who came to the United States from Germany and Russia, but their particular stories are only part of my history. When I read fiction and nonfiction from the early part of the 20th century, I feel that *all those stories* are part of my history – no matter the country from which the writers emigrated. Even though I have no children, the children of my friends and my synagogue are part of my continuing heritage. All this who emigrated are all my fathers and mothers, and all of the next generation are all my children.

Perhaps I feel this way because my early life was settled and content. Now, I know members of immediate family might disagree with that because, of course, every family has its traumas. And, of course, life was not perfect. However, those events never made me feel like I didn't belong, nor that I wanted to be part of a different family. My connection to both my parents is/was strong. My father shared his intellectual heritage with me: He gave me books to read – the works were important to him and influenced his view of the world. Later, I shared my favorite works with him. That is a wonderful way to connect.

I also have always been close to my mother. My father's side of the family was not religious, but my other

grandparents – my mother's parents – were among the founding members of Temple Beth El in Endicott, which was my formative Jewish home. My mom and I shared a love of theater – often traveling to Scranton before heading to New York City with my Aunt Naomi to shop and see a Broadway show. Even though I have no musical talent, my mom would play show music on the piano so I could sing along. She never once told me how bad I sounded. (Now, that's true motherly love.)

One of the biggest traumas in my parents' lives was the birth of my younger brother, Larry, who had Down Syndrome. Yet, that turned into one of the best things that happened to us. Larry gave us something indescribable. Nothing can change that. Even if I learned we weren't related by blood, I know we were related by something far more important: love.

I am not a particularly nostalgic person. My focus is more on the here and now. I've never had halcyon days – perfect times in youth – that I look back on. But I feel clear about who I am and how I would be that same person even if I learned that my genetic history was different. I also don't feel the need to contact long lost relatives because I already have so many wonderful people in my life. I know a great many people feel differently and I'm interested in learning what they've discovered. But for me, at least right now, what I know is enough.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

Suzanne Holwitt, President
Sima Auerbach, Executive Director

607-724-2332 ~ www.jfgeb.org

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HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

Mail ~ The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd. Vestal, NY 13850

E-mail ~ TReporter@aol.com • Fax ~ 607-724-2311

Phone ~ 607-724-2360 or 800-779-7896

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OPINIONS

The views expressed in editorials and opinion pieces are those of each author and not necessarily the views of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.

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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Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Layout Editor Diana Sochor

Assistant Editor Ilene Pinsker

Advertising Bonnie Rozen

Production Coordinator Jenn DePersis

Bookkeeper Kathy Brown

Proofreaders

Barbara Bank, Eleanor Durfee, Fran Ferentinos,
Leah Ferentinos, Rebecca Goldstein Kahn,
Merri Pell-Preus, Heidi Thirer



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TI Sisterhood held brunch and concert

On May 5, more than 60 people attended a Sunday morning brunch and concert sponsored by the Temple Israel Sisterhood. The performers were two soon-to-be-graduating Binghamton High School seniors, violinist Sophia Klin and pianist Emmet Chilton-Sugerman. The duo presented a variety of classical compositions, interspersed with several arrangements of Jewish folk music.

Before the recital began, the audience learned that the two college-bound musicians have finalized their plans to major in music performance. In the fall, Klin will be attending the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester, and Chilton-Sugerman will begin his studies at Vassar College.



Pianist Emmet Chilton-Sugerman (left) accompanied Sophia Klin as she performed a violin sonata.



Prior to the concert, the community enjoyed a brunch. L-r: Celia Klin, Stephen Lisman, Linda Lisman, Emmet Chilton-Sugerman, Sophia Klin, Ilana Segal and Suzanne Krause.

BD celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut



L-r: Steve Gilbert and Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu performed at Beth David Synagogue's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.

Temple Israel garden construction underway



At left: Site co-coordinator Chereese Wiesner-Rosales prepared a hole for a fence post being placed in the Temple Israel garden.



Kaitlyn Sirna (standing), VINES community garden and youth program manager, and Tim Loso, VINES volunteer, bored the first fence post holes.

FilmContinued from page 1

him life. "Capernaum" follows Zain, a gutsy streetwise child as he flees his negligent parents, survives through his wits on the streets, takes care of Ethiopian refugee Rahil (Yordanos Shiferaw) and her baby son, Yonas (Boluwatife Treasure Bankole), is jailed for a crime and, finally, seeks justice in a courtroom. "Capernaum" was made with a cast of non-professionals playing characters whose lives closely parallel their own.

"City of Joel" on Thursday, May 30, at 7 pm

"City of Joel" is a documentary – with unprecedented access – to a 1.1 square mile shtetl in the suburbs that is home to 22,000 members of one of the most insular and orthodox Chasidic sects. Viewers follow the battles they are waging. Just 50 miles north of New York City, the Satmar sect has built Kiryas Joel as a religious haven where they can be fruitful, multiply and follow the 613 rules of the Torah. With some of the highest rates of marriage, birth and religious observance in the country, they have to keep up with this growth, but their neighbors fight back because they believe it will harm the secular community. The discussion will be moderated by Rivky Slonim.



A scene from the documentary "City of Joel."

"Shoelaces" on Sunday, June 2, at 7 pm

Ruven (Doval'e Glickman) is a gruff, 60-year-old man who owns a small auto repair shop in Tel Aviv. He was once married, but has long been divorced. When his wife gave birth, the couple found out that their son Gadi (Nevo Kimchi) had special needs. Ruven and his wife eventually split up, with Ruven's wife and Gadi moving out of town. One day, Ruven gets a phone call telling him that his ex-wife has died. He goes to the funeral and finds out from a social worker named Ilana (Evelin Hagoel) that he has to take in Gadi, who is now in his 30s, for a few weeks until a facility opens up with a space that Gadi can permanently live in. The discussion will be moderated by incoming Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal and Rabbi Rachel Esserman.



A scene from "Shoelaces" with Nevo Kimchi (left) and Doval'e Glickman.



Fence poles in the Temple Israel garden site.

Seeking a Director for Jewish Family Service

Deliver essential human services to individuals and families to alleviate suffering, sustain healthy relationships and support people in need. Assess requests from individuals, families, Rabbis and community agencies and provide supportive, emotional and when appropriate, financial assistance. Provide information, referrals and advocacy to assist people in navigating the complex safety net system. Collect money and items for distribution to needy families during the holidays of Chanukah, Purim, Passover and Rosh Hashanah. Maintain records of expenditures and help with the preparation of the annual budget to be presented as part of the Federation's allocation process. If needed, maintain a group of volunteers to assist with the various tasks. Provide periodic information through articles in the Reporter and other vehicles to keep the community apprised of JFS's activities. Jewish Family Service is an agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.

Job is part-time – approximately 15-20 hours weekly. Please reply to jfjbjob@gmail.com.



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A Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

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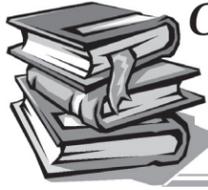
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Off the Shelf

Not her father

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Spitting into a small plastic vial: Dani Shapiro had no idea this simple action was going to radically change her world. That's because the results of her DNA test were shocking: Shapiro learns her beloved father – the man who shaped her life – is not her birth father. In "Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love" (Alfred A. Knopf), the author describes her reaction to the discovery and contemplates the meaning of family.

Shapiro, who has written about her parents in prior memoirs (only one of which I've read), has previously analyzed her life and family history in intricate detail. This is partly because she always felt there was something she didn't know – something that was hidden. Now the author realizes she was the secret, or at least, the history of her birth was. But, since both her parents are dead, she has to discover the story of what happened through research and Internet searches. The only clue she has is a vague statement from her mother about how the author's conception took place in Philadelphia, rather than New York where they lived.

It's surprising how quickly Shapiro manages to discover the details of her conception, which took place in a controversial fertility clinic in Philadelphia. The result of the DNA test also leads her to a cousin she has never

heard of and, through exploration on the Internet, she quickly finds a man she believes is her birth father. After reading his website and watching his family's videos on Youtube, she is amazed by their physical resemblance and shared mannerisms. She immediately sends him an e-mail – explaining their connections and directing him to her own website so he can see that she's not a stalker. Over the course of the memoir, readers learn the result of that communication.

Part of the reason Shapiro is so shaken to discover her father is not her birth father is that she intensely disliked her mother, going as far as to define her as having a "Narcissistic personality disorder. Borderline." Shapiro notes that she spent years trying to overcome the disadvantages of having *that woman* as a mother by reading both serious psychology books and self-help works. Yet, through it all, one thing stood out: "My single best defense [against her mother] had always been that I was my father's daughter. I was *more* my father's daughter. I had somehow convinced myself that I was *only* my father's daughter."

This acknowledgment of only one side of her family becomes clear when she discusses her parents and their marriage. The only ancestors she writes about are those on her father's side. While both parents played a role in

their unhappy marriage, the author clearly feels more for her father than she does for her mother. Although she does acknowledge how much her mother must have wanted a child, she still seems to feel little sympathy for her. In fact, Shapiro's idea that only her father's DNA matters means she worries his family – which she no longer seems to think of as her own – will reject her. The idea that her father wanted and loved her – and was a *true* father even if they didn't share DNA – doesn't occur to her for a good portion of the book.

Also problematic is her relationship to the Judaism she no longer practices. The Shapiro family belonged to an Orthodox synagogue and were observant in their home. The author's schooling took place in an Orthodox environment. However, she now seems to feel that her Judaism isn't real because the man who raised her was not her birth father. Yet, her mother was Jewish, a secular Jew who promised to practice Orthodoxy after her marriage. Shapiro's feelings are also complicated by the fact people have told her she doesn't look Jewish. Some even went as far as to suggest she *couldn't* possibly be Jewish. She now allows this to affect her connection to Judaism and the religion of her birth father.

See "Father" on page 6

LEGAL NOTICE

Card One Concepts, LLC - NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ("LLC")

Articles of Organization of Card One Concepts, LLC filed with the NYS Secretary of State (NYSS) on 3/26/2019. Office of LLC is in Broome County. NYSS designated as agent for service of process against it. NYSS shall mail process to 341 Marion Street, Vestal, New York 13850. Business purpose: any lawful activity"

K31 GEMS LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY on 3/14/19. Office: Broome County. United States Corporation Agents Inc designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to United States Corporation Agents Inc, 7014 13th Ave Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful Purpose

Notice of Formation of Vestal Avenue, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/28/19. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, c/o Leasure, Gow, Munk & Rizzuto, 101 Jefferson Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Wachs 66th Street, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/27/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 215 W. Church Rd., Ste. 107, King of Prussia, PA 19406. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is GJS Property Group LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is April 8, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. 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: 9 Carolyn Court, Endwell, NY 13760.

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

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Griffith Adirondack Escape, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was April 11, 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.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Midstate Laundry, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was April 11, 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.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Student Quarters, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is April 11, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. 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: 2508 Delaware St SE Apt 364D, Minneapolis, MN 55414.
5. The character or purpose of the

business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED PARTNERSHIP LAW

1. The name of the family limited partnership ("LP") is PSM Family Limited Partnership.
2. The date of filing of the Certificate of Limited Partnership with the Secretary of State is JANUARY 23, 2014.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LP is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LP 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 LP served upon him or her is: 125 Krager Road, Binghamton, New York 13904.
5. Latest date which LP is to dissolve is December 31, 2060.
6. The character or purpose of the business of the LP is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Mindful Psychiatry, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/01/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 2613 Purdue Dr., Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: to practice the profession of Medicine.

Notice of Qualification of Fairview Hotels LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/03/19. Office location: Broome County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 03/13/19. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Unisearch, Inc., 99 Washington Ave., Ste. 805A, Albany, NY 12210-2822, also the registered agent upon whom process may be served. Address to be maintained in DE: c/o Unisearch, Inc., 28 Old Rudnick Ln., Dover, DE 19904. Arts. of Org. filed with the DE Secy. of State, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., - Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of SRN Operational Excellence Consulting LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/08/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC

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upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 3628 Turner Dr., Endicott, NY 13760. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Spark Broome, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/15/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 320 N. Jensen Rd., Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: GR Mayer Realty, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was April 25, 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: Christopher L. Roma, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Evelyn Mayer Properties, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was April 25, 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: Christopher L. Roma, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of 53 George LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/6/2019. 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: Phillip Guglielmo, 185 Richards Road, Chenango Forks, NY 13746. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of On Point AG, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/6/2019. 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: Damien Cornwell, 122 State Street, Binghamton, NY 13901.

Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is L & C Hemp Farms, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is May 6, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. 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: 14 Tobey Road Harpursville, New York, 13787.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Sacco Holdings, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/24/19. 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.

Notice of Qualification of BNY Enterprises LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/24/19. Office location: Broome County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 03/06/19. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Unisearch, Inc., 99 Washington Ave Ste 805A, Albany, NY 12210-2822, also the registered agent upon whom process may be served. Address to be maintained in DE: c/o UNISEARCH, INC., 28 Old Rudnick Ln., Dover, DE 19904. Arts. of Org. filed with the DE Secy. of State, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., - Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

THE ANNUAL RETURN OF THE LEE AND YUM FOUNDATION for the calendar year ended 12/31/18 is available at its principal office, located at 2612 Pinebluff Dr., Vestal, New York 13850 for inspection during regular business hours by any citizen who requests it within 180 days hereof. Principal Managers of the Foundation are Bai O. Lee and Jung H. Yum. Dated: May 5, 2019

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Intersisterhood featured Kaskeset performance



Binghamton University's Jewish a cappella group Kaskeset performed songs in both Hebrew and English.



At left, l-r: Marlene Serkin and Meir Sommer. Sommer is member of Kaskeset and the grandson of Meryl Sasnowitz, who used to live in Binghamton.



Helene Phillips, president of Temple Concord's Sisterhood, spoke during the event.



The members of Kaskeset performed during the Intersisterhood event.



Members of the three synagogue Sisterhoods gathered for the Intersisterhood event, which was held on April 30. The event was planned by Barbara Zelter, Dora Polachek and Ani Loew. Sisterhood members and guests said they enjoyed the evening.

Business Profiles

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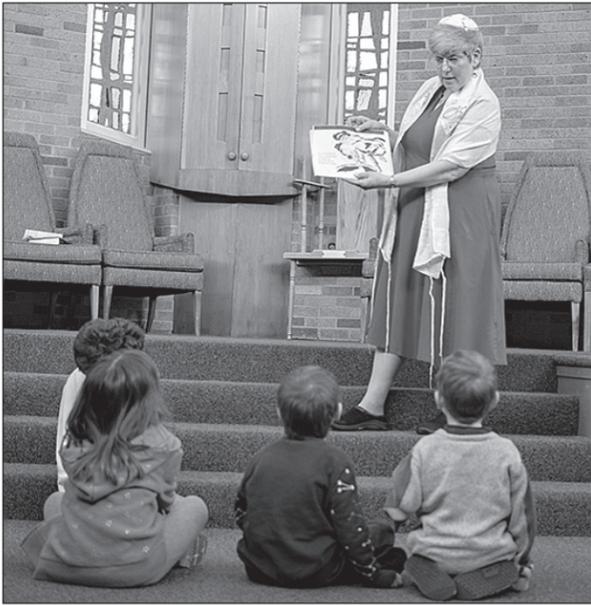
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TC Religious School last day



The Temple Concord Religious School concluded its 2018-19 year with a potluck breakfast and Shabbat services on May 4. Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell shared a story with the youngest children during the family services.



Teachers were honored for their service and dedication during the family service.



Jeffrey Strosberg provided music for the morning worship service.



Students and teachers gathered on the bima after the service.

Father. . . . Continued from page 4

While it's understandable that Shapiro was upset by what she learned, there is a sense of hysteria throughout her memoir. She notes that she wrote about these events as they were happening, which means that she hasn't had time to completely absorb what occurred. Fortunately, she does come to some clarity by the end of her work. "Inheritance" is filled with ethical topics, which would make it perfect for book clubs discussions. It may also make readers think twice about getting their DNA tested.



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Watchdog raises concerns over EU role in funding Palestinian Authority's terrorist prisoners

By JNS staff

(JNS) – With both the United States and Israel exerting financial pressure on the Palestinian Authority to end its payments to terrorist prisoners and the families of “martyrs,” the media watchdog group Palestinian Media Watch is raising concerns recent donation by the European Union to the Palestinian Authority.

According to the official P.A. daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, on May 4, the European Union “donated 15 million euros to pay the April [2019] salaries and pension payments of approximately 57,000 [P.A.] public employees in the West Bank.”

The funding by the E.U. is part of direct financial aid to the P.A. through the PEGASE mechanism, an

E.U. mechanism to facilitate direct financial aid to the Palestinian Authority, the report said. However, the 15 million euro donation by the E.U. will fill the funding gap that P.A. leader Mahmoud Abbas recently cut in order to continue payments to Palestinian prisoners and “martyr” families.

“Rather than condemning the P.A.’s practice of rewarding terrorist murderers, the E.U. is becoming a willing partner,” said Itamar Marcus, founder and director of Palestinian Media Watch. “As money is fungible, the fact that the E.U.’s donation of 15 million euros is earmarked to cover the April salaries and pension payments of approximately 57,000 [P.A.] public employees, is in reality self-deception.

“In February of this year, the P.A. cut salaries of public employees to free up money to maintain full salaries to terrorist prisoners. Just three months later, the E.U. gives P.A. money to cover salaries to public employees, thereby the E.U. is actually indirectly paying terrorist prisoners.”

Marcus added that the actions by the E.U. also “directly contradict a recent E.U. statement that is against payment of salaries to terrorists.”

The latest move by Abbas comes as he is pushing the Palestinian Authority to the financial brink as he is refusing to accept any tax revenues collected by Israel as long as Israel deducted payments made to families of security prisoners and “martyrs.”

Female Muslim braves threats to serve in IDF infantry battalion

By Bat-Chen Epstein Elias

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – When Cpl. N., who serves in a mixed-gender infantry battalion, heads out on arrest operations in nearby Palestinian villages she usually talks to the locals in Arabic. N. is a 19-year-old pepper pot. She’s opinionated and knows what she wants. She is an observant Muslim who prays five times a day and, during the Ramadan fast, mostly takes night shifts. She is an infantry soldier in the Lions of the Jordan Valley Battalion, which operates in Judea and Samaria and clashes with area Palestinians on a daily basis.

“I don’t stop to think that these people are Arabs like

me,” she says in fluent Hebrew. “I always tell myself that they brought this situation – in which they are facing Israeli soldiers – on themselves, and I perform my mission as I need to. It doesn’t matter where I come from and who I pray to every day, or what I wear when I go home on leave. When I’m on a mission I need to carry it out, in order to protect my friends, my country. That’s why I enlisted,” she says.

Before she heads out on leave to her home village in northern Israel, she dons civilian clothes and affixes her hijab, the traditional headscarf that covers her hair and neck. She cannot return home for the weekend in uniform

or carrying her military-issue weapon. “There are some people in the village who realized that I’m in the army and started to threaten my family with violence,” N. says sadly. “They tried to physically attack my family and that’s scary. Even though my parents support me, every time someone threatens them, they take a step back. I was raised to love people, no matter what their religion or beliefs.

“In our home, they always said that Arabs and Jews here are living on the same land. But when there were terrorist attacks, and Jews were being killed, the neighbors said they See “IDF” on page 11



Business Profiles



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Israel is now the land of milk, honey... and cannabis

By Israel Kasnett

(JNS) – Everyone at the CannaTech conference was high – at least, on the idea that greater pharmaceutical and legal recreational usage of cannabis could soon become a reality in Israel. One thousand participants from 45 countries gathered in Tel Aviv for the fourth annual CannaTech conference. Fifty Israeli and international companies set up information booths, and nearly 100 corporate sponsors supported the event. Professionals from the fields of pharma, biotechnology, agriculture, medicine and business traveled to CannaTech from Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America to learn about the latest developments in the burgeoning cannabis industry, of which Israel plays a major role in every sector.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, now chairman of the Israeli medical cannabis company CANNDOC/Intercure, a medical cannabis holding company, delivered the opening address. Quipping that “Israel is now the land of milk, honey and cannabis,” he said that the cannabis market is now at \$17 billion worldwide and would grow to \$150 billion and beyond in the coming years. He predicted that in the not-so-far future, one out of three people on the planet would be using some kind of cannabinoid-based product and suggested the huge industry opportunities in both the medical and recreational fields should be seized “aggressively and immediately.”

At a press briefing, Saul Kaye, CEO and founder of CannaTech and iCAN: Israel-Cannabis, told JNS, “We are an accelerator of cannabis companies. We started our incubator in order to accelerate the introduction of companies into this space.”

He said that “patients in Israel are not getting medical



From left: Rylie Maedler, a 13-year-old from Delaware who has used medical cannabis to successfully treat bone tumors; Saul Kaye, CEO and founder of CannaTech and iCAN: Israel-Cannabis; former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, now chairman of the Israeli medical-cannabis company CANNDOC/Intercure; and Yona Levy, CEO of Alvit Pharma, one of Israel's leading cannabis companies. (Photo by Israel Kasnett)

cannabis fast enough,” urging the government to move quicker to reform the process so that patients who need help could obtain it. He also stated that Israel “immediately needs a legal cannabis framework for the two million Israeli cannabis consumers.”

Yona Levy, CEO of Alvit Pharma, one of Israel's leading cannabis companies, noted at the briefing that Alvit will be supplying E.U. countries with cannabis buds, oil and

other products by the end of this year. “Alvit will be educating doctors in the use of cannabis in languages they understand. Medical cannabis use in Europe is in the beginning stages, but patient demand for the product is huge.”

He told JNS that things will move forward in Israel depending on the government: “It's going to change. It has to come from the top. Israel does not do regulation very fast. Canada did it in a year.”

Also speaking was 13-year-old Rylie Maedler. At the age of 7, she was diagnosed with aggressive bone tumors that disfigured her face. Rylie's mother heard about the efficacy of cannabis oil against cancer and gave it to her secretly, without the hospital knowing. Her tumors shrunk, her bones regenerated, and there has been no recurrence since. Thanks to her experience, Rylie helped pass a number of laws in the state of Delaware that benefit children who need cannabis as treatment. Today, Rylie's focus is to supply quality medical whole-plant botanical oil for holistic relief of debilitating health conditions.

The young teen told JNS, “When I left the hospital, I wanted to make a law so that medical cannabis will be legal for children because I wanted to help other children live a happy life.”

Levy was optimistic that the government will eventually push forward legislation to make cannabis use easier. He said, “On the pharmaceutical side, we are seeing movement on turning flowers and oils into products... On the recreational side, we have [Zehut Party leader Moshe] Feiglin saying that one of his conditions for entering the government will be legalizing cannabis... So maybe we have hope on that side, as well.”

Said Barak: “I see a great future.”

In growing trend, Israeli tourism is becoming “Made for China”

By Israel Kasnett

(JNS) – Tourism to Israel is on the rise, and if last year's numbers – 4,120,800, to be exact – are any indication, this year may prove to be even more successful. While for years, many tourists to Israel arrived from Western countries, the numbers are changing. Now, more tourists from countries in the east, especially China, have discovered Israel, and if this trend continues, Israel's incoming tourism industry could witness greatly accelerated growth.

With a population of nearly 1.4 billion, China is considered a gold mine in terms of tourism potential, and Israel has already hopped on the bandwagon. A recent conference held at the Dan Jerusalem Hotel, titled “Made for China,” focused on developing ties between the two countries and finding ways to encourage Chinese tourism to Israel.

Peter Phang, from tourism marketing agency BrandStory, said that to the Chinese, China is considered the “middle” of the world, “so to us,” he joked, “Israel is a Western country.” He highlighted that some provinces in China have more than 20 million people; thus, the marketing potential Israel has in some of these areas is “enormous.”

Phang noted that while China is one market and one

country, it is also a very big market – as large as Europe. “Some municipalities in China are so large,” he said, they have a GDP “equal to that of Australia. This demonstrates the scale of the Chinese market.”

Incoming tourists from countries like China would be a “tremendous boon” to Israel. The data is showing signs of improvement, and Israel is fast becoming an extremely popular tourist destination. In fact, at the end of last year, international market research firm EuroMonitor named Jerusalem the fastest-growing tourism destination in the world.

Phang emphasized that there “is no one size fits all when it comes to China. You have to do many things to market Israel to the diverse Chinese population.”

Hainan Airlines, which just launched a new route from Shenzhen, China, to Tel Aviv, also has direct flights to Tel Aviv from Shanghai and Beijing. China Eastern also plans to launch its own direct flight to Tel Aviv, making it the third Chinese airline, including Sichuan Airlines, to offer direct flights to Israel.

This introduction of more flight routes from China to Israel has had a market impact on tourism to Israel and will continue to do so if this trend continues. Israel's Ministry of Tourism reported a general 14 percent increase in incoming tourism over 2017 and a whopping 42 percent increase over 2016.

The Economic Research Department of the Israel Hotels Association recently published data for February 2019 on hotel stays compared with the same period over the past two years, and the evidence is clear: Incoming tourism to Israel is decidedly on the rise, and Chinese tourists are helping make it happen.



Asian tourists sang and celebrated outside the Damascus Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem on “Jerusalem Day” on May 24, 2017. (Photo by Nati Shohat/Flash90)

Other speakers also acknowledged the “huge potential” China holds for Israeli incoming tourism. Roy Kriezman, the Israeli Ministry of Tourism attaché in Southern China, said, “Tourism from China to Israel began to rise significantly only in 2016, thanks to new direct flights to Israel that were launched from various regions in China. “The capacity of passengers is huge, and many of the planes still have plenty of room.”

Kriezman noted that there are four main categories of Chinese tourists, all of whom want to discover Israel. The first category includes older, leisure tourists. They have already been to the main cities around the world, and they want to find a “new, mysterious and exciting” place.

The second category is the millions of Chinese Christians who want to come to Israel on pilgrimage. These are huge groups that can easily take over an entire hotel during their visit. The third category represents the many businessmen and women who arrive in Israel, usually for just a few days. The fourth category includes those who arrive as part of an official delegation.

Kriezman concluded by encouraging everyone, on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism, to make efforts in the Chinese market.

Phang recommended to Israeli travel agents and tour operators to “be open.” Make the connections, exchange ideas with counterparts in China and discover ways to bring more Chinese individuals and families to Israel, he encouraged. He also said businesses need to “invest” or “engage” in dialogue and relationships with tourism-industry representatives in China so that they can better understand the needs of these groups. This collaboration, he hinted, could lead to great success.

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First person

In the cafés of Paris, French Jews open up on antisemitism and their future in Europe

By Orit Arfa

(JNS) – My trip to Paris to canvas the mood of French Jews began in the idyll of an Israeli-owned restaurant, Balagan, near the famed Louvre art museum. Emmanuelle Mary, a non-Jewish Parisian fashion and lifestyle marketing professional and frequent visitor to Israel (by virtue of her Israeli boyfriend), took me there. The bar had that inimitably cool Tel Aviv vibe with friendly bartenders shouting “Shalom,” even though they weren’t Jewish, as they handed out free chasers over sexy music. Food offerings fused Mediterranean-Jewish-French favorites: hummus, chopped liver, roasted eggplant and fattoush salad. If attitudes toward Israel and Jews could be judged by how full the place got with stylish Parisians, there should be no cause for concern about rising antisemitism in France.

Jewish media, Israeli politicians and community leaders paint a picture of a France where Jews feel unsafe and are leaving in droves. Several incidents in recent years have triggered this perception: the Hyper Cacher kosher supermarket attack that occurred in conjunction with the gunning massacre of staff at the Charlie Hebdo publication; the kidnapping, torture and murder of 23-year-old Ilan Halimi in 2016 by North African Muslims; the especially brutal murder of Sarah Halimi in her apartment in 2017; and the gruesome, allegedly antisemitic burning of an 85-year-old Holocaust survivor, Mireille Knoll, in 2018. More recently, antisemites affiliated with the mysterious “yellow-vests movement” verbally attacked French Jewish philosopher Alain Finkielkraut and, around the same time, 80 gravestones were desecrated with swastikas in the Alsace region.

Over a delicious meal capped by a Snickers chocolate-bar dessert concoction, Mary said she admittedly never thought much about Jews or Israel before she began working with Jewish clients three years ago as a personal trainer. She visited Israel for the first time last year. The average French person, she felt, doesn’t have any violent intention toward minorities, but may make a worrisome joke or two about Jewish money and power. Since then, she started paying attention. “Feeling judged is just the beginning,” she said.

The French people, like other Europeans, have been inculcated from the media with distortions about Israel, which plays into attitudes toward Jews. On television and in newspapers, Israelis are regularly portrayed as aggressors indiscriminately killing Palestinian civilians. “When you read the news, it’s always the Israelis guilty of killing Palestinians. It’s not that Gaza attacked, and Israel retaliated,” she said.

Mary hopes to learn more so that she could better argue against such distortions. At Balagan, however, there’s no arguing. Just Parisians enjoying a Tel Aviv outpost.

Another Tel Aviv-like hot spot has made its mark in the French capital (and in Vienna as well), this one in the Marais Jewish quarter, which, like many historic Jewish quarters in Europe, has become a funky retail and culinary tourist trap. The gourmet pita chain Miznon, founded by Israeli chef Eyal Shani, gets packed daily with people eager to partake of increasingly famous Israeli cuisine – in this case, grilled goodies stuffed in pitas served with generous tehina served on ecological pieces of paper.

The bohemian-looking, tattooed French Jew sporting a *chai* necklace at the counter was not too fazed by warnings of rising French antisemitism. “There’s antisemitism everywhere,” said Vincent Boaz, after serving a continual stream of customers. “We are Jews. French Jews can feel it in France,” though he does note that “American Jews and German Jews also feel it. But we’re still standing.”



Visitors lined up for Israeli-style falafel at L'As du Fallafel in the Le Marais in quarter of Paris on August 17, 2016. (Photo by Mendy Hechtman/Flash90)

Across the way from Miznon sits L'As du Fallafel, considered one of the best traditional falafel joints in town. Non-Jewish Americans sitting next to me made it their first stop on the recommendation of a friend. Photos of Israel fearlessly decorate the wall. The crowd is international; I even spotted a woman in a hijab, which did not surprise the waiter, who said “cousins” come all the time.

Meir, a 23-year-old sitting in one of the booths, agreed to be interviewed on condition of anonymity, given that he recently served in the Israel Defense Forces as an immigrant to Israel. Upon finishing army service, he came back to Paris to be with family and to work. He wants to go back one day, he says, but out of love for Israel, not fear. He and his two friends, all of Sephardic descent, contrasted the Miznon hipster with their baggy, gangsta-type clothing, coupled with *kippahs* and air of bravado. They looked ready for a fight, especially if anyone started with them because of their religious adornments, which hasn’t happened – yet.

“In France, there’s a place for Jews, just as there’s a place for other religions. It’s a free country,” Meir said in Hebrew. “It’s dangerous everywhere in the world. Two years ago, there was an attack with more than 300 dead – not against Jews.”

He is, of course, referring to the massacre of music-goers at the Bataclan concert hall on November 13, 2015, which left 130 dead and nearly 500 injured. The need for security in France, he said, mirrors the need for security in Israel. “We’re Jews.”

Within a short walking distance from this food quarter is the Museum of Jewish Art and History, as well as Shoah Memorial/Holocaust Center commemorating the roundup of around 76,000 of French Jews during the Holocaust by French authorities in collaboration with the Nazis.

But there’s consensus on one thing: French media seems to incite people against Israel, and by extension against Jews, with its skewed reporting. Most French Jews and analysts, like British-born Dr. Shimon Samuels, European director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, say Jewish physical safety is relative to location. In areas known



Vincent Boaz served customers at Miznon. (Photo by Orit Arfa)

as the “Banlieues,” or “suburbs,” known for a growing, low-income migrant population, Jews (and other ethnic groups, for that matter) have been pushed out, fearing antisemitism and general disregard for Western values that such migrants bring.

“There is a heavily Jewish population outside of Paris, Sarcelles,” he said from his office situated in the Jew-friendly 17th district at a heavily guarded multi-level Jewish community center. “It was wonderful. Many synagogues from different communities. Today, Sarcelles is much more difficult. It’s a place where, for example, during the 2014 Gaza operation, you had huge marches in Paris.”

But, he warned on a more general level: “They’re basically afraid as ‘Jews’ – as the Jewish individual. This isn’t a question of violence. As Jews, they’re self-effacing because lack of neutrality for the word ‘Jew.’” The word “Jew,” he said, evokes emotions – emotions present during the

Alfred Dreyfus affair at the turn of the 20th century in which a Jewish military officer was wrongly convicted of treason and to the Vichy collaboration under German occupation during World War II – that go back centuries.

Within a mile radius of the center are an array of kosher shops and restaurants. Michael Amsalem, a new immigrant to Israel visiting Paris for a wedding, pointed out how they’re all packed. If they don’t say “kosher,” it’s out of marketing savvy. We sat at the Cook Restaurant, where Modern Orthodox Jews like Amsalem can enjoy a kosher hamburger for 20 euros (about \$22.50), surrounded by a portrait of Jerusalem and the accompanying peaceful dove.

Amsalem, an organizational consultant who is seeking to bridge French and American Jewish intellectual life, made it very clear that he left France out of Zionist values. He fears more for the spiritual safety of French Jews. “You have a lot of hate on the Internet,” he said. “Against Jews and Israel. What do you do? Instead of simply complaining, ask for practical solutions.”

But Amsalem believes that solutions involve a transformation in how French Jews relate to Judaism, not necessarily leaving for Israel – a trend that is, in fact, in decline. According to statistics from the Jewish Agency, the peak of French *aliyah* occurred in 2014, with 7,240 *olim* (new immigrants) compared to 3,299 in 2013. In 2015, 7,892 left France, followed by 5,127 in 2016 and 3,556 in 2017. (No figures were given regarding how many returned to France.) It is estimated that about 500,000 Jews currently live in France.

According to Amsalem, affiliated French Jews relate to Judaism first and foremost as a religion or persecuted people, rather than as a thriving people or civilization. In France, he knows of few advanced institutes for Jewish learning that delve into the See “French” on page 11

**4 weeks,
4 films left!**

**Sunday, May 19 - 7pm*
My Polish Honeymoon**

(film shown immediately after Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's Annual Meeting)

Anna and Adam, a young Parisian couple with Jewish origins, are about to travel to Poland for the first time. They are just married and technically speaking this will be their honeymoon. They will attend a ceremony in memory of the Jewish community in the village of Adam's grandfather, which was destroyed 75 years ago.

Thursday, May 23 - 7pm • Capernaum

“Capernaum” (“Chaos”) tells the story of Zain (Zain al Rafeea), a Lebanese boy who sues his parents for the “crime” of giving him life. It follows Zain, a gutsy streetwise child as he flees his negligent parents, survives through his wits on the streets, takes care of Ethiopian refugee Rahil (Yordanos Shiferaw) and her baby son, Yonas (Boluwatife Treasure Bankole), being jailed for a crime, and finally, seeks justice in a courtroom. “Capernaum” was made with a cast of non-professionals playing characters whose lives closely parallel their own.

Thursday, May 30 - 7pm • City of Joel

“City of Joel” is a documentary - with unprecedented access - to a 1.1 square mile shtetl in the suburbs that is home to 22,000 members of one of the most insular and orthodox Hasidic sects. We follow the battles they are waging to survive. Just 50 miles north of New York City, the Satmar sect has built Kiryas Joel as a religious haven where they can be fruitful, multiply and follow the 613 rules of the Talmud. But with some of the highest rates of marriage, birth and religious observance in the country, they have to keep up with this growth, but their neighbors fight back because they believe it will harm the environment and tilt the balance of political power.

Sunday, June 2 - 7pm • Shoelaces

Ruven (Doval'e Glickman) is a gruff, sixty-year-old man who owns a small auto repair shop in Tel Aviv. He was once married but has long been divorced. When his wife gave birth, the couple found out that their son Gadi (Nevo Kimchi) had special needs. Ruven and his wife eventually split up, with Ruven's wife and Gadi moving out of town. One day Ruven gets a phone call telling him that his ex-wife has died. He goes to the funeral and finds out from a social worker, named Ilana (Evelin Hagoel) that he has to take in Gadi, who is now in his 30s, for a few weeks until a facility opens up with a space that Gadi can permanently live in.

All films will be shown at The JCC, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, New York, and will start at 7pm, with the exception of “My Polish Honeymoon” on May 19* - a short Federation meeting will precede the film. Each screening will be followed by a discussion of the picture led by a community member. The films are open to the entire community. Tickets cost \$10 per evening or \$45 for a subscription. The event is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and donors are soon to be announced.



Weekly Parasha

Emor, Leviticus 21:1-24:23

One law for everyone

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR, THE REPORTER GROUP

Parashat Emor contains some laws that can be quite disturbing when considered from 21st century eyes: everything from the possibility of a priest not being able to attend the funeral of his wife to the justice ruling of “an eye for an eye.” Rabbinic authorities were also distressed by these: by some careful reading of the text, they found a way to allow a priest to attend his wife’s funeral, even though it made him impure. They also managed to switch the bloody meaning of “an eye for an eye” to monetary payment for an injury. Fortunately, there is one line near the end of the *parasha* that clearly speaks to contemporary readers and which should be highlighted when discussing this portion: Leviticus 24:22 says, “You shall have one law for the stranger [*ger*] and for the one born in the land, for I am the Lord your God.”

The Hebrew word “*ger*” is a common one in the Bible. What is interesting is that both Abraham and Moses use the word to describe themselves. When Abraham purchases land so he bury Sarah, he refers to himself as a *ger* – a stranger

who lives in the land, but is not native to it. Although he is proposing a purchase, rather than asking for a gift, his tone is supplicating, as though realizing that those native to the land might object to his purpose. Abraham also notes that he does dwell in the land, so, while he might not be a native, he is not just passing through. Luckily, he is able to purchase the cave where he will later be buried with Sarah.

Moses, on the other hand, acknowledges his status as other when naming one of his sons. This is after he fled from Egypt and now lives with his wife in the land of Midian. While his wife is a native, Moses has no connection to the land. He notes this when he calls his son Gershom – explaining the name means “I have been a stranger [*ger*] in a strange land.” Readers don’t learn if Moses would have ever laid claim to being part of the Midian community because God calls him to return to Egypt to redeem the Israelites from slavery. However, like Abraham, Moses depended on the kindness of those born in the land.

The Bible is filled with references to how the Israelites need to be kind to the stranger because they were once slaves in Egypt. What is different in our *parasha* is that it is talking about law – not about treating someone with kindness, not about sharing if we choose to – but demanding that everyone be equal in the eyes of the law. There is one law and only one law for *everyone*, something that is the hallmark of democracy.

I make no claims that the Torah is a democratic document and that all groups mentioned are treated with equal fairness. But, in ancient times, when there was often one law for citizens and another for those not born in the country, the verse in Leviticus was revolutionary. In fact, when looking back at Jewish history, especially those centuries when Jews were usually treated as second class citizens, this is a remarkable declaration. While not always followed as well as it should be, this ruling is one that should be celebrated. It also serves as the ideal to which we should aspire.

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, May 18 9 am
 Mincha after kiddush
 Maariv, by request
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., May 19 8:30 am
 Mon.-Fri., May 20-23 7 am
 Evenings:
 Sun.-Thurs., May 19-24 8:05 pm
 Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

Penn-York Jewish Community

President-Treasurer-Secretary: Harvey Chernosky, 570-265-3869
 B'nai Brith: 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.

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 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 equalitarian 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.

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, May 17, at 8 pm, there will be a Shabbat service led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell celebrating Israel's 71st birthday.
 On Saturday, May 18, at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study.
 On Monday, May 20, from 5-8 pm, there will be a Temple Concord Religious School fund-raiser.
 On Tuesday, May 21, at 7 pm, the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held.
 On Friday, May 24, at 8 pm, there will be a Shabbat service led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell, Charlie Edwards and his family.
 On Saturday, May 25, at 10:30 am, there will be a Shabbat morning service celebrating Charlie Edwards becoming a bar mitzvah.

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.

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, May 17, light candles before 8:01 pm
 Saturday, May 18, Shabbat ends 9:03 pm
 Friday, May 24, light candles before 8:08 pm
 Saturday, May 25, Shabbat ends 9:09 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, May 11, at 9:30 am, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Leviticus 19:1-20:27. The haftarah will be Ezekiel 20:2-20. Arlene Osber and Harriet Horowitz will sponsor the kiddush.
 On Monday, May 20, at 7:30 pm, there will be a Ritual Committee meeting.
 On Tuesday, May 21, at 7 pm, there will be a Board of Trustees meeting.
 On Saturday, May 25, at 9:30 am, there will be the bat mitzvah of Ellie Friedman.
 On Monday, May 27, the temple office will be closed for Memorial Day.

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive
 Rabbi: David Regenspan
 Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815
 Contact: Guilia 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.

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 Saturday, May 18, at 9 am, the Hashkamah youth service will be held in the Rubinstein Chapel.

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.

Mailbox Shorts

“The Power of Place”

The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy will hold the “The Power of Place: The Lower East Side of Past and Present” walking tour on Sunday, June 30, from 10:45 am-1 pm. Urban historian Barry Feldman will lead the tour and speak about immigrant settlement on the Lower East Side (1880s-1924), and discuss demographic changes, housing and social issues, and failed depression era plans for neighborhood rehabilitation. The Lower East Side’s current status as a popular residential and commercial neighborhood will also be discussed.

Walkers will meet at Straus Square, the triangle across from the Forward Building (173 East Broadway), at the intersection of East Broadway and Rutgers Street (near Canal and Essex streets). The cost is \$22-24. There is an additional \$3 charge the day of the tour. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.nycjewishtours.org/public-tours-and-events.

Exhibit “Sara Berman’s Closet”

The National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia will hold the exhibit “Sara Berman’s Closet: a small and monumental story by Maira Kalman and Alex Kalman” until September 2. An installation of one immigrant woman’s belongings as re-created by Sara’s daughter and grandson – the artist and writer Maira Kalman, and designer and curator Alex Kalman – the project will feature the museum’s first-ever public art installation. An accompanying art exhibition will continue in the museum’s special exhibition gallery, featuring new paintings by Maira Kalman and new sculptures by Alex Kalman and will include interventions throughout the core exhibition.

For more information, visit NMAJH.org or contact the museum at 215-923-3811.

Exhibit on Leonard Cohen

The Jewish Museum in New York City is holding the exhibit “Leonard Cohen: A Crack in Everything” through September 8. It features 12 artists and 18 musicians from 10 countries in order to explore Cohen’s works through the lens of contemporary art.

The exhibit is devoted to the imagination and legacy of the singer/songwriter and man of letters from Montréal, Canada. It includes commissioned works by a range of international artists who have been inspired by Cohen’s style and recurring themes in his work, a video projection showcasing Cohen’s own drawings and a multimedia gallery where visitors can hear covers of Cohen’s songs by musicians such as Lou Doillon, Feist, Moby and The National with Sufjan Stevens, Ragnar Kjartansson and Richard Reed Parry, among others.

Participating artists include Kara Blake, Candice Breitz, Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller, Christophe Chassol, Daily Tous Les Jours, Tacita Dean, Kota Ezawa, George Fok, Ari Folman, Jon Rafman and Taryn Simon.

For more information, visit <https://thejewishmuseum.org/exhibitions> or contact the museum at info@thejm.org or 212-423-3200.

French.....Continued from page 9

depths of Jewish philosophy, spirituality from a variety of perspectives. French-Jewish rights organizations are often afraid of coming out too strongly for Jewish interests.

“In France, you have to be French, officially French,” he said. “The only way Jews have access to public media is through antisemitism.”

French Jews, he said, must move away from a victim mentality, and start embracing and showcasing the richness of positive Jewish identity. American and British Jewish life can provide examples. “The message of the Jews should not necessarily be antisemitic history. Instead of focusing on intellectual antisemitism and antisemitism, we should focus on positive history – the good sides of Jewish history with France. There’s a positive history. You can’t only see the black.”



Michael Amsalem, a new immigrant to Israel visiting Paris for a wedding, in the Seventh Arrondissement of Paris. (Photo by Orit Arfa)

Jewish Community Center Photography class at the JCC

By Paige Bartholomew

The Jewish Community Center of Binghamton will hold a photography class on Sunday, May 19, from noon-2 pm. The cost is \$40 for both members and non-members of the Center. Participants must bring their own DSLR camera. The entire community is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Participants will be guided through the class by local photographer Gregory Milunich, who is based in the Greater Binghamton area, and specializes in fine art photography, photo restoration and colorization. The class will provide an opportunity for amateur photographers to learn the ins and outs of their DSLR cameras, and how to work with different lenses and settings to capture the perfect image.

For more information about the photography class, JCC’s Adult Programming, or the JCC, contact the JCC office at 724-2417.



At right: photo by local photographer Gregory Milunich, who will be teaching a beginners’ photography class at the JCC.

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on May 8. It was a beautiful, sunny day. The scheduled speaker for the day was not able to come because of a death in her family. Sue Herzog moved up the planned program for May 29 to this day, and we had a great time playing “Name That Tune.” Sue had folded papers in a basket and we passed it around the room so the members could select one at a time. Each paper had one or more words on it that Sue had chosen, and the one who selected it was to sing a song with those words in it. Sue sang “Yankee Doodle Dandy” for the word “Yankee.” The word “Beautiful” had us singing, “You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby.” It was surprising that we knew all the words to that song. For “railroad,” we sang “I’ve been Working on the Railroad.” For the word “Susannah,” we all ended up singing “Oh Susannah.” We had great fun singing “Maresy Dotes.”

We ended with “oh say,” for which we sang the national anthem,”The Star Spangled Banner.”

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia Diamond. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Sue said the blessing over the cookies. She also gave the treasurer’s report. She was given a letter from Barbara and Marvin Eaton. They sent a check from Fidelity Charitable Fund in memory of Ida Epstein, who was a long time active member of this club. We thank them for their generosity.

Because of the change in programming, Sylvia Diamond will review a chapter in the book “But He Was Good To His Mother” on May 22. The following week, on May 29, the preschool children will visit us. Come join us on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm at the JCC.

Sylvia Diamond
President

IDF.....Continued from page 7

deserved to die and I didn’t understand how they could say such things. I saw how difficult the situation in the country was and I decided I wanted to change it,” she says.

Not everyone is pleased at the idea of a devout Muslim woman serving in an Israeli infantry unit. She says that the debate about *haredi* conscription pales in comparison to what she has experienced. N. has already served under one commander who accidentally separated her from her comrades during a training course because she was wearing her hijab. That same commander apologized after the incident, but N. says even the apology did not make up for the offense.

She says she has also been threatened by male Arab soldiers, who said they would harm her if she didn’t leave the army. They were removed from her unit. But she says she has also received much support from the others in her unit, as well as from battalion commander Capt. Roni Avital and company commander Lt. Gal Yosef.

The corporal has plenty to say about people who look at her askance. “If I listened to everyone who wasn’t supportive, I wouldn’t have made it this far. I wouldn’t be dreaming of a career in the military. I

think that Arabs need to think not only about what the country can do for them, but also about what they can do for the country.

“We need to take a look at ourselves, because we live here, and if we want our rights, we need to do something, and one thing to do is go all the way and contribute to the army. If we don’t fight together, Arabs and Jews, we won’t have a country,” she says.

Community Calendar

The Community Calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s website, www.jfgb.org, by clicking on “calendar.”

Updates or additions of events for the calendar can be made by contacting the Federation through its website (click on “calendar” and then “click here to request a change to the calendar”) or by calling 724-2332.



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Please make checks payable to Camp JCC. Donations can be sent to the ‘Camp JCC Honor Campership Fund’, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850, or dropped off at the JCC office. For more information, please contact Camp Director Nora Graven at (607)724-2417, ext 421 or NoraG@binghamtonjcc.org.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Israel welcomed record number of tourists from Muslim countries in '18

Israel saw a record number of tourists in 2018 from Muslim countries, including ones with which it has no formal relations, according to Israel's Population and Immigration Authority. Some 72,109 citizens from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Morocco, Malaysia, Algeria, Indonesia, Oman, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates visited the Jewish state last year – a 15 percent increase from 2017. In 2018, 4,947 Egyptians and 12,363 Jordanians visited Israel, along with 54,799 citizens of the other countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel. There were 37,555 Indonesians who traveled to Israel, a 5 percent increase from 2017. These figures come as Israel has sought to improve relations with some of the aforementioned countries, including Oman, and where a once significant Jewish population thrived, as in Morocco.

Antisemitic graffiti prevalent throughout Virginia

The Virginia Jewish community has expressed outrage over antisemitic graffiti found throughout the state. Swastikas and words such as "kill Jews" have appeared in Henrico and in the state capital, Richmond, over recent weeks, on road signs and fences. The latest incident was discovered on May 12 at Mills Edwin Godwin High School in Henrico. The graffiti there has since been removed. "The images are hateful, disgusting and have zero place in society," said Henrico

Public Schools spokesperson Andy Jenks. "We condemn these acts in the strongest terms." "They're talking about me, they're talking about my family, they're talking about my community," Temple Beth-El Rabbi Michael Knopf told local ABC affiliate WRIC. "So, it's impossible to not take that personally." School officials met on May 12 with Daniel Staffenberg, the CEO of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond, to provide information and updates surrounding the case, Jenks told *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*. "When you see words and symbols like this, you're immediately nervous or scared or concerned," Staffenberg told WRIC. "Whether it was done by kids or adults, it further feeds hate," Staffenberg, who declined to specify the graffiti, told *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*. "Words matter."

Madonna pushes back against BDS pressure to boycott Eurovision

In a statement to Reuters today, popular music icon Madonna pushed back against Boycott, Divest and Sanction pressure to boycott the Eurovision Song Contest in Israel, where she is scheduled to make a guest appearance. The "Queen of Pop" and best-selling female recording artist of all time explained her decision to perform at the popular competition in Israel, saying, "I'll never stop playing music to suit someone's political agenda nor will I stop speaking out against violations of human rights wherever in the world they may be. ...My heart breaks every time I hear about the innocent lives that are lost in this region and the violence that is so often perpetuated to suit the political goals of people who benefit from this ancient conflict. I hope and

pray that we will soon break free from this terrible cycle of destruction and create a new path toward peace," she said. Madonna's appearance was scheduled for May 18, despite calls from pro-Palestinian activists to disassociate with the event, which was watched last year in 50 European countries and by 189 million people worldwide. Madonna, who has studied Kabbalah with the Kabbalah Center in Los Angeles, included Israel in her 2009 and 2012 world tours, and in 2004 took on the Hebrew name "Esther," although she has not formally converted to Judaism. She was photographed visiting the Western Wall in Jerusalem in 2009 and also visited the holy site in 2004. Madonna's Ray of Light foundation also funds projects that benefit Palestinians, including funding teachers' salaries in Gaza through UNRWA and providing small loans to female Palestinian farmers. She also funds the Palestine Fair Trade Association.

U.S. mayors visit "Startup Nation," seek bilateral business cooperation

A bipartisan delegation of American mayors is visiting Israel for the week of May 14 with the American Jewish Committee's Project Interchange for dialogue and briefings in order to seek opportunities between their cities and the Jewish state. The educational seminar marks the first delegation under the auspices of a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Conference of Mayors and AJC, the highlight of which is an annual mayors' delegation to Israel. The delegation is chaired by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. The seminar is intended to provide these policymakers with a firsthand understanding of Israel, dubbed the "Startup Nation" for its economic, technological and social innovation and entrepreneurship. The mayors will learn about Israel's democracy, diverse society and regional challenges. They were to meet with political and social figures, including Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, high-ranking government officials, leaders of Israel's minority communities, and Jewish and Arab civil society leaders. Additionally, the mayors were to meet with their Israeli counterparts to discuss best practices for their home communities on smart city development, economic growth technology start-ups, urban revitalization and city administration. The delegation was also observe how Israel balances the preservation of its heritage with modern municipal management and the provision of social services. Finally, the delegation was to meet with Palestinian civic and business leaders in the Palestinian Authority, located in the West Bank. Several sessions dealing with Israel's strategic environment, diversity and coexistence, and interreligious cooperation were on the agenda as well.

Tehran declares partial withdrawal from nuclear deal

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani announced on May 8 that the regime will partially withdraw from the 2015 nuclear deal – one year to the month after the United States withdrew from the accord. In a televised speech, Rouhani said the other signatories – Britain, Germany, Russia, France and China – were told in advance of the move. "The Islamic Republic of Iran declares that at the current stage, it does not anymore see itself committed to respecting the limitations on keeping enriched uranium and heavy-water reserves," said Iran's Supreme National Security Council in a statement carried by the semi-official Fars news agency. Late the week of May 3, the United States extended five of seven temporary waivers to permit countries part of the nuclear deal to conduct civil nuclear projects with the regime, but with limits as part of the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran. The waivers – extended to 90 days, down from the 180 days previously granted – allow the signees to continue conducting nonproliferation work at the Bushehr, Arak and Fordow nuclear facilities. Simultaneously, the U.S. ended two waivers: one that permitted "the storage for Iran of heavy water it has produced in excess of current limits" in Oman, and another that allowed Iran to exchange enriched uranium for raw yellowcake with Russia.

First-ever Memorial Day ceremony held for Orthodox Jewish soldiers

For the first time, a Memorial Day ceremony was held in Jerusalem on the night of May 7 honoring the memories of Orthodox Jewish soldiers who laid down their lives in service to their country, as well as ultra-Orthodox victims of Arab terrorism. Some 800 people attended the event, including Jerusalem chief rabbis Aryeh Stern and Shlomo Amar, senior Israel Defense Forces officials, bereaved families and members of the IDF's strictly Orthodox Netzach Yehuda Battalion. The ceremony honored the memories of Sgt. Yosef Cohen and 1st Sgt. Yovel Mor Yosef, who were killed by a terrorist outside the community of Givat Asaf in southern Samaria in December. They were two of the 95 Israelis who joined the list of fallen soldiers in the past year. Of those, 40 were disabled veterans who succumbed to wounds and complications sustained during their service. Another 16 names were added to the list of victims of Arab terrorism. The additions bring the numbers to 23,741 fallen soldiers and 3,150 victims of terrorism. Israel's Memorial Day – Yom Hazikaron – was established in 1951 by then Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and takes place the day before Israel's Independence Day.

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