Federation to hold online tour of “Notorious RBG” exhibit on April 1

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will host a virtual tour of the “Notorious RBG” exhibit on April 1 from 4 to 5 p.m.

The Jewish Studies Program at Cornell University and the Judaic Studies Department at Binghamton University will offer “The Making of ‘Shtisel’: A Public (virtual) talk by Yehonatan Indursky” on Wednesday, March 24, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Indursky, who will be introduced by Shalom Shoer, will discuss the making of the TV series “Shtisel.”

Registration is required and can be made by https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bSo00y9UQUs4F8dp59g. An award-winning writer and director, Indursky is a graduate of the ultra-Orthodox Ponvezh Yeshiva, and was later an alumnus of the Jerusalem Sam Spiegel Film School. He wrote and created, with Ori Elon, the drama series “Shtisel,” which won 17 Israeli Academy of Television awards. The series is currently an international hit on Netflix. In “Shtisel,” a haredi family living in an ultra-Orthodox neighborhood of Jerusalem roosts with love, loss and the doxulms of daily life.

The Binghamton University Jewish Studies Program will host a lecture on Zoom about the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire on Thursday, March 25, at 7 p.m. Dr. Elissa Sampson, a visiting scholar in Cornell’s Jewish Studies Program, will discuss “The Resurgence of Memory: The Triangle Fire Today.”

The tragic and horrific Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire occurred more than 100 years ago, on March 25, 1911, but it has left a permanent trace on the collective memory of American Jews,” said Dr. Elissa Sampson. (Photo courtesy of Cornell University)

The fire resulted in the deaths of 146 workers, mostly Jewish and Italian immigrant girls and young women. The result of lax safety regulations and enforcement as well as greed, the fire exposed the mistreatment of immigrant garment workers and its tragic aftermath eventually helped bring about needed reforms. But the story of the fire is not merely historical. According to Sampson, “the memory of the Triangle fire is a source of inspiration for the Federation to sponsor Yom Hashoah program.

Exploring mysticism through poetry

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Marin Sidney claims that he retooled, rather than retired, when he became professor emeritus of English and comparative literature at Binghamton University. After years of teaching literature, he decided to write his own, particularly poetry. His years of teaching literature at Binghamton University. After years of teaching literature, he decided to write his own, particularly poetry. His years of teaching literature, he decided to write his own, particularly poetry.

“Poems” (Dialogic Poetry Press), is an example of the latter. In it, he explores Kabbalah (a form of Jewish mysticism) through his poetic interpretation of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz’s commentary on the “Tanya,” which was written by Rabbi Shneur Zalman, the founder of the Lubavitch Hasidic movement.

Sidney has created a new genre, one he calls “a verse interview book.” He treats the books he studies as if they were mentor-teachers and Republics in poetry to what he is being taught. The source for his newest work the “Tanya.” In an e-mail interview, Sidney noted, “Alandmark of Chasidic literature, [the ‘Tanya’] was recommended by my friend Rabbi Aaron Slobin, Of extraordinary value to me was the ‘Tanya’ commentary made by the late Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, a Judaic scholar of great renown, according to the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage.

There is no cost to attend, but donations are appreciated. The event is being sponsored by the Judaic Studies Department at Binghamton University and Hillel at Binghamton. According to the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, “Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg” is the first-ever retrospective about the trailblazing associate justice and cultural icon, based on the popular Tumbl and best-selling book of the same name by journalist Irin Carmon and attorney Shana Knizhnik. Exploring the American judicial system through the lens of one of its sharpest legal minds, the exhibition takes an entertaining, yet rigorous, look at Justice Ginsburg’s life and work — in particular the efforts she joined to protect civil rights and expand equal opportunity for all Americans. Through archival photographs and documents, historical artifacts, contemporary art, media stations, and gallery interactives, the exhibition spans RBG’s varied roles as student, life partner, mother, lawyer, judge, women’s rights pioneer, and Internet phenomenon.

“Shtisel” is currently an international hit on Netflix. In “Shtisel,” a haredi family living in an ultra-Orthodox neighborhood of Jerusalem roosts, loss, and the doxulms of daily life.

Especially for transcendent meaning.”

