

THE REPORTER

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Chesed Challenge update: possible postponement

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton announced the possible postponement of the Chesed Challenge. “The donor and I will be discussing whether or not this is a good time to hold the challenge,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation.

“All of us are facing personal challenges at this time,” she noted. “Organizations

and businesses have closed their doors. People have been furloughed. This is a very difficult decision to make, but I’m sure the outcome will be fine because we are a caring community that does so much for each other.”

Hubal added, “Please note that, while the Federation and Jewish Family Service staff are not in the office, we are still working for you and our community. I

can be reached at 724-2332 or director@jfgb.org.”

More information will appear in the next issue of *The Reporter*.

Local event cancellations

Temple Concord concert postponed

The Temple Concord concert scheduled for May 17 has been canceled. The concert with the Ensemble Concord will be rescheduled in the next season.

Other local events cancelled or postponed were announced in last week’s issue of *The Reporter*. Visit www.thereporter.org/Article.aspx?aID=5477 for that list.

Orthodox groups make gain in record-setting votes for World Zionist Congress

By Faygie Holt

(JNS)—A record-setting 123,000 American Jews voted in the elections for the 38th World Zionist Congress, setting the stage for a potential shift in communal priorities as right-wing and Orthodox groups made surprising gains from the last election five years ago.

Of the top three slates, two represent Orthodox Judaism. The other represents the Reform and Reconstructionist movements.

“I think that the Orthodox parties—the more right-wing community—showed its strength and how much they cared because they actually voted,” said Jonathan D. Sama, the Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University. The results also show that “their numbers have risen very substantially. It’s long been stated

that the vast majority of American Zionists are liberal Zionists and so on. That may be, but it certainly is not what these results suggest.”

He added, “I have no doubt those on the left will be sorely disappointed.”

The World Zionist Congress, which allocates funding for the Jewish Agency for Israel, will convene this October in Jerusalem. A total of 152 seats will be allocated for the American delegates.

Participants voted for one of 15 different slates, representing a cross-section of Jewish life and communal groups. Voting began in January and ended on March 11. At stake, said participants, was having a say in how the World Zionist Congress will allocate its funding for Jewish communal endeavors.

“The numbers speak for themselves,”

said Herbert Block, executive director of the American Zionist Movement. “This election garnered more than twice as many votes as the election in 2015 and the highest since the election opened up to the entire American

Jewish community 30 years ago. We are thrilled that so many people participated and look forward to seeing those voices represented at the 38th World Zionist Congress.”

See “Zionist” on page 8

Chabad to offer shopping for elderly

The Barry Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, which is administered through the Chabad Center, will facilitate a service for the older and immunologically compromised members of the local community. Binghamton University students

who remain in the area have volunteered to do grocery shopping, pharmacy runs and other errands for these community members.

Those interested in using this service should contact Chabad at 797-0015.

Spotlight

Jewish resources to occupy your family while self-distancing

By Reporter staff

A variety of Jewish groups are offering online resources – educations and recreational – for those who are not allowed out of the house. Below is a sampling of those. *The Reporter* publishes additional listings as they become available.

◆ The National Museum of American Jewish history is offering virtual tours at <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/national-museum-of-american-jewish-history>.

◆ The YIVO Institute is now offering all its online classes free. For more information and to register, visit yivo.org/shine.

◆ Eshel offers a variety of online classes for adult and children. To sign up, visit www.eshelonline.org/.

◆ The iCenter of Israel is offering a variety of courses, music and other activities at www.theicenter.org/resource/materials-distance-learning-and-collaboration.

◆ My Jewish Learning, www.myjewishlearning.com, offers a variety of online options for study, including “A Daily Dose of Talmud: Daf Yomi for Everyone,” “Exploring the deeper side of Jewish prayer,” “Discovering Jewish Spirituality” “Great Jewish Books” and “Guide To Torah Study.”

◆ Bimbam, www.bimbam.com, offers a variety of videos. The site says that it uses “digital storytelling to spark connections to Judaism for learners of all ages.”

◆ The Lookstein Center for Jewish Education, www.lookstein.org, offers the Lookstein Virtual Jewish Academy. The site says its courses “help schools and families add

depth, fun and variety to Jewish studies.” To learn more, visit the website and click on “virtual offerings” or go directly to www.lookstein.org/classroom-resources.

◆ Jewish Women’s Archive and Jewish-LIVE are offering The Quarantine Book Club. For more information, visit <https://jwa.org/events> and click on the line “get more information and RSVP.”

◆ BBYO is offering BBYO On Demand, which is filled with “live-streamed activities, programs and content that any Jewish teen or young adult, regardless of BBYO membership or affiliation, can tune into and enjoy from anywhere in the world.” More information is available at <https://azabbg.bbyo.org/on-demand/home>.

◆ The PJ Library is offering “Resources for Quarantined Families,” which can be found at <https://pjlibrary.org/familyactivities>.

◆ The Limmud eFestival, which is hosted by Limmud North America, will take place on Facebook on Sunday, March 29, from 2-5 pm. More information can be found at www.facebook.com/events/450289095687713.

◆ Stand With Us is offering webinars, live tours and videos. More information can be found at www.standwithus.com/connect.

◆ The National Yiddish Theatre has launched Folksbiene Live on its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/folksbiene/. It described Folksbiene Live as “an online celebration of Yiddish culture featuring live-streamed theater, American Jewish performers, workshops and other events – including a talkback with the cast of the award-winning

‘Fiddler on the Roof’ in Yiddish – to entertain audiences young and old.

◆ NCSY is offering a variety of resources on its website. For educational material, visit <https://staff.ncsy.org/education>, which includes content on the siddur, the weekly *parasha* and other educational programming and activities.

◆ *The Forward* has launched an online Book Club. The “meetings” will be posted to Instagram and Facebook with discussion happening in the comments. The hosts running that meeting will comment live for the first hour and then following up all week long. A weekly email summarizing what was talked about will also be sent. For more information, sign up for their daily e-mail at <https://my.preferencecentral.com/forward/signup> or visit <https://forward.com>.

◆ The 92Y is offering 92Y @ Home, <https://www.92y.org/92yathome>, with programs being live streamed. That page also contains a link to the Y’s archive, which offers free programming.

◆ The Jewish Museum is offering free online tours at <https://tours.thejewishmuseum.org/>.

◆ The Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot have a variety of online exhibits available at www.bh.org.il.

◆ The Center for Jewish history is offering the online exhibit “Design in Exile: Jewish Contributions to Fashion” at <https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/design-in-exile-jewish-contribution-to-fashion/AwISK.0BTIFrBIQ>. Information about more digital offerings can be found at www.instagram.com/centerforjewishhistory/.

◆ The Haggadot.com website will sponsor its first virtual seder on Zoom on Sunday, April 12, at 2 pm. Leaders will be Eileen Levinson, the website’s founder, and journalist Esther Kustanowitz. The event will also stream on Facebook Live.

◆ The Orthodox Union’s Women’s Initiative offers a variety of educational material at www.ou.org/women/video/.

◆ The Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, <https://drisha.org/classes/>, has online classes available. Some will be available free, while there is a charge for others.

◆ The Jaffa-based Peres Center for Peace and Innovation has announced that it is offering online lectures and Facebook Live sessions, at www.facebook.com/PeresCenter, which are suitable for the whole family.

◆ The Israeli-American Council is holding Kabbalat Shabbat services. For more information and how to register, visit www.facebook.com/israeliamericancouncil.

◆ The Tikvah Fund offers online courses at <https://tikvahfund.org/courses/>.

◆ The Workers Circle is offering online Yiddish classes from children to adult at <https://circle.org/what-we-do/yiddish-language/>.

◆ The AJC is urging people to #BeAMensch at www.ajc.org/beamensch. The campaign “encourages and highlights acts of kindness and decency, which lift us all up and illuminate the darkness of the current period with countless points of light.” The page also

people to past stories about good deeds being done during the crisis and also offers links to stories on Twitter and Facebook.

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First Israeli nonprofit bank to provide life-changing loans as a “national mission”

By Eliana Rudee

(JNS)—Originally established to help new immigrants from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union adjust to their new lives in Israel, the Ogen Group, formerly known as the Israel Free Loan Association, is working to become Israel's first “social bank.”

These days, Ogen works as a nonprofit loan fund that provides affordable credit to disadvantaged segments of the Israeli public, aiming to increase upward economic mobility for low- and middle-income families, as well as small-business owners. Founded by the late Professor Eliezer Jaffe, Ogen has provided more than 60,000 interest-free loans since 1990 totaling more than \$330 million.

CEO Sagi Balasha says Ogen will become not only the first of its kind bank in Israel, but globally. With the initial investment required to open such a financial institution, Ogen has applied for a banking license, working closely with the Bank of Israel, and anticipates receiving the license next year.

With experience in Israel's Ministry of Finance, where he recalled running 30 percent to 40 percent of the nation's budget, Balasha moved onto nonprofits, becoming the CEO of the Israeli American Council and building it into a national operation.

As Israel's capitalization requirement for banks decreased in 2015 and with its large equity raised by donors, coupled with years of knowledge as a leading lending platform, Balasha has a vision to lead Ogen to become Israel's first nonprofit bank. “We have an equity of \$55 million raised from donors and have developed an efficient lending system that is lean, and that can help needy people with a relatively small default rate of 0.7 percent on the loans,” he tells JNS.



An illustrative view of Israel's currency. (Photo courtesy of RJA1988/pixabay.com)

Ogen is setting its sights on “not being dependent only on donations, but instead raising deposits and charging some interest,” he adds, so it can take in more capital and increase the organization's impact tenfold.

In addition to donating to Ogen's complementary loaning program, international individuals and philanthropic foundations with corporate giving arms will be able to lock their money for several years with Ogen, similar to the way Certificates of Deposit work. While the money is held (classified as a donation), Israelis in

need will receive loans for credit with a modest interest to cover costs and potential default; later, the CD “lenders” need will receive loans for credit with a modest interest to cover costs and potential default; later, the CD “lenders” See “Bank” on page 7

Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

We are all experiencing an unprecedented and challenging time. Like many others, I am working from home. My two college-aged children are now back in Vestal. We did a marathon eight-hour car ride last Friday to clear out their dorm rooms and bring them home for the remainder of the semester. Rae, my second adult child, was tearful. Josh, my oldest, is looking for how his days will be structured under the new reality with which we are living.

I am asking myself, “Where do I begin in my communication with the Binghamton Jewish community?” I will start by sharing with you all some of the steps that I have taken to ensure the Federation continues its mission to support our families and organizations. Last week, I spent a lot of time cancelling events and making sure the Federation, Jewish Family Service and Reporter staffs have what they need to work from home. I have opened a Zoom account so the board can continue to meet and make decisions. After putting my heart and soul into preparing *The Reporter* trivia fund-raiser, the Film Fest, musical brunch

and other upcoming events – carefully ensuring we have everything in place from security to food to volunteers – it became clear there was no choice but to cancel. This was not easy, but necessary.

There was a meeting last week with community rabbis and leaders to do a virtual Yom Hashoah event. Commemorating Yom Hashoah is important and we hope you all will join in. More information will forthcoming about this event.

Since last August, I have been working diligently to create a new Federation website. Its launch was supposed to be last week. After a few hiccups, and with the expert support of Dennis Foreman, we are now up and running. Please check us out at www.jfjb.org. I will be posting updates and resources. The calendar we have is changing every day, so be sure to use the community guide and check in with local Jewish organizations about cancellations and new virtual events.

Our social service organization, JFS, is here to serve. We know there will be a financial and emotional toll from

this crisis for us all, but we suspect that our neighbors who were already struggling will be hit the hardest. JFS has funding and counseling to help those in dire need. If you or someone you know is struggling, please reach out. We want to help.

Last Thursday, Roy and Sandra Paston knocked on the window outside my office. They were enjoying some fresh air and I was so grateful to see them smiling and taking the time to say hello through the window! Cheers to them, it made my day! I hope you all are finding ways to cope, whether it is getting out for a walk, cleaning the closet that has been ignored for too long or taking this quiet time for self-reflection. My plan is to take it moment by moment, day by day. I am thinking of all the new and old friends I have made in this wonderful Jewish community. We may be apart, but we are all in this together. Please reach out, even if it is just to say hello. I am checking e-mail and the office phone, and very much looking forward to a day soon when we will be together again.

I can be reached at 607-724-2332 or director@jfjb.org.

In My Own Words

Ignorance, fear and hate

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I've read many novels that offer a view of the inner life of Christians. However, the young adult novel “No True Believers” by Rabiah York Lumbard (Crown) is one of the few I've read to present a serious look at the internal world of an American Muslim. I asked for a review copy of the book because, while I'm well aware of religious prejudice against Jews in our country, I wanted to learn more about the way prejudice has impacted the lives of a different religious minority.

What I received did just that: readers learn what it is like to be mistreated by those in your school who dislike Muslims – who hold you responsible for anything any Muslim does, even if you don't agree with their politics or religious practice. In fact, no one cares enough to ask you what you think: prejudice exists because you are considered a representative of your group. Jews are very familiar with that idea: I grew up in a world where the first question asked, when someone assassinated a president or did anything awful, was, “Are they Jewish?” There was an enormous sigh of relief if they were not because that meant we were safe.

While I did experience some antisemitism when I was in high school, it was nothing like what Salma, the main character of “No True Believers,” experiences. All that happened to me was some rude and ignorant talk and, fortunately, much of that wasn't done to my face. Salma's experience includes physical violence. The principal of her school is no help. In fact, he seems to approve of what occurred. (I actually have no idea what the principal of my high school would have done because I never thought to talk to him or anyone else at the school about antisemitic comments.)

What was wonderful about the novel was learning of Salma's attempts to put her religion into practice by acting in a caring way toward those who dislike her, to not make assumptions about people she doesn't know and to try to bring herself close to Allah through all her actions. Her attempts, which did not always succeed, were inspiring because she allowed herself to learn from her failures.

Salma (and the author) notes what happens when people are ignorant of each other's religious practices. That ignorance becomes fear, a fear of the unknown. Then it's

far too easy for fear to morph into hatred. That's when all members of a group are lumped together; that's what made people see Selma and all Muslims as potential terrorists. This is what drives the novel's plot, parts of which are more convincing than others.

What is convincing, though, is the portrait of Salma as a loving, caring, flawed individual who is trying to better herself through her religious beliefs. The author notes that the Islamophobia directed at her and her husband caused them to move from the United States to the United Arab Emirates. That is a sad commentary on our country. It's one thing to move to another country to more easily practice your religion; that's one reason people make *aliyah* to Israel. It's another to leave the U.S. because you feel persecuted.

Ignorance, fear and hatred: there is far too much of those in our world. We need to open ourselves to each other's faiths – to gain knowledge about each other in order to understand what we have in common. You can do that by joining an interfaith group that allows for open dialogue. You can also read “No True Believers” to hear one woman speak about prejudice.



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OPINIONS

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

LETTERS

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

ADS

The Reporter does not necessarily endorse any advertised products and services. In addition, the paper is not responsible for the kashruth of any advertiser's product or establishment.

DEADLINE

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www.thereporter.org

Roberson Museum holding exhibition on immigration

Roberson Museum and Science Center is holding an exhibition centering on immigration and migration until May 24. "Out of Many - Stories of Migration" is a photography series featuring the work of five artists: Brian Cohen, Scott Goldsmith, Nate Guidry, Lynn Johnson, and Annie O'Neill. Since the museum is currently closed to visitors, people can see this and other exhibits during a Facebook, Instagram and Twitter livestream tour that will be held

around noon on Tuesday, March 31. To access the livestream tour, visit www.facebook.com/RobersonMuseum/, [instagram.com/robersonmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/robersonmuseum) or https://twitter.com/Roberson_Museum.

"Each photographer takes a different approach in capturing a unique piece of the migration story in America," said organizers of the exhibition. "The people and places featured in this exhibition live in the Pittsburgh, PA, area.

All of them converged from around the world to this one place. What brought them here?"

Brian Cohen photographs buildings - religious centers, clubs, stores - where people who migrated here would, and still, gather. The buildings are said to serve as living historic markers of migration and finding a sense of place.

"Each building represents in part a community's effort to assert its adopted American identity while retaining its particular sense of self, be it racial, religious, ethnic, or otherwise," Cohen wrote.

Other works in this series follow families, like the photographs by Scott Goldsmith that capture a range of first moments coming to and living in America, from driving in a car to turning on a light. Lynn Johnson's work puts the focus on capturing a single moment when immigrants become citizens.

"We all came from somewhere," organizers added. "We ask that visitors consider in what way their family's immigration story relates to the stories featured in this exhibition. We all have a history of forging identities and finding out what it means to be an American."

TC Sisterhood to hold elections on April 1

Temple Concord Sisterhood elections will be held in April. Sisterhood members are still deciding whether the election will take place on Zoom or by e-mail. Notifications will be sent to all Sisterhood members about the decision.

The slate of officers for 2020-21 includes Dunthorn, president; Helene Philips, past president; Sandy Gutman, treasurer; Janet Hayman, financial secretary and corresponding secretary; Marty Eisenstadt, recording secretary; Deb Williams, nominating committee chairwoman; Phyllis Kellenberger, ways and means vice president; and Deb Daniels, education vice president.

Directors include Marsha Luks, Barbara Thomas and Babs Putzel-Bischoff (2020-22), and Roz Antoun and Deb Williams (2020-21). Co-treasurer is still to be determined.

Committee chairwomen and members include Putzel-Bischoff, publicity; Putzel-Bischoff, Rosh Hashanah Kiddush with Gayle Klein, Barb Dickman and Luks; Whale of a Sale Team - to be announced; Pam Burgman and Hayman, rummage sale; Carol Herz and Susan High, Judaica

Shop; Holiday Artisan Marketplace, Williams (vendors) and Jesse Parker (bake sale); Sisterhood Shabbat, Rachel Coker and Cathy Eckert; Intersisterhood, to be announced; Cradle Roll, Thomas; High Holiday Child Care, to be announced; Religious School Parties, to be announced; and Daniels and Kellenberger, Adult Education/Programming including Donor.

Additional positions include Friday Night *onegs*, Dickman (paperwork), Sylvia Diamond and Eisenstadt; Scholar-in-Residence *oneg*, Jean Hecht; Membership/Retention, entire Sisterhood board is responsible with Dunthorn as contact with temple regarding names and contact information of new temple members; House, Nancy Dorfman; Hospitality committee chairwomen, Sandy Foreman and Eisenstadt with members Jan Dickler, Arlene Krassin, Jodi Sampey and Olwen Searles; Women's Seder in 2021, to be filled next year; Retreat, to be announced; Nominating Committee members, Putzel-Bischoff, Dunthorn, Kellenberger and Searles; and Sisterhood Funds, Hecht.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Dr. Frederick A. Isaacs on the death of his wife,
Caryl J. Isaacs

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BD held traditional Purim meal



At left: Approximately 40 people gathered at Beth David Synagogue for the traditional Purim meal.



L-r: Judy Silber, Rabbi Zev Silber, Solomon and Dora Polachek, Saba Wiesner, Merri Pell-Preus and Tony Preus enjoyed the dinner.



Clockwise from left: Shelley Hubal, Suzanne Holwitt, Susan Hubal, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown, Gerald Hubal and Mark Hubal enjoyed the dinner.

OF NOTE

Danon

Dina Danon, an assistant professor of Judaic studies and history at Binghamton University, has published "The Jews of Ottoman Izmir: A Modern History" (Stanford University Press). Her work looks at the Sephardi Jewish community in the eastern Mediterranean port city of Izmir at the turn of the 20th century. According to the publisher, "Danon argues that while Jewish religious and cultural distinctiveness might have remained unquestioned in this late Ottoman port city, other elements of Jewish identity emerged as profound sites of tension, most notably those of poverty and social class. Through the voices of both beggars on the street and mercantile elites, shoe-shiners and newspaper editors, rabbis and housewives, this book argues that it was new attitudes to poverty and class, not Judaism, that most significantly framed this Sephardi community's encounter with the modern age."



Dina Danon

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Community Calendar

The Community Calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's website, www.jfgeb.org, by clicking on "calendar." Updates or additions of events for the calendar can be made by contacting the Federation through its website (click on "calendar" and then "click here to request a change to the calendar") or by calling 724-2332.

Pleased to Announce a New Associate!

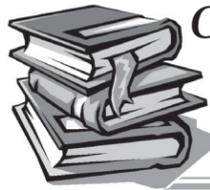


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Off the Shelf

Families, Nazis and the aftermath of the Holocaust

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Graphic novels are not a new addition to the genre of Holocaust fiction. In fact, comic books in the 1950s-60s were among the first to speak about the Nazi war against the Jews. (For more information, see *The Reporter's* review of "We Spoke Out: Comic Books and the Holocaust" at www.thereporter.org/Article.aspx?aID=4947.) However, graphic works related to the war and its aftermath continue to be published and the range of the material varies greatly. For example, two new works – "Chasing Echoes" by Dan Goldman and George Schall (Humanoids) and "In the Spider Web" adapted by Avraham Ohayon from a novel by Chaim Eliav (Feldheim Publishers) – take place in different time periods and focus on how the past affects families in distinct ways. "Chasing Echoes," which takes place during contemporary times, describes itself as "a graphic novel about generations of survivors surviving each other" and focuses on familial relationships. "In the Spider Web," whose events take place in the 1960s, calls itself "a suspenseful

saga of Nazi intrigue and Divine providence across two continents and two generations"



A page from "Chasing Echoes"

and is as much about political intrigue as it is about individuals' reactions to history.



A page from "Chasing Echoes"

The Bloom family in "Chasing Echoes" is a typical Jewish family whose members both love each other and drive each other crazy. Members of the family are traveling to visit Budapest, tour Poland (including a trip to Auschwitz) and then find the mill that belonged to their family before the Nazis arrived. Oh, and while they are there, they also plan to attend an Elton John concert. At first, all the family is invited – well, except for Malka, whose life is a mess and who can't afford to pay for her own ticket. However, she is the family member with the most knowledge of their history. After one relative feels sorry for her and sends her a ticket, other family members quickly wish she hadn't been invited because they find her behavior irritating. However, she is not the one that's a problem: after only a few days together, most Bloom family members are already getting on each other's nerves.

Anyone who thought their family vacation was bad may re-evaluate that thought after spending time with the Blooms. The See "Families" on page 7

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 59 LESTER EMPIRE LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/15/2017. Office Location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom service of process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Alan J. Anzaroot, 98 Main Street, Binghamton, New York 13905. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Wheeland Consulting LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 11, 2020.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 654 Hance Road, Binghamton, NY 13903.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of 7 STUYVESANT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 2-6-2020. Office located in Broome County. SSNY is designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served against the LLC to PO Box 231 Vestal NY 13851. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of VIIA 2 LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/13/2020. Office Location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom service of process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Vulf Kovnