Committee seeks to form Southern Tier Jewish History Museum

By Reporter staff
A committee met via Zoom on February 11 to discuss forming a Southern Tier Jewish History Museum at the Kilmer Mansion. The museum’s mission would be to inspire people from every background to connect with and preserve the history and culture of the Jewish community in Binghamton and throughout the Southern Tier.

The committee is looking for those interested in becoming members of its Board of Directors as part of the process to receive a non-profit status. It is also looking for people interested in being involved in the formation of the museum, even if they don’t want to be on the board.

The purpose of the museum would be to collect and preserve historical artifacts and archival materials that tell the story of the Southern Tier’s Jewish heritage; provide educational exhibits and programs for school students and the general public; and place the history of the Jewish people of Binghamton and the Southern Tier into a regional, national and international context.

“I’m very excited about the museum and the opportunity to learn more about the history of our local Jewish community,” said Lisa Blackwell, who has been chairing the committee. “We welcome input from all parts of the community as we work to celebrate our past.”

Anyone interested in being on the Board of Directors or volunteering with the museum in other capacities should contact Blackwell at lmbblackwell@gmail.com.

Film Fest to hold virtual screening of “Space Torah”

By Reporter staff
The Jewish International Film Fest of Greater Binghamton will hold a virtual showing of the short documentary “Space Torah” on Thursday, March 4, at 7 pm. The showing will follow a discussion moderated by its executive producer, Rachel Raz. “Space Torah” tells the story of NASA astronaut Dr. Jeff Hoffman, who participated in five space missions and brought a small Torah with him on one mission.

People will be able to register on the Federation website, www.jfgb.org. There is no charge for the film, but donations will be accepted. In addition, viewers will be invited to a follow-up question-and-answer session with Hoffman on Monday, March 15, from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. The line will be open to the Federation discussion and viewing, and the link to make a reservation for the Hoffman meeting will be sent after the reservation is made.

During his five space missions, Hoffman brought a variety of Jewish objects with him into space. On his last mission in 1996, he brought along a small Torah scroll on board the Space Shuttle Columbia and, on one Shabbat while orbiting the Earth, read from the book of Genesis. Hoffman noted that taking religious objects into space allowed him to bring his own tradition with him during his missions, but that the Torah scroll had special meaning – serving as a symbol of the holiness of human life.

Hoffman, who became an astronaut in 1978, performed four spacewalks during his missions, including the first unplanned, contingency space walk in NASA’s history and the initial repair/rescue mission for the Hubble Space Telescope. He was the first astronaut to log 1,000 hours of flights aboard the space shuttle and the first Jewish American male astronaut to fly into space. In addition to his position as executive producer of “Space Torah,” Raz is the director of the Early Childhood Institute of the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education of Hebrew College in Massachusetts. She also directs the Boston-Haifa Early Childhood Educators’ Connection, serves on the Israel’s America Council advisory committee of KESHEt and is a board member of OAM Massheer Hilil. In addition, she is the author of the children’s books “EUROPE!” and “The Colors of Israel.”

“Join us for this fascinating documentary,” said Shelby Hubal, executive director of the Federation. “I have had the pleasure of viewing this short film and it was wonderful to learn about Dr. Jeff Hoffman, the first Jewish astronaut, and why it was important to him to bring Jewish objects on board. I am forward to hearing what Rachel Raz has to say about the film and hearing from Dr. Hoffman in March.”

TC to host community musical Passover program for 3-6-year-olds and their families

By Reporter staff
Temple Concord will host a musical Passover program for 3-6-year-olds and their families featuring award-winning musician and early childhood music educator Ellen Allard on Sunday, March 14, at 11:30 am.

The Zoom program will be open to the community and is sponsored by a community grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. Other smaller Jewish communities and congregations will also be joining the program. For Zoom information, contact Temple Concord at 723-7355 or temple-concordbinghamton@gmail.com.

Ellen Allard (Photo courtesy of Ellen Allard)

According to the Reform Judaism website, “Ellen Allard is synonymous with the very best in children’s music. She is a multi-award winning children’s record- ing artist, composer, performer and early childhood music educator, drawing on a rich tradition of musical experiences in presenting her lively and captivating concerts, keynote presentations and workshops for family See “Musical” on page 3

Inside This Issue

Local programs on Zoom
TTI/TC adult ed. will hold a music program; TC Sisterhood’s “Biblical Women and Food” talk open to all.

New bee found in Israel
A new species of bee has been discovered in Israel’s coastal plain sand dunes.

Hoelocaust
A new Holocaust museum in Portugal; Polish court’s ruling in libel case causes concern.

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By J. Daniel Pipes

JNS (Jewish News Service) – Everyone knows about the Jewish-Muslim tussle over the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, and its Palestinian rivals over who has the honor of ruling over Jerusalem. But what is the Jordanian perspective?

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi recently renewed the promise that the Jordanian government will continue to monitor the Temple Mount (Army Radio, February 11). The new Jordanian minister is not the first to renew this promise. These words are not new. In October 2020, the Jordanian government announced that it would continue to monitor the Temple Mount (Al Arabiya, October 25). And in November of 2019, the Jordanian government announced that it would continue to monitor the Temple Mount (Al Arabiya, November 19). The Jordanian government has been monitoring the Temple Mount for many years. In fact, the Jordanian government has been monitoring the Temple Mount since the 1948 War of Independence. The Jordanian government has been monitoring the Temple Mount ever since the Jordanian government declared that they would continue to monitor the Temple Mount after the 1948 War of Independence. The Jordanian government has been monitoring the Temple Mount ever since the Jordanian government declared that they would continue to monitor the Temple Mount after the 1948 War of Independence. The Jordanian government has been monitoring the Temple Mount ever since the Jordanian government declared that they would continue to monitor the Temple Mount after the 1948 War of Independence. The Jordanian government has been monitoring the Temple Mount ever since the Jordanian government declared that they would continue to monitor the Temple Mount after the 1948 War of Independence. The Jordanian government has been monitoring the Temple Mount ever since the Jordanian government declared that they would continue to monitor the Temple Mount after the 1948 War of Independence.

In My Own Words

“Lost a year”

By Rabbi Rachel Eisserman, Executive Editor

February 26-March 11, 2021

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Ben-Gurion University of the Negev researchers advocate using seashells to monitor currently undetected industrial pollution from factories and desalination plants along the Israeli coastline and worldwide.

“The ball is in Israel’s court.”

Ken Eliahu, Chen Kenigsberg, Sneha Manda

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and

Research Institute and Dr. Ahuva Almi-

og-Labin from the Geological Survey of

Israel. This research has been supported

by a German-Israeli Foundation for

Science Foundation and by a German-Is-

raeli Foundation for Scientific Research

and Development grant.

In the spring of 2020, the world was thrown into a pandemic. Everyone needs to feel that sorrow and mourn the potential of detecting heavy metal traces in foramin- If iron concentrations in the shells, even before they are considered to be pollution. Foraminifera are microscopic organisms that produce calcite shells from seawater. Their shells store the chemical and physi-

cal properties, including pollution and as a result, provide the basis for most climate research.

mgof detection, provide the basis for most climate

mum development, and

result, they are considered one of the

most important archives of ancient and modern oceans.

They grow their shells by sequentially adding chambers, each of which provides a chronological sequence to monitor for many factors, includ-

ping pollution. Their high diversity and presence in marine habitats make them ideal candidates for monitoring ongoing pollution and its impacts.

Among the researchers for JNS’s team include Dr. Dana Tittelboim, Nir Ben Eliahu, Chen Kenigsberg, Sneha Manda and Dr. Eliahu. The collaborators include Professor Barak Herut from the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Institute and Dr. Ahuva Almogi-Labin from the Geological Survey of Israel. This research has been supported by the Israeli Ministry of Science through the BMF-MOST program, the Israel Science Foundation and by a German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development grant.

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Temple Concord Sisterhood will welcome Rabbi Rachel Esserman and Deb Daniels for "The Voices of Biblical Women and Food" program to be held on Sunday, February 28, at 11 am, via Zoom. Esserman will discuss Leah and Hannah and Daniels will cook plant-based kosher pareve-vegan recipes inspired by these two biblical women. The recipes and discussion come from 'Feeding Women of the Bible, Feeding Ourselves" by Kedem Alfonf.

The program is free and open to the public. Options to join the Zoom meeting include contacting Lani Dunthorn for the link at lani.dunthorn@yahoo.com, or joining the meeting at https://au02web.zoom.us/j/3897224889?pwd=WVbTX0l2b1BaV3FHejgxU3Z2VT09, meeting ID 817 7001 5264 and passcode 548453.

The Jewish Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education Committee will present a musical program, via Zoom, on Sunday, March 7, at 10 am. The Zoom link for the program is https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3897224889?pwd=WVbTX0l2b1BaV3FHejgxU3Z2VT09. Meeting ID 817 7001 5264 and passcode 548453.

Program participants include: "Good Kid," her compositions have been used in schools, and "Good Kid." Her music has been recorded by other artists, and her compositions have been used in schools, synagogues and summer camps. It is also taught to children, artists, and her compositions have been used in schools, synagogues and summer camps. It is also taught to can -

The recipes and discussion come from "Feeding Women of the Bible, Feeding Ourselves" by Kedem Alfonf. I'm pleased that we will be able to offer Ellen's music as a starting point in the work of anti-Semitism. The IHRA definition states that anti-Semitism is not equated with anti-Zionism and worried about how the IHRA definition affects Palestinian rights. Some members were also concerned about a clause in the bill that denounces the BDS movement. The bill was introduced on Feb. 15 by SA member Noah Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "I'm pleased it's on the floor with everyone, moving, etc., with her and her puppet, Mimi the Mermaid. I'm certain children and their parents will enjoyment of this wonderful program." This is the first of our community grants," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "I'm pleased it's not limited to the younger students in our community and I think this will be a great way to introduce them to Passover. A second program with Allard focusing on Israel will take place on Sunday, April 11. For more information, see future issues of The Reporter. Allard will be offering a training session for those involved with programming for younger children online in addition to the two family programs. For more information about Allard, visit her website at https://ellenallard.com or view her Youtube channel at www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Ellen-Allard.

Andrew Davidson, a financial advisor, is seeking a part-time Advertising Representative. Resumes should be e-mailed to: rachel@thereportergroup.org with "advertising representative" in the subject line. Phone: 1-646-558-8656 (New York), meeting ID: 389 722 4889 and passcode 335836. Esserman said, "The first time we did this was just for Temple Concord Sisterhood members. We had such a good time that Deb and I decided to do it again (with different biblical women and different food) and open it to the whole community. The day such a wonderful job demonstrating the recipes that we've been calling her Sisterhood's own Rachael Ray. Join us for some food for thought and some healthy food for your body. The questions offered in the book are relevant today and give us much food for thought. The recipes offer a different way to explore the lives of these women and our view of the world.”

Danied said, “The description given in the book is "Lifting the Voices of Biblical Hebrew Heroes and Honoring Them with Simple, Plant-Based Recipes."

**News in Brief**

From JNS.org

**Syracuse U. tables resolution to adopt IHRA definition, cites Palestinian rights**

Syracuse University’s Student Association tabled a resolution on Feb. 23 to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s working definition of anti-Semitism after several members expressed concern regarding the definition’s language. SA President Justine Hastings, along with others, said antisemitism should not be equated with anti-Zionism and worried about how the IHRA definition affects Palestinian rights. Some members were also concerned about a clause in the bill that denounces the BDS movement. The bill was introduced on Feb. 15 by SA member Noah Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "I'm pleased it's on the floor with everyone, moving, etc., with her and her puppet, Mimi the Mermaid. I'm certain children and their parents will enjoy this wonderful program." This is the first of our community grants," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "I'm pleased it's not limited to the younger students in our community and I think this will be a great way to introduce them to Passover. A second program with Allard focusing on Israel will take place on Sunday, April 11. For more information, see future issues of The Reporter. Allard will be offering a training session for those involved with programming for younger children online in addition to the two family programs. For more information about Allard, visit her website at https://ellenallard.com or view her Youtube channel at www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Ellen-Allard.

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**Deadlines**

The following are deadlines for all articles and photos for upcoming Reviewer. issues.

**Issue** | **Deadline**
---|---
March 12-25 | March 3
March 26-April 8 (Passover) | March 17
April 9-22 | March 31
April 23-May 6 | April 14

All deadlines for the year can be found at www.thereportergroup.org/contact-us/faqs under "Q: What Are the Deadlines for the Paper?"
Women and the war over kosher meat prices

Off the Shelf

What does a rabbi think about that?

RAVI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Different opinions and rabbinic debate: those were staples of Jewish religious dialogue as Judaism moved from a sacrificial-based religion to a prayer-based one. As technology changed so did debates on how Judaism thinks about everything from the nature of God to what is permissible in diet. In "The Great Kosher Meat War of 1902: Immigrant Housewives and the Riots That Shocked New York City" (Mandel Vilar Press), Scott D. Seligman looks at how Jewishwomen fought to shut down every kosher butcher shop in New York City until they lowered the price of meat.

Determining why the price of meat was increasing was far more complex than these women knew, and Seligman discusses the Beef Trust formed by large meat packing businesses. Their combined power allowed them to control the price of everything from butchered meat to the cost of refrigerated train cars used to transport the beef across the country. Seligman also notes the government’s role in finally breaking this trust’s monopoly. However, for this reader, what’s of greatest interest is how these immigrant women — women who had never before played a role in public life — turned a simple protest into something greater.

The women who led the strike (as the war was called) against the butchers lived on the Lower East Side and had recently moved to this country. Most of them still spoke Yiddish and followed traditional Jewish practices. As Seligman notes, "Many of them" sought to teach lives similar to those they had in Europe, and to make as few compromises as possible with the customs of their adopted land. They had left Russia to escape poverty and persecution, not to change their culture. That meant they kept kosher homes and bought only kosher meat and poultry. They also didn’t appreciate the lifestyle of the uptown German Jews who had been in this country longer and had already assimilated into American life.

The split between the two groups was partly based on their religious practice since the Orthodox women of the Lower East Side saw the increasing price of meat as a threat to their way of life. A few women gathered for a meeting and began spreading the word through the community — calling for additional meetings, and using newspapers and mouth of word to organize the strike. Although the strike was supposed to be non-violent, violence often did occur. Protesters attacked butcher shops that refused to lower their prices, smashing windows along the Butcher Row, with produce or bricks, and destroying the interiors of the shops. People who bought meat and fish also attacked the shops. The meat taken from butcher shops was not divided among the protesters, but instead was given to the police to stop the protests and attacked the women, some of whom were arrested or injured. This led to Jewish men taking part in the strike — whether because they didn’t want to see the women hurt or because they felt that it was better for them to use their connections to reduce the cost of the meat. This process occurred not just in the 1902 strike, but during several other strikes that took place over the next 20 years.

The meat strikes spread from New York City to other cities and states. Unfortunately, it also pitted Jew against Jew. Most of the Jewish butchers were barely making a living, and when faced with the violence during the strike, several were unable to reopen. Seligman discusses their dilemmas and explores how a kosher butcher system was organized in New York City. He also writes about the failure of Rabbi Jacob Joseph, who was brought to the U.S. to serve as chief rabbi of New York City, to control that system. Unfortunately for Joseph, life in America did not lend itself to the communal structure he worked in Europe. It was also interesting to read about the antisemitic attack that occurred during Joseph’s funeral and how the Jews attending were blames for the actions of those that attacked the rabbi.

The story featured in "The Great Kosher Meat War of 1902" resonates in contemporary times when women’s voices are heard on the streets to protest injustice, much as Rose Baskin did in 1902. Seligman writes easy-to-read essays that not only make perfect for scholars and non-scholars to appreciate its research. Its introductory timeline and its list of those connected to the strike make it easy to keep track of the events and the people involved. Anyone interested in life on the Lower East Side during the turn of the last century, Jewish women’s history or Jewish immigrant life will enjoy learning about this fascinating episode of American Jewish history.

Editor’s note: "The Great Kosher Meat War" is a finalist for the 2020 National Jewish Book Award American Jewish Studies Award.
new species of bee has been discovered in Israel. The species was named Lasioglossum dorchini in tribute to the Israeli bee researcher Achik Dorchin of the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History in Jerusalem. The species was discovered in Israel's coastal region, where large-scale eucalyptus plantations caused dramatic changes in habitat characteristics and decreased local biodiversity.

Israeli and Belgian researchers led by Professor Vael Jacobson, of Cornell Law School, and Jacobs will interview Prof. William A. Alain Pauly/Belgian Journal of Entomology)

\[ \text{The newly discovered Lasioglossum dorchini } \]

By Abigail Klein Leichman

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A new species of bee unique to the sand dunes of Israel's coastal plains has been identified and described by scientists from the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels.

The species was named Lasioglossum dorchini in tribute to the Israeli bee researcher Achik Dorchin of the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History in Jerusalem. This new type of bee is considered especially exciting because it is the first new species of bee to be discovered in Israel's coastal region, where large-scale eucalyptus plantations caused dramatic changes in habitat characteristics and decreased local biodiversity.

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\[ \text{The newly discovered Lasioglossum dorchini } \]
Israeli archaeologists may have discovered 2,000-year-old market in City of David

A rare ancient measuring table and dozens of stone measurement weights that were excavated suggest that the location in the Pilgrimage Road served as a major town square — a center for trade for those traveling to the Temple during the Second Temple Period.

“The volume standard table we’ve found, as well as the stone weights discovered nearby, support the theory that this was the site of vast trade activity, and perhaps this may indicate the existence of a market,” said Antiquities Authority archaeologist Ari Levy in a press release. “The fact that there were city-specific weights at the site indicates the unique features of the economy and trade in Jerusalem during the Second Temple period, possibly due to the influence of the Temple itself.”

The excavation has to date revealed the top of the stone table, which Levy said would have belonged to the market’s manager or agoranomos (from the Greek word agora, meaning a central public space), who was in charge of supervising weights and measurements of commodities traded in the city of Jerusalem.

Professor Ronny Reich, an archaeologist and expert in ancient Jerusalem who was among the first to find portions of the sewer system that led to the discovery of the Pilgrims’ Path, said, “Other stone artifacts were very popular in Jerusalem during the Second Temple period; however, so far, excavations in Jerusalem have only uncovered two similar tables that were used for measuring volume — one during the 1970s in the Jewish Quarter excavations, and another in the Shushan excavations in northern Jerusalem.”

By JNS staff

(JNS) — Excavations by Israeli archaeologists suggest the existence of a 2,000-year-old Jerusalem market in the City of David, the Israel Antiquities Authority said recently in a statement, i24News reported. Archaeologists and historians call the road that is being excavated under an eastern Jerusalem Arab neighborhood the “Stepped Street,” also called the “Pilgrims’ Path” or the “Pilgrimage Road.”

The Jerusalem Antiquities Authority archaeologist Ari Levy (partially seen) held a 2,000-year-old measuring table found near the Pilgrimage Road at the City of David in eastern Jerusalem. (Photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

By JNS staff

(JNS) — A new study from Tel Aviv University presents an innovative treatment for deafness based on the delivery of genetic material into the cells of the inner ear. The genetic material ‘replaces’ the genetic defect and enables the cells to continue functioning normally. The scientists were able to prevent the gradual deterioration of hearing in mice that had a genetic mutation for deafness. They noted that this novel therapy could lead to a breakthrough in treating children born with various mutations that eventually cause deafness.

The study was led by Professor Karen Avraham of the Department of Human Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry at TAU’s Sackler Faculty of Medicine and Sagol School of Neuroscience. The paper was published in EMBO Molecular Medicine on December 22. Deafness is the most common sensori-neural disability worldwide. According to the World Health Organization, about half a billion people suffer hearing loss, with this figure expected to double in the coming decades. One in every 1,000 children is born with a hearing impairment, and one in every 200 children are born with a genetic mutation that is caused by a genetic mutation. There are currently about 100 different genes associated with hereditary deafness.

The scientists were focused on a genetic deafness caused by a mutation in the gene SYNE4 — a rare deafness discovered by the lab several years ago in two Israeli families, and since then identified in Turkey and the United Kingdom as well, reports Avraham. “Children inheriting the defective gene from both parents are born with normal hearing, but they gradually lose their hearing during childhood. The mutation causes mislocalization of cell nuclei in the hair cells inside the cochlea of the inner ear, which serve as soundwave receptors and are essential for hearing. This defect leads to the degeneration and eventual death of hair cells.”

Shahar Tahir, one of Avraham’s students on the combined M.D.-Ph.D. track, explained that “we implemented an innovative gene-therapy technology: we created a harmless synthetic virus and used it to deliver genetic material — a normal version of the gene that is defective in both the mouse model and the affected human families. We injected the virus into the inner ear of the mice so that it entered the hair cells and released its genetic payload. By so doing, we repaired the defect in the hair cells and enabled them to mature and function normally.”

The treatment was administered soon after birth, and the mice’s hearing was then monitored using both physiological and behavioral tests. “The findings are most promising,” says Professor Jeffrey Holt from Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, a collaborator on the study. “Treated mice developed normal hearing with sensitivity almost identical to that of healthy mice who do not have the mutation.”

The scientists are now developing similar therapies for other forms of sensorineural deafness.

“This is an important study that shows that inner-ear gene therapy can be effectively applied to a mouse model of SYNE4 deafness to rescue hearing,” says Professor Wade Chien, M.D., from the NIH’s National Institute on Deafness and Communication Disorders, who was not involved in the study. “The magnitude of hearing recovery is impressive. This study is a part of a growing body of literature showing that gene therapy can be successfully applied to mouse models of hereditary hearing loss, and it illustrates the enormous potential of gene therapy as a treatment for deafness.”

Additional contributions included Professor David Sperinck from the School of Neurobiology, Biochemistry and Biophysics at TAU’s Sackler Faculty of Medicine, a collaborator on the study. “The enormous potential of gene therapy as a treatment for deafness is promising,” says Professor Jeffrey Holt from Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, a collaborator on the study. “Treated mice developed normal hearing with sensitivity almost identical to that of healthy mice who do not have the mutation.”

The researchers are now developing similar therapies for other forms of sensorineural deafness.

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This time I promised myself it would be different. This time I would actually make some of the recipes. Well, maybe not the best of intentions, but they were, none the less. The main problem is that I don’t have most of the ingredients on hand and really don’t want to buy things I might only use once. (Please note that my cupboard does not even contain flour, and my spices are generally limited to garlic powder, onion powder and cinnamon.) That doesn’t mean I didn’t love “Beyond Chopped Liver” 59 Jewish Recipes Get a Vegan Health Makeover” by Kendra Alfond (Turner Publishing Company). Alfond, known for her Jewish Food Hero website (https://jewishfoodhero.com/) and newsletter, is interested in healthy, meatless, dairy-free, plant-based recipes, and the recipes in this book look really interesting.

If we weren’t in the midst of a pandemic, I would have invited a friend to a vegan “Matzo Ball Soup” soup-off. She swears by hers (and her kids love it), but it would be fun to see if Alfond’s is better. However, “Beyond Chopped Liver” is more than rethinking and remaking Ashkenazi food. She also includes many foods of Sephardi/Mizrachi origin. For example, “Red Lentil and Chickpea Harira Soup” and “Spiced Yellow Lentil Soup” also look really good.

Before setting down to write this, I was out in the cold, so the soups caught my interest first, but Alfond offers everything from bread and dips to salads, main courses and desserts. The “Pomegranate Sorbet” sounds perfect for a hot, summer day and I was tempted to make it because it has the fewest ingredients, but she recommends using vodka or flavored alcohol and they don’t carry those at my grocery store. (I have not been in a liquor store since the pandemic started, so what little alcohol supply I had ran out a long time ago.) However, I am going to keep that in mind for when summer returns.

If I were going to ask someone (after the pandemic, of course) to make a great meal for me, I would want the following menu:

◆ Bread (for what is a Jewish meal without bread): Challah (or a Shabbat meal) or “Yael’s Stovetop Pitta.”

◆ Dips (as an appetizer): Hmm, we would need a choice of dips to go with that pita, so I’d like the “Roasted Eggplant and Yellow Pepper Spread” and “Roasted Pumpkin and Apple Spread.”


◆ Salad: No lettuce in any of these, so I’d choose either the “ Beet and Walnut Salad with Spiced Non-Dairy Yogurt” or “Carrot Salad Plus.” However, a few others also look interesting.

◆ Main dishes: Oh, there are so many choices! It’s hard to narrow it down. But I’m going to go with either “Stuffed Cabbage Rolls” (which I like, but never made) or “Sweet and Sour Meatballs.” But since no side dishes are listed, these would work since we would need something else to eat with the main course: “Sweet Three Stanishes and Fruit Kugel” and “Twice Baked Sweet Potato Tzimmes.”

◆ Dessert: Since someone else would be baking for me, I’m willing to be am- bitious on their behalf. “Creamy Berry Cheesecake Parfaits” or “Fudgy Flourless Chocolate Cake” sound like the perfect ending to any meal.

Now, sigh, I have to convince a friend to cook for me. Hmm, maybe that will work if I also offer them a copy of “Beyond Chopped Liver.”

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On the Jewish food scene

Jewish and vegan

RABBI RACHEL ESSEMAN

Moving into a retirement community during a pandemic

Choosing a Continuing Care Retirement Community can prove beneficial for seniors, especially during the pandemic. Seniors may feel especially isolated during the pandemic when people stop visiting family members. Retirement communities can allow for safe socialization through smaller dining venues and activities. Residents can also attend meetings and exercise classes held through a facility’s dedicated TV channel, if the CCRC has one.

The things to look for when choosing a CCRC include maintenance-free living, fitness and social activities, housekeeping services, dining options, entertainment, grounds maintenance and landscaping services, and priority access to the assisted living and skilled nursing center. These are the major components of a CCRC, along with the guarantee that once a person qualifies for admittance, they are never asked to leave even if their resources run low. There are no surprises, such as needing to replace a furnace, appliance or other major home repair.

Among others things to look for are accommodations that are bright and spacious, and which provide one-level living with all amenities included in one monthly fee. There should also be outside spaces with porches, patios and decks for people who enjoy sitting outside in the nicer weather.

This information was supplied by Mary Kay McKinney, who is executive director of independent living at Good Shepherd Village, a continuing care retirement community.

For information on advertising, please contact Kathy Brown at 724-2360, ext. 244 or advertising@thereportergroup.org
This is Izzy's first yahrzeit. He died a year ago on February 26, 2020, the 10th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar. For his children and family, the tradition is to light a memorial candle. And for those of us who knew Izzy at a distance as Kirk Douglas, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the legacy of a significant Jewish-American life. During a journey that spanned 103 years, Douglas achieved fame, wealth and significance as an actor, producer, author, social activist, philanthropist and founder of a performing dynasty, most notably represented by son Michael.

He was born Issur Danielovitch in 1916 to Jewish parents, impoverished Russian immigrants, in Amsterdam, NY. The family shortened their surname to Demsky, and everyone called the boy Izzy. Yiddish was the language of the home. An only son, Izzy had six sisters. Herschel, the father, flicking out a meager living as a rags to an industrial city. But his identity remained a Yiddish-speaking Jew from an impoverished Russian immigrant family.

Douglas' Jewish identity intensified, evidenced by Torah study, strong support for Israel, a second bar mitzvah and conversion of his wife, Anne, to Judaism. It is as an actor that Douglas is best known. Between 1946 and 2008, he appeared in more than 90 films, the featured star in most of them. Douglas' acting style was memorable and mesmerizing, but not subtle. An intense, commanding presence with a strong column-like neck, broad shoulders and tapered waist, he was a powerful masculinity and energetic athleticism that he impressed upon the characters he portrayed. Possessed of a strong, commanding, urgent voice and vigorously looking with light brown hair, clenched teeth, cleft chin, strong column-like neck, broad shoulders and tapered waist, he provided an easy mark for impressionists.

Insecurities fueled by the lingering resonances of childhood deprivation, ferocious ambition and a comedic actor. He became famous for playing tough, anti-heroes. But in real life, Douglas was a family man, father of six children and husband to Anne. His Jewish identity seemed to inform his style on the screen. He was born in a Jewish family, he was brought up in a Jewish home, and he brought his Jewish themes and content in several of his major films.

After the war, Douglas resumed his dream of becoming an actor. Acting offered figurative and literal escape from Postwar America. The screen was the perfect medium for a man who had seen the worst of humanity.

As Kirk Douglas, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the life and career of a man who lived a journey that spanned 103 years. Douglas achieved fame, wealth and significance as an actor, producer, author, social activist, philanthropist and founder of a performing dynasty.

There are ten tips for teaching your children about saving:

1. Bring out the piggy banks. Have children divide their money into three banks or jars for spending, saving and giving. This helps them understand spending is not the only use for money. To make the rewards of saving more concrete, consider matching some of their saved funds.

2. Give your children opportunities to earn. Consider paying your child an age-appropriate allowance. You may decide to give a stipend based on age or provide a small stipend without conditions.

3. Open a savings account. Many banks and credit unions offer savings accounts for kids, with low-balance minimums and maintenance fees, goal-setting tools, and even rewards for reaching goals. The benefit of saving regularly will become apparent as your child watches the account balance grow.

4. Help them identify personal saving goals. Are they eying a new toy or video game? Helping to see a movie or going to a concert? Help children determine how much their “want” costs and make a plan for saving up.

“Saving” on page 9

Ten tips for teaching your children about saving

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**Your Benefits May Include:**

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- A charitable deduction plus no capital gains tax
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- Current and future savings on income taxes plus fixed stable payments
- Tax relief to your family on inherited assets
- Current and possible future income tax deductions
- Reducing taxable income
Jewish organizations slam ICC decision to open war crimes investigation against Israel.

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Jewish groups and legal experts are directing harsh criticism at the International Criminal Court at The Hague over its recent ruling that it has jurisdiction to investigate war crimes committed by Israel.

A three-judge panel ruled that Judea and Samaria, the Gaza Strip and eastern Jerusalem are within its jurisdiction, as “Palestine [is] a State party to the ICC Rome Statute.”

The 2-1 decision cleared the way for ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to open a war-crimes probe into Israel Defense Forces actions.

On February 6, Israeli Prime Minister called the ruling “pure antisemitism,” and the U.S. State Department issued a statement opposing the ruling.

NGO Monitor, together with three other groups, have jointly filed an amicus brief with the ICC that lays out the legal and factual flaws behind the argument that the ICC has jurisdiction to investigate Israel.

According to NGO Monitor’s legal adviser Anne Herzberg, the court’s ruling is “harmfully surprising.”

“The ICC prosecutor has been gunning for Israel for several years, and has been working closely with European-funded terror-linked NGOs to craft bogus indictments against Israeli officials,” she told JNS. “The fact that Palestine is not a state, that the Oslo accords expressly prevent the court from asserting jurisdiction and that the prosecutor made up a fake rule to go after the Jewish state, were ignored. And the judges have repeatedly flouted the ICC’s own procedures to try and manufacture a case against Israel.”

“GOO Monitor has found that many of these radical groups benefit from European governmental financial support,” said Herzberg. “In other words, anti-Israel animus and political machinations are more important to the court than preserving its credibility. European donors of the terror-industry and the court share responsibility for this legal travesty.”

Former Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon, who currently serves as chairman of the World Likud, also had harsh words for the ICC chief prosecutor. “If anyone should take the stand, it should be ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda,” said Danon, adding that the ICC has “once again chosen to demonize and persecute Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East,” he said in a statement on February 6.

Danon further stated that “this hypocritical and antisemitic ruling” by Bensouda “focuses on Israel while ignoring countries who carry out horrific human rights abuses every single day. This lack of accountability is a misuse of the ICC’s power and position, a perversion of justice, and much worse, enables the real and sickening exploitation to continue. The decision has broadcast the ICC’s true colors to the international community.”

Professor Eugene Kontorovich, Director of International Law at the Jerusalem-based Kohelet Policy Forum, agreed that the ICC “has no jurisdiction in this case, calling the ruling ‘lawless.’”

“The ICC’s acceptance of jurisdiction to investigate a non-member state on behalf of a member that is not a state, and its conclusion about jurisdiction, are lawless and entirely results-oriented,” he told JNS. “The ICC has treated Israel by a standard it has applied to no other nation. It makes a mockery of the Oslo Accords and shows Israel that it gains nothing from concessions, while the Palestinians face no consequences from unilateral action.”

Kontorovich noted that the Biden State Department recently asked that neither side in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict take action to change the status quo at this time. “Now the P.A. [Palestinian Authority] is seeking to establish borders via the ICC, rather than negotiations. One wonders how Washington will react to this,” said Kontorovich.

Representatives of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations also rejected the claim that the ICC has jurisdiction in the case, charging that the court was “politically and ideologically motivated” to utilize its own founding states “limit its involvement to disputes between sovereign states only.”

In a statement issued on February 7 and signed by its executive team, the Jewish umbrella group called the ruling a “distortion of international law” and said that the court’s ruling “undermines its own legitimacy as an unbiased judicial forum.”

The group said they appreciated the U.S. State Department’s statement regarding the ruling.

JNS note: The Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute on Feb. 12 elected British attorney Karim Khan the new chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Khan is currently assistant secretary-general of the United Nations. He is best known for leading the U.N.’s special team investigating Islamic State crimes in Iraq, according to Reuters: Khan, who is to begin his nine-year term on June 16, replaces outgoing Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, who has been the focus of criticism for her role in the ICC’s Feb. 5 ruling that court has jurisdiction to open a criminal investigation against Israel for alleged war crimes committed against Palestinians in eastern Jerusalem, Gaza and the Palestinian-controlled areas in Judea and Samaria. One of Khan’s first decisions could be whether or not to proceed with such an investigation. He will also have to decide if the court will continue to pursue an investigation into the United States for alleged war crimes committed by American troops in Afghanistan, begun last year by Bensouda.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Stevie Wonder earns Israel’s Wolf Prize

Legendary singer-songwriter Stevie Wonder was awarded Israel’s Wolf Prize on Feb. 9 along with a group of laureates in the arts and sciences. The “Superstition” singer received the prize for his “tremendous contribution to music and society enriching the lives of entire generations of music lovers,” according to a statement from Israeli President Reuven Rivlin’s office. Wonder, 70, is only the second black recipient to receive the Wolf Prize in the music field, following opera singer Jessye Norman. He shares the 2020 arts prize with Austrian composer Olga Neuwirth. “Both Neuwirth and Wonder, though fundamentally different in genre and style, have pushed the boundaries of their art, each in his/her own realm of expression, to serve as a vehicle for universal values and humanitarian ideals,” said the state-owned nonprofit Wolf Foundation, which administers the award to promote excellence in science and the arts. Giorgio Parisi received the prize for physics; Joan Steitz, Lynne Maquat and Adrian Krainer won the medicine prize; and Leslie Levison and Meir Lahav won the prize in chemistry.

From JNS.org

March 11, 2021

February 26-March 11, 2021

Continued from page 8

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and be revealed. The words “within them,” rather than physical structure in which God’s holy presence will rest shall take to you pure olive oil, crushed for lighting, to kindle the lamps continually. In the Tent of Meeting, outside the dividing curtain that is in front of the testimony, Aaron shall set it up before the morning. And it shall be a perpetual statute for the children of Israel. (Exodus 27:20-21)

Temple El of Oneonta
Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi: Leonid and Rachel Chein
Address: 511 Round Top Road, Oneonta, NY 13820
Phone: 607-432-5522
Website: www.templelowoneonta.org
E-mail: RabbiChein@templelowoneonta.org
Regular services time: 10 am, 7 pm
Sunday, February 28: 11 am, “The V oices of
Penn-York Jewish Community
Affiliation: Unaffiliated
Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095
Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
Rabbi: Aaron and Rivkah Silber
Office e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 10 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm
Beth David Synagogue
Affiliation: Orthodox Union
Rabbi: Zev Silber
Address: 700 E. Main St., Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 607-722-7154, 722-7121
Website: www.bethdavid.org
E-mail: BethDavid@bethdavid.org
Website: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton
Regular services time: 8 am, 10 am, 7 pm, 8 pm
On Monday, February 22, Shabbat begins at 7:30 pm in February. There are also new Zoom links for Torah study and “Havdalah with a Bonus.”

The current series of Torah portions discusses the construction of the Mishkan and the Holy Temple: We are to build a physical structure in which God’s holy presence will rest and be revealed. The words “within them,” rather than "in it," further teach us that God is charging each of us with the personal responsibility to be, in order to welcome God to dwell within ourselves.

This week’s Torah portion begins by discussing the commandment that the Tabernacle and the Holy Temple: “And you shall command the children of Israel, and they shall take to you pure olive oil, crushed for lighting, to kindle the lamps continually. In the Tent of Meeting, outside the dividing curtain that is in front of the testimony, Aaron shall set it up before the morning; [it shall be] an everlasting statute for their generations, from the children of Israel.” (Exodus 27:20-21)

The curriculum for the fall semester will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom. On Saturday, February 27, Shabbart services will be held at 10:30 am and 7 pm in the Synagogue at Temple Israel in Exodus 27:20-30:10 and the haskefa is 4:30-10:27. At 6:30 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

On Sunday, February 29, at 10:30 am, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Torah study via Zoom. An Executive Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 2, at 7 pm, on Zoom.

On Saturday, March 6, Shabbat services will be held at 10:30 am and 7 pm in the Synagogue at Temple Israel, 201 State St., Ithaca, NY 14850
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
E-mail: templeisraelvestal@verizon.net
Regular services time: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm.
On Saturday, March 6, Shacharit services will be on Zoom.
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
E-mail: templeisraelvestal@verizon.net
Regular services time: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm.
On Saturday, March 6, Shacharit services will be on Zoom.
Saturday, February 27, Shabbat begins at 5:30 pm in February. There are also new Zoom links for Torah study and “Havdalah with a Bonus.”

The Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education Committee will hold a program on Sunday, March 7, at 1 pm, “The Israelites and the Tabernacle: Scripture, History and the Visual Arts.” The program will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

The temple is open Wednesday afternoons. For more information, see the website.

Kingdind our inner menorah
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T Lewisham, Exodus 27:30-10

Temple Concord
Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell
Address: 4737 Deerfield, NY 13905
Phone: 607-722-7514, 722-7121
Website: www.templconcordbinghamton@gmail.com
Email: rabbibgw@templeconcord.org
Regular services time: Friday, 8 pm; Saturday, 10 am, 3 pm
On Tuesday, February 23, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead a celebration from a Jewish music performed by local members of the community. Service will be held at 3 pm.

Norwich Jewish Center
Affiliation: Conservative
President: Virginia Wallcraft
Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815
Phone: 607-646-5581
E-mail: RabbiRosenbaum@nycap.com
Purpose: To serve Jews in the Greater Norwich area as they recreate the Jewish experience as a spiritual path, by connecting with the larger Jewish community. Services: Fri. at 7:30 pm unless otherwise announced.
Website: www.norwichjewishcenter.org
E-mail: RabbiRosenbaum@nycap.com

Temple El of Ithaca
Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi: Rachel Zitlow-Friedman
Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 607-722-7154, 722-7121
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
E-mail: templeisraelvestal@verizon.net
Regular services time: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm.
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On Saturday, March 6, Shacharit services will be on Zoom.
February 26-March 11, 2021

Page 11 - The Reporter

Polish ruling on Holocaust libel case causes profound concern among Jewish groups

By Faygje Holt

(JNS) – A ruling issued by a court in Poland on February 9 is meting fierce criticism from Jewish groups and others who say it runs counter to the further examination of the role of Polish citizens during the Holocaust.

The criticism comes after a court found that the authors of “Night” and “The Diary of a Young Girl” falsely accused a group of people of committing atrocities against Jews during World War II. The court ruled that the book “Night” by Anne Frank, which contains accounts of Anne’s life in hiding and even killed Polish Jews during World War II. They only want to remember the horrors wrought on the Polish nation, not the Jews. No one would doubt that Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and global director of its Ed Snider Social Action Institute, told JNS.

“The Jewish people simultaneously revere the memory of thousands of Righteous Poles who, often at great personal risk, saved Jews during this period, while at the same time denouncing the people who abused and killed Polish Jews. Polish history is complicated, and the only ones who should be apologizing are those who seek to rewrite it,” he said. The libel case in Poland stems from a controversial 2018 law passed by the Polish government that made it a civil offense to make false accusations about Polish history in the Holocaust. The law originally included criminal penalties, but was amended after an international outcry from Jewish groups as well as anti-Semitism watchdog groups in Israel, which led to strained relations between the countries at the time. Despite the passing of some 75 years since the end of the war, no new charges have been brought to grips with its history from 1939 to 1945.

In 1939, the country was home to 3.3 million Jews; in 1945, it had been reduced by 90 percent to an estimated 300,000 survivors.

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and the World Jewish Restitution Organization issued a joint statement on February 9, saying, in part: “The history of the Holocaust requires independent scholarly research that must not be subject to inappropriate efforts at pressure by politicians and the courts. This verdict is a concerning example of Holocaust distortion against which the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, of which Poland is a member, has taken a stand.”

Gideon Taylor, president of the Claims Conference and WJC’s chair of operations, added that “Poland must encourage open inquiry into its history, both the positive and negative aspects, in order to build a society for the future, based on solid ground and a genuine understanding of the past.”

Prior to the ruling, officials from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum weighed in on the case and said that lawsuit “raises serious concerns about the future of independent Holocaust scholarship in Poland and elsewhere. This is a chilling and disturbing trend in the region and beyond… Honestly reckoning with Holocaust history is essential to the health of societies. Unfettered scholarship and open public discourse are necessary in order to uncover the full scope of Holocaust history and understand its continued relevance.”

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

From JNS.org

Israeli govt’s flies 6-year-old boy from Ethiopia for cardiac treatment

The Israeli NGO Save a Child’s Heart, along with the medical team at the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, has provided life-saving treatment to thousands of children from around the world in the past 25 years. Despite travel limitations caused by the coronavirus pandemic, this year has been no different, as it continues to help kids like 6-year-old Benjamin, who landed in Israel on Feb. 12 from Ethiopia in order to receive urgent cardiac treatment. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, Save a Child’s Heart has provided medical treatments in accordance with Israel Ministry of Health guidelines. The work has been made more difficult by the implementation of the “closed skies” policy, and ultimately, the shutting down of Ben-Gurion International Airport in January with the aim of curbing the spread of COVID variants. In spite of these restrictions, SACH has continued its work, providing the Health Ministry with requests on behalf of a number of critically ill patients who require immediate care. Although not a member of Ethiopian families immigrating to Israel, Benjamin was able to join a recent group flight from Ethiopia sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Israel. He is currently being hosted at the organization’s Legacy Heritage Children’s home while he undergoes an initial examination that will enable doctors to determine his treatment.

Israel completes housing for Guatemalans who lost homes in 2018

Israel’s embassy in Guatemala recently finished its housing development in the town of Escuinapa for families whose homes were destroyed in the 2018 Fuego volcano eruption. On Jan. 31, Israel’s Ambassador to Guatemala and Honduras, Mattanya Cohen, personally handed over the deeds to all 39 homes that were destroyed in the 2018 Fuego volcano eruption. The homes sit on "Jerusalem, Capital of Israel Street," the 19th street in Guatemala with that name. “The state of Israel promised, and we are happy,” said Isaiah Ben-Zion, a Guatemalan who two days ago received the farmer and ally Guatemala.” Israel and Guatemala have seen a new species that was previously unknown to science, this discovery was recently published in the Belgian Journal of Entomology.

“Selection” of Hungarian Jews on the ramp at Auschwitz-Birkenau in Germany in August 1944 during the final phase of the Holocaust. Jews were either sent to work or to the gas chamber. (Photo courtesy of Yad Vashem Photo Archives, Jerusalem)

Holocaust museum to be inaugurated in Oporto, Portugal

By Israel Hayom staff

(Islam Hayom via JNS) – Oporto, the second-largest city in Portugal after Lisbon, plans to inaugurate a new Holocaust museum. It will be the city’s first museum of this kind. Oporto Jewish community President Dias Ben-Zion and the mayor of Oporto, Rui Moreira, will preside over the opening ceremony, which was scheduled to take place on January 20.

It was to be attended by a host of dignitaries, including UNESCO Focal Point for Holocaust Education program official Karel Fracaupne, head of the Portuguese delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Ambassador Luiz Barreiros, commissioner of the Never Forgotten National Program for Holocaust Remembrance Marta Santos Pais, the bishop of Oporto and the president of the city’s Muslim community. The government was to be represented by the secretary of state for culture.

This idea is the brainchild of the local Jewish community, portrays Jewish life before the Holocaust. It also delves into the Nazi expansion in Europe, labor and extermination camps, the final solution, the death marches, the post-war period and the founding of the state of Israel.

“Selection” of Hungarian Jews on the ramp at Auschwitz-Birkenau in Germany in August 1944 during the final phase of the Holocaust. Jews were either sent to work or to the gas chamber. (Photo courtesy of Yad Vashem Photo Archives, Jerusalem)

Menorah… Continued from page 10

we continue to fulfill this commandment with the daily kindling of the menorah in our inner temple homes. Our sages teach us that there were many miracles associated with the menorah. I would like to share two of them. When it came time to construct the menorah, God instructed Moses to chisel it from one solid block of gold, rather than welding together the various components. Moses had a hard time comprehending how to achieve that. God, therefore, told him to take the gold and throw it into a fire, and the menorah was miraculously formed. Another miracle: The Talmud (Tractate Shabbat 22b) asks, “Does God need the menorah for its light? During the 40 years that the Israelites traveled in the desert, God’s light led them by day, and by night,烧着在耶和华的庙里。When there was no one there? God provided light for the Israelites; why would He need them to kindle flames?

In our inner temple, too, we each have a fiery passion and warmth, and light reveals its surroundings. In our inner temple, too, we each have a fiery passion and warmth, and light reveals its surroundings. In our inner temple, too, we each have a fiery passion and warmth, and light reveals its surroundings. In our inner temple, too, we each have a fiery passion and warmth, and light reveals its surroundings.
NFAS.org

Israel's National Library gifted 15th-century scroll of Esther

Tehran if it comes back into "strict compliance" with the pact. However, Iran has called

a phone call on Feb. 22 with his Israeli counterpart, Gabi Ashkenazi. Blinken emphasized

The call also comes amid a push by the Biden administration to return to the Iranian

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March 11, 2021

From NFAS.org

Israel’s Cabinet approves proposal to recognize, compensate for Yemenite “children affair”

The Israeli Cabinet on Feb. 22 approved a proposal to recognize the “Yemenite, Mizrahi and Balkan children affair” and provide financial compensation to the affected families, the state-owned Israel News Agency (INA) reported in a statement. The “children affair” refers to the disappearance of an estimated 1,500-5,000 babies and toddlers of new immigrants who arrived in Israel between 1948 and 1954. The majority of these babies died, either at birth or subsequently, yet were given no documentation and were informed of no places of burial. This aroused suspicion that the children had been taken and put with families of European origin – Ashkenazim – particularly Holocau-

Israel’s top military brass was on hand on Feb. 19 for the promotion of Alex Ziloni, 105, to the rank of colonel in honor of his “many decades of dedication to the state of Israel,” the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement. Ziloni, who arrived in the country from Poland when he was just 5 years old and served as an engineer in the Royal Air Force during World War II, went on to become a founding member of Israel’s air force. In May 1948, the same year as the state’s declaration of independence, Ziloni joined the IAF founding member, 105, promoted to colonel

Israel nanosatellite hitched ride on NASA rocket to ISS

A nanosatellite from Tel Aviv University began its trip to the International Space Station when it launched from Wallops Island, VA, on a NASA resupply spacecraft on Feb. 20. The TAU-SAT1 nanosatellite, which is approximately the size of a shoebox and weighs less than six pounds, is the first to be wholly designed, developed, assembled and tested independently in an Israeli university by researchers and students. After the NASA rocket docked with ISS, the aerosats released the nanosatellite into orbit. It is expected to be active for several months. TAU-SAT1 was created at the university’s Center for Nanosatellites, an interdisciplinary endeavor between the BY and Aladair Fleischman Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, the Porter School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, and the Soreq Nuclear Research Center. It was completed about four months ago and sent for pre-flight testing to the Japanese space agency JAXA. “It’s a big day for TAU!” said Prof. Colin Price, chair of the Porter School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, and the Soreq Nuclear Research Center. “It was a big day for the university’s engineering building, said Dr. Ofir Amrami, head of TAU’s Satellite Lab. The lab it collects will help scientists design protective equipment for astronauts and space systems, and can be used to test materials for the International Space Station.

Israel in top 10 of world’s most innovative countries

One of the world’s oldest scrolls of Esther was recently gifted to the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem, the library’s blog announced on Feb. 22. The scroll, dating from medieval times, was a gift from long-standing supporters of the library Michael Jeshlensky and his family. Scholars have determined that the scroll, known as Maggill Esther in Hebrew, was written by a scribe on the Iberian Peninsula around 1465, prior to the Spanish and Portuguese expulsions that happened at the end of the 15th century. Their estimation was based on both stylistic and scientific evidence, including Carbon-14 dating. According to Yoel Finkelman, the curator of the library’s Isha and Hanna Lazaroff Rare Book Collection, the new addition is “an incredibly rare testament to the rich material culture of the Jews of the Iberian Peninsula. It is one of the earliest extant Esther Scrolls, and one of the few few existing such scrolls exist from the early part of the 16th century.” Finkelman added that the library was “privileged to house this treasure and to preserve the legacy of pre-expulsion Iberian Jewry for the Jew-