More information about the event will appear in the next issue of The Reporter.
Surely the pandemic would be under control by the end of 2020. That was not to be and so we face yet another seder with fewer people at our table. Since I’ll be celebrating the holiday alone again, I’ve started to look for ways to make it meaningful.

One of the things I love about the Reconstructionist haggadah is the additional readings and poetry it contains. That’s why I was excited to learn that the new Reconstructionist haggadah “Mishkan Hasefer: A Passover Haggadah” edited by Rabbi Hara E. Person and Jessica Greenbaum, with mood-setting artwork by Todd Kahn. In addition to the traditional – but liberal – readings for the seder in Hebrew and English, this one contains a great deal of poetry, written by both Jewish and non-Jewish poets, that speak to the theme of the holiday.

I am pleased that it contains two of my favorite Jewish readings: Marge Piercy’s “Maggid,” which moves me to tears every time I read it, and Judy Chicago’s “Merger.” The Piercy poem celebrates those who were brave enough to leave the safety of their homes for freedom. Those who, with “the courage to let go of the door, the handle / to shed the familiar walls.” Chicago’s work speaks of how someday we can make the world “be called Eden once again.” But the beauty of this new haggadah is that it contains poems and poets with whom I am not familiar. It’s impossible to name them all, but a few stick out, including the three poems that feature the four children, particularly “Dayema” by Erika Dreifus, which will speak to anyone with a differently-abled relative. The idea behind washing our hands is expanded in Diann L. Neu’s “Blessed Are the Works” and the true meaning behind family gatherings is explored in “Passover Love Song” by Hara E. Person.

One of the really beautiful things about the haggadah is that you can choose the readings you want. Certainly the pandemic has been a time of great sadness, but I also feel hopeful. I hope that someday we can make the world “be called Eden once again.” How can we guide the Jewish people from a narrow place?

In our own community, Rose Shea, director of JFS, has worked tirelessly over the last year to ensure community members are connected with the resources they need to get through these difficult times. In addition, JFS has given out thousands of dollars in support over the last year and will continue to do so. Thank you to Rose and all our community members who have supported JFS through both online and in-person services.

I want to wish everyone in the Binghamton Jewish community a chag Purim sameach. As we remember the pain and dark times of our ancestors, let us not forget the compassion God has for us and the compassion we must show one another.
By Reporter staff

Temple Concord will host a musical Purim 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 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 723-7353 or templeconcordinghamton@gmail.com. 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 recording 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 audiences and educational conferences across the country.”

Hillel Academy students held Purim play

Att right: Shown are the students of Hillel Academy who performed a comic retelling of the book of Esther, which was directed by Rabbi Moshe Shmuryahu, Judaic studies coordinator. On February 26, Aviva Kamishey played Haman, Shi Yarkoni played Mordecai and Sloane Weinstein played Esther. Other Hillel students were featured as characters from the story. Hillel families attended the event, following New York state protocol. Next year, Hillel hopes to open its Purim play up to the entire community. The school also thanked everyone who supported the Purim in a Bag fundraiser.

TI Sisterhood held Chair Yoga program

The Temple Israel Sisterhood held a virtual Chair Yoga program on February 18. The event featured Angela Clark, a certified Pilates and yoga instructor. Door prizes arranged by Jennifer Schutzer were drawn at the close of the event. Clark donated a grand prize of a semi-private reformer class for two at her studio, which was won by Joyce Sambursky and Barbara Wolfson. Mimi Bartschi, Arlene Osher and Harriet Horowitz won a challah from the temple challah fund-raiser. Judy Simon and Anne Cohen won a bar of marble halvah.

“All the Temple Israel Sisterhood members who attended fire continue to grow; an inextinguishable story is not being allowed to die.”

Sampson will discuss the many types of activist memoirization that take place, not just in New York City, the site of the tragedy, but more globally. “Commemoration takes place also in Los Angeles with union organizers who are Mexican and Asian driving much of it, as well as in Bangladesh mostly due to the Rana Plaza tragedy,” she added. “All of this circulates and reinforces remembrance as well as activism in a wide variety of communities.”

Sampson is an urban geographer who studies how people actively use stories to create new spaces of migration, memory and heritage. At Cornell, she teaches courses on Jewish cities, including New York’s Lower East Side. A Cornell Daytime Humanities Award funded Sampson’s recent work on the Yiddish speaking immigrant left based on confiscated archives housed at Cornell’s Kheel Center. Sampson’s recent publications touch upon Jewish life in the Lower East Side, contemporary Yiddish theater, Triangle fire commemoration and the academic use of the term “ghetto” in reference to Jews in the United States. Her 2019 dissertation documented how the acquisition of a building shaped the Lower East Side Tenement Museum’s stories of immigrant history. She has given numerous academic and public tours, and lectures on the Lower East Side’s historic and contemporary migrant/immigrant communities, labor history and built environment. Sampson was recently a featured consultant for the 2016 documentary “Street’s the and the American Dream” and on the Triangle fire for the 2019 PBS series “The Future of America’s Past.”

The talk is sponsored by the Margolis Family Lecture Fund. Those interested can register for the talk by visiting the Judaic Studies Department home page at www.binghamton.edu/judaic-studies/. For more information, contact Jon Karp (jkarp@binghamton.edu) or Magda Dragovic (mdragovic@binghamton.edu), or leave a message at 777-3670.

Allard has won several Children’s Web awards for her work, including the albums “Sing It! Say It! Stamp It! Sway It! vol. 1,” “Sing It! Say It! Stamp It! Sway It! vol. 3,” “Sing Shalom: Songs for the Jewish Holidays” 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 cantorial students attending Hebrew Union College’s Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music in New York City and the Hebrew College in Newton, MA.

“I’m pleased that we will be able to offer Ellen’s music to the Binghamton community,” said Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell, spiritual leader of Temple Concord. “I’ve followed her career for many years for CAJE conferences to workshops and webinars. I had the pleasure of attending her Shabbat morning ser- vice for families at the URJ Biennial in Chicago, sitting 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 being used to reach the younger children in our community. 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 also offer a training session for those involved with programming for younger children online in addition to the two programs for families.

For more information about Allard, visit her website at https://ellenallard.com or view her YoutTube channel at www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Ellen+Allard.

Koffman

Ruthanne Koffman will receive the Glenn G. Bartle Distinguished Alumni Award from Binghamton University. The award recognizes and honors a graduate who has distinguished himself or herself since graduating from the university and serves as a memorial to Dr. Glenn G. Bartle, the first president of Harpur College.

Mativetsky

Hadasah (Head) Mativetsky is the recipient of the 2021 Lois B. DeFleur Distinguished Young Alumni Award from Binghamton University. Each year, the award recognizes graduates from within the last 10 years who have provided outstanding voluntary service to Binghamton University or the Alumni Association, while exhibiting capable leadership, substantial commitment to the service of others, and potential for leadership in the long term.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of Saul Levin

DEADLINES

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

**ISSUE 2021-03-19**

DEADLINE

March 6-April 8 (Passover) ...........................................March 17
April 9-22 .....................................................................March 31
April 23-May 6 ..........................................................April 14
May 7-20 ......................................................................April 28

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**OF NOTE**

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Both intermarried, but only one’s spouse converted. Both struggled with the religious aspects of Judaism, yet one felt strongly about it, and the other lawyer, Zoffness, was a writer, although their paths to being published greatly differed. Courtney Zoffness, who has won awards for her fiction and nonfiction, chose the essay format to explore her life in “Spilt Milk” (McSweeney’s), while Aaron Leibel, who won two Rockower Awards for Excellence (2018 and 2019) from the American Jewish Press Association, offers a more traditional memoir format in “Figs and Alligators: An American Immigrant’s Life in Israel in the 1970s and 1980s” (Broadway Prince Books).

Zoffness’ work is the more literary of the two, which makes sense since she’s taught writing at nearly a dozen institutions. Her focus is Families. Jewish boxers supported by real life gangster Longie Zwillman, who is working with the FBI to stop the Nazi threat. The Bund’s real leader, Fritz Kuhn, plans to turn America into a colony of Nazi Germany and the country of undesirables. Yael is one of Zwillman’s Minutemen, looking to stop the Nazis before they can take over the country. While the plot may sound like an alternative history, the story is based on fact: there were Nazi spies in the U.S. and they did plan to turn this country from a democracy into a fascist state.

When Yael meets Christa, whose father is a Nazi-supporter, he finds himself unexpectedly enamored with her and the feeling is returned. But Christa’s father soon cottons on to her new Lebensanschauung and removes her to a young journalist living with economic ties to Germany that will help her family leave poverty behind. Christa is conflicted about the engagement and her fiancé’s support of German women’s new role in life: to produce as many pure blood German children as possible. She also undergoes a change in her thinking of Nazi activities, risking his life to protect his family and friends. However, a threat remains: Will Christa betray him or will she defy her family’s Nazi legacy?

While Yael and Christa’s stories form a major part of the plot, Barry also lets readers view events through Kahn and Zwillman’s eyes. Although the characters sometimes border on caricature and the less acceptable parts of Zwillman’s mob activities are not mentioned, that doesn’t get in the way of a story that is compelling and moving. Readers may be disturbed by the activities that occurred in camps devoted to Naziifying young Americans, but they portray the veneration and dedication of those who accepted Hitler as a type of personal savior. “Newark Minutemen” features a little known and very important part of American history that still resonates today.
With people beginning to prepare for Passover, Jewish Family Services is asking the local community to donate materials by contributing funds to help the needy. “Your kindness and generosity will enable 15 Jewish families who are struggling financially to purchase Passover foods required to celebrate a seder and to help them carry on the Jewish traditions that are so important to us all,” said Rose Shea, director of Jewish Family Services. “Please send a check made out to Jewish Family Service, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850 and note on the memo line: JFS Passover donation.”

Donations can be accepted up to Wednesday, March 24, so that Jewish Family Service will have time to process and distribute the funds.

“Seder in a Box” is a box that includes a plate, two cups of wine or juice, Elijah’s cup and Passover songs.

“Plan now to have matzah and other ritual seder foods delivered to your home, a box of spring vegetables like parsley, bitter herbs, a roasted bone or beet, and maybe an orange or clementine,” said organizers of the event. “If you can’t purchase or make a seder, you can still deliver a ‘Seder in a Box’ to any older or immunologically compromised individual in the local area. Interested parties are asked to e-mail aslonim@Jewishbu.com or call the Chabad office at 797-0015 to reserve a box for themselves, family or friends as soon as possible. The ‘Seder in a Box’ contains matzah, grape juice, a holiday dinner, ceremonial items necessary for a seder and a haggadah.

The subsidized cost of the “Seder in a Box” is $36 for one meal or $54 for two meals. Community members who wish to assist in the effort can help with delivery, can underwrite a box or two, and/or can help with the cooking of the food and packaging of the boxes. To offer assistance, contact Chabad at 797-0015. Checks earmarked for this purpose may be sent to Chabad, 4233 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

Hillel Academy to offer “Seder in a Bag”

Hillel Academy of Broome County is offering “Seder in a Bag,” a seder kit that includes a seder plate, two cotton matzah masks, one kosher for Passover rose wine and two shmurah matzah. Also included will be Kippot or baroncians. The cost of a bag is $60 and quantities are limited. Pick-up or delivery will take place on Wednesday-Thursday, March 24-25.

“We know Passover will look a little different this year, so Hillel Academy has you covered!” said organizers of the seder night. “Celebrate Passover this year with your own seder kit.”

For more information or to order a bag, contact Gina Santiago at 723-7461 or frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org.
Five tips for successful online dating in 2021

1. Enlist help. With more than 104 million singles in America, online dating is a huge business. Thirty-three Thousand Dates, 33000dates.com, a coaching platform designed to help millennial and Gen X women and men navigate online dating. In her 20-plus years as a matchmaker, she knows a thing or two about dating successfully.

2. Be proactive. Start with only one or two dating platforms. You can add more later, but you don’t want to be overwhelmed by all the “likes” you’ll receive. Once live, don’t wait for messages to bombard you. Instead, use the platform’s filters so you see the type of people you’re looking for – don’t be shy about knowing what you want!

3. Arrange video chats. Set up short virtual dates to determine whether you’re willing to meet in person. Keep conversations to 10 minutes – this is enough time to get a feel for personality, looks and mannerisms. Ask important questions early to ensure your values align, and remember, chemistry only comes in person.

4. Have fun. Now it’s time for the good stuff! Arrange drinks, coffee or brunch al fresco – these dates are less pressure, more relaxed and don’t drag on. If you’re ready to leave, say you have errands to run or eating plans. A coach can help with this part, too, by offering expert advice on how to communicate and follow up on dates. Keep in mind, you’re seeing if you like the person enough to go on a second date, not marry them! And if it doesn’t go well, those million of other singles are waiting to meet you.

5. Do something relaxing and pamper yourself! If they’re more than a year old or low-resolution, consider deleting them. Most photos should be solo – pets are warm unless it’s a great surf shot or you’re spiking a volleyball on the beach. Lastly, most photos should be solo – pets are warm unless it’s a great surf shot or you’re spiking a volleyball on the beach. Lastly, most photos should be solo – pets are warm unless it’s a great surf shot or you’re spiking a volleyball on the beach. Lastly, most photos should be solo – pets are warm unless it’s a great surf shot or you’re spiking a volleyball on the beach. Lastly, most photos should be solo – pets are warm unless it’s a great surf shot or you’re spiking a volleyball on the beach. Lastly, most photos should be solo – pets are warm unless it’s a great surf shot or you’re spiking a volleyball on the beach. Lastly, most photos should be solo – pets are warm unless it’s a great surf shot or you’re spiking a volleyball on the beach. 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Eleven Bnei Menashe couples marry in ceremony in Israel

By Shavei Israel staff

Eleven Bnei Menashe couples, all of whom recently immigrated to Israel from northeastern India, were remarried recently in a group ceremony at Shavei Israel’s absorption center in Nof HaGalil, formerly known as Upper Nazareth, in the north of Israel.

“We wish the couples a hearty mazel tov and much joy, health and success here in their new home,” said Shavei Israel Founder and Chairman Michael Freund. “After realizing their dream of making aliya and returning to the Jewish people, these 11 Bnei Menashe couples now have an additional reason to celebrate. Despite the pandemic, they have now been remarried in a traditional Jewish wedding ceremony, which symbolizes the new lives they are building here in the Jewish state.”

For the weddings, the brides had their hair and makeup done and wore traditional white wedding gowns, while some of the grooms wore traditional suits with Bnei Menashe tribal designs. In light of the coronavirus situation, the ceremonies were conducted with permission from Israel’s Home Front Command and in accordance with Health Ministry regulations.

Among the couples who remarried were Maccabi Hnamte (72) and Sarah Hnamte (70) from the northeastern Indian state of Mizoram, who have been happily married for 49 years. Their two children made aliya to Israel in 2003 and they had not seen them for more than 17 years until their arrival in the Jewish state several months ago.

“We’re very excited to make aliya and very excited to join our children and grandchildren at last,” the Hnamtes said. “After 49 years, we have had the privilege to dress up nicely and get married again, only this time under a chuppah [Jewish wedding canopy] here in the land of our ancestors, the land of Israel.”

The Bnei Menashe, or sons of Manasseh, claim descent from one of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel, who were sent by the Assyrian Empire more than 2,700 years ago. Their ancestors wandered through Central Asia and the Far East for centuries, before settling in what is now northeastern India, along the borders of Burma and Bangladesh. Throughout their sojourn in exile, the Bnei Menashe dreamed of making aliyah and returning to the Jewish homeland.

The Bnei Menashe were remarried, this time under a chuppah, after completing their formal conversion to Judaism by the Chief Rabbinate. Throughout their sojourn in exile, the Bnei Menashe continued to practice Judaism just as their ancestors did, including observing the Sabbath, keeping kashar, celebrating the festivals and following the laws of family purity. They arrived to nourish the dream of one day returning to the land of their ancestors, the land of Israel.

Thus far, Shavei Israel has made the dream of aliya, immigration to Israel, possible for more than 4,000 Bnei Menashe and plans to help bring more members of the community to Israel. Currently, there are 650 Bnei Menashe awaiting their return to the Jewish homeland.

Engaged couples

Names provided by area synagogues.

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Jamie Benson and Philip Hurwitz
Melissa Miller and Geoffrey Daniels
Jenni Bank and Matt Donaldson
Melissa Miller and Geoffrey Daniels

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March 12-25, 2021
The cinematic lives of Kirk Douglas Part II: Was Spartacus Jewish?

Kirk Douglas and Spartacus did, in fact, share some common attributes. Kirk Douglas was a charismatic actor who excelled in roles that required physical strength and a commanding presence. His portrayal of Spartacus, the gladiatorial slave turned insurrectionist, was a defining moment in his career. Kirk Douglas' passion for the role was evident, and he brought a sense of authenticity and depth to his performance, which was a reflection of his own Jewish identity and heritage.

In the context of the historical period, the portrayal of Spartacus was not about a specific Jewishness, but it did resonate with Kirk Douglas' own identity as a Jew and a former actor who had spent time in the theater. Douglas' commitment to his role, his determination to bring a story of historical significance to life, and his dedication to bringing an authentic portrayal to the screen, were qualities that mirrored his own personal and professional journey.

In conclusion, while Kirk Douglas was not Jewish, the character of Spartacus held a special place in his heart due to his Jewish heritage and his personal connection to the story. The portrayal of Spartacus was not about being Jewish, but it was a part of Kirk Douglas' identity and his passion for the art of acting.
A variety of Jewish groups are offering online resources - educational, inspirational, and those who are not allowed out of the house. Below is a sampling of those. The Reporter will publish additional listings as they become available. 

COJES6 will hold a virtual “Yom Hazikaron Ceremony” on Tuesday, April 13, at 8:30 pm. The ceremony commemorates fallen Israeli soldiers and the fallen from the intifada. For more information, visit https://t.co/6oOoQ0GzvR (event=yom-hazikaron-ceremony).

Hadasah sponsors two podcasts: “Hadasah On Call” goes behind the scenes of Hadasah’s hospitals and “The Branch” shares stories of Jews and Arabs who are creating a shared society. For more information, visit www.hadasah.org.

The Jewish National Fund is holding virtual tours of Israel. The cost is $50 per Zoom spot. For more information, visit www.jnf.org/visit-israel/jnf-virtual-tours-to-israel.


The Center for Jewish History will hold the virtual program “Family History Today: Location, Location, Location – Historical Maps in Genealogy Research” on Wednesday, March 17, at 4 pm. Ed Mitkiewicz, map consultant for the documentary film “Raise the Roof,” will demonstrate how to use historical map websites and geographic information databases. For more information, visit https://genealogy.cjh.org/events.

ITA and the Israel Democracy Institute have held the series “Present: The Future of Israel.” The final lecture is on “Israel’s Arab Citizens at a Crossroads” on Wednesday, March 17, at noon. For more information, visit www.myjewishlearning.com/the-hub-ita-and-the-israel-democracy-institute-present-the-future-of-israel-2021-02-24.

The virtual program “For the Love of RBG” will be presented by the National Museum of American Jewish History, Opera Philadelphia and the Lowe Mill Center for Music of American Jewish Experience at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. It will feature commentary, as well as performances recorded at the National Theater and UC at A Schoenberg Hall, on Monday, March 15, at 8 pm. It will air via Facebook Live on the NMAJH Facebook page, the Opera Philadelphia Facebook page and the Lowe Mill Center for Music of American Jewish Experience and the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music Facebook pages, with a limited number of Zoom slots also available. The production will be available on-demand after the event on the above Facebook pages, NMAJH’s website and on the Opera Philadelphia Channel. For more information, visit www.nmajh.org/events/the-love-of-rbg. 

JSAP – The Institute for the Study of Global Anis- temism and Policy will hold several virtual programs, including “Antisemitism in the Middle East,” featuring Dr. Najat Al Saiid, professor, Zayed University in Dubai, on Monday, April 5, from 5-7 pm. For more information and to register, visit https://events.cifrs.org/reregistration?formid=1367904956878202.

The Jewish Museum of Florida will hold “Color and Babies: Reproductive Literacy among Haredi Women” on Monday, March 15, from 7-8 pm. For more information, visit https://jmoffiu/event/827303/.

The Mayberg Center for Jewish Leadership will hold “Conversations on Inclusive Leadership” featuring “Ne- gotiating a Black Jewish Identity in Complex Times,” on Wednesday, March 17, from noon-1 pm with Ambassador Fitzgerald Haney; “Being Heumann: Promoting Everyone’s Abilities” on Wednesday, April 7, from noon-1 pm, with Judith Heumann, international disability rights activist; and “Working for Divine Order” on Monday, May 10, from noon-1 pm, with Rabbi Isaiah Rothstein. All events will be moderated by Dr. Erica Brown. For more information or to register, visit https://18doors.org/event/national-2021-03-12.

The Center for Jewish History will hold the “Last Million: Europe’s Displaced Persons from World War to Cold War,” featuring author David Niswag in conversation with Halina Grossman, on Wednesday, March 24, at 4 pm. For more information or to register, visit https://programs.cjh.org/tickets/the-last-million-2021-03-24.

Parades International and the Museum of Jewish Heritage will hold “Ma Nishnatu: How are we different this Passover?” on Sunday, March 14, from noon-4 pm. There will be three sessions with several different options offered each session. There is no charge to attend, but a donation is requested. For more information or to register, visit www.pardes.org.il/calendar/parades-international-passover-event.

Kibbitz Online features classes and events for older adults. Visit https://kibbitz-online.myjewishlearning.com/ to see the list of online classes.

The Museum of Jewish Heritage will hold its annual Gathering of Remembrance on Monday, April 19, at 2 pm, as a virtual event this year. It will be shown on the museum’s Facebook page, YouTube channel and website homepage. For more information, visit https://mjhnyc.org/events/new-york’s-annual-gathering-of-remembrance.

The Hadasah-Brandeis Institute will hold several virtual events in March and April, including “The First American Jewish Novelist: Cora Wilburn” on Wednesday, March 17, from 7-8 pm; “Suffering, Stereotypes, and Psychosis: The Representation of Jewish Femininity in the CW Series ‘Crazy Ex-Girlfriend’” on Monday, March 22, from 12:30-1:30 pm; “Virtual Artist Lecture: Camille Escell | The Feast as Storyteller” on Wednesday, March 24, from 12:30-1:30 pm; “Take a Look at What’s Brewing: The World of Beer” on Thursday, April 1, from 2-3 pm; “Books and Babies: Reproductive Literacy among Haredi Women in Israel” on Tuesday, April 6, from 2-3 pm; “Concerning Motherhood: The Reception of Biblical Mothers in the Early Jewish Imagination” on Monday, April 12, from 12:30-1:30 pm; “Indomitable Woman: Feminism in the Poetry of Rosa Kalman of Costa Rica” on Wednesday, April 21, from 12:30-1:30 pm; “The Crooked and the Straight: Queer Theory and Rabbinic Literature” on Monday, April 26, from 12-1:30 pm; “Freedom in the Face of Tyranny: A Conversation with Natan Sharansky and Gil Troy” on Wednesday, March 17, at noon. For more information, visit https://jewishreviews.org/books/conversation/natan-sharansky-and-gil-troy/.

The Jewish Review of Books will hold “Freedom in the Face of Tyranny: A Conversation with Natan Sharansky and Gil Troy” on Wednesday, March 17, at noon. For more information, visit https://jewishreviews.org/books/conversation/natan-sharansky-and-gil-troy/.

The Yiddish Book Center will hold “Yiddish in Latin America, with Rachel Rubinstein and Alan Astro” on Thursday, March 18, at 7 pm. For more information, visit https://www.yiddish.org/ycc/calendar/2021-03-18.

PRISM: A Convening for Jewish Artists of Colour will hold an online gathering for creatives and culture makers of Jews of Colour for Jews of Colour on Tuesday, March 23, from 12-4 pm. To register for the event, visit https://secure.qgiv.com/for/18doors.org/prism.

The Shalom Hartman Institute will hold two virtual events: “Judaism in the Public Square: Civics and Religion in America” on Monday, April 19, from 5-6 pm (www.hartman.org.il/event/judaism-in-the-public-square-a-conversation-on-civics-and-religion-in-america/), and “Indomitable Woman: Feminism in the CW Series ‘Crazy Ex-Girlfriend’” on Monday, April 26, from 12-1:30 pm.

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Jewish tennis star Diego Schwartzman wins Argentina Open

Argentinian Jewish tennis player Diego Schwartzman won the Argentina Open on March 7. Schwartzman, 25, who lives in Buenos Aires, beat fellow countryman Francisco Cerundolo with a 6-1, 6-2 victory in one hour and 21 minutes. The win is the fourth ATP Tour title for Schwartzman, who did not lose a single set en route to the championship.

UCLA student government passes resolution accusing Israel of "ethnic cleansing"

The student government at the University of California, Los Angeles passed a resolution on March 3 that charged Israel is engaged in the "ethnic cleansing" of Palestinians. Titled "A Resolution Calling for the UC to Divest from War," it accused the academic institution "to sever itself from companies that engage in the oppression of any people" and called on the school to divest from "Israel’s war industry." It also stated that divestment is a tactic in fighting injustices, such as "South African apartheid" and the alleged "ethnic cleansing in Palestine by the Israeli government.

The resolution supports an older resolution passed by the UCLA student government in 2014 that promotes the BDS movement. Aaron Adatto, professor of Bruins for Israel Public Affairs Committee at UCLA, told the Jewish Journal that the resolution was passed unanimously. "We had no idea this resolution was coming up and were not alerted by the Jewish Students for Peace, who were the sponsors of the bill," he said.

Utah becomes latest U.S. state to pass anti-BDS legislation

Utah has become the latest U.S. state to pass legislation targeting the anti-Israel BDS movement. The bill sponsored by Utah State Sen. Daniel Hemmert and State Rep. Joel Fernandes would ban Anti-BDS demonstrations, prohibiting any person from engaging in contracting with a person that boycotts the state of Israel. The legislation was welcomed by Christians United for Israel, which supported the measure. To date, 32 states have adopted or enacted legislation designed to penalize states that boycott Israel.

Israel celebrates 100 years since first moshav established

The Moshav Movement celebrated the 100th anniversary of the establishment of modern-day Israel by more than a quarter-century – on March 8 with the help of Israel’s Prime Minister Reuven Rivlin. The movement represents 450 cooperative agricultural villages and communities across the country – from Kfar Yavol in the north to Faran in the southern Arava.

Brazilian delegation in Israel for potential COVID-19 cure

A Brazilian delegation arrived in Israel on March 7 to learn about EXO-CD24, a new drug developed at the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, which has shown promising results in curing COVID-19 patients. The delegation – led by Brazilian Foreign Minister Ernesto Araujo and Eduardo Bolsonaro, the son of President Jair Bolsonaro and chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in Brazil’s National Congress – also came to discuss ways in which the two countries can cooperate on handling the pandemic. Ynet reported. “We are working together to increase bilateral cooperation in the war on the virus,” said Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi, who hosted Araujo at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem. “We will assist Brazil in any possible way and will examine ways to increase research and development of drugs and other solutions for dealing with the virus.” Brazil has been hit hard by the disease, with a death toll so far of some 265,500.

Lawyer cites satire in defense of antisemitic Holocaust video

The lawyer representing an Israeli who attends Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA, was under investigation by the school for antisemitic comments he made in a video praising the Holocaust, said the clip was meant to be satirical, the local news station ABC27 reported on Feb. 24. Dressed formally in a suit, junior Shane Shuma lists multiple reasons why the Holocaust was “a good thing” and notes “official SS statistics,” such as “96 percent of Germans said that it made their lives much more positive.” “I think of the Holocaust as a good thing because you can’t have racism if you only have one race,” he said. “I mean, the target of the jokes were antisemitism,” said Shuma’s lawyer Samantha Harris, who is Jewish, noting that her client said those lines as part of a friend’s film project when he was 16. “We are living in a climate where we are all judged based on our worst decisions, our dumbest decisions, our worst moments, sometimes when we are children.”

Some 100 years since establishment of modern-day Israel

"Ethnic cleansing" in the Palestinian territories has been a common theme in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In the 1920s and 1930s, Zionist leaders established Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories, often at the expense of the local Palestinian population. This process, known as "moshavization," was viewed by some as a form of "ethnic cleansing." However, this term is controversial and has been challenged by many scholars.

On March 21, 2021, the 100th anniversary of the establishment of modern-day Israel, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett issued a statement commemorating the "unique historic moment." He noted that the establishment of Israel was a "miracle" and a "journey of redemption." The statement also acknowledged the suffering of the Palestinian people and the need for "peace and coexistence."
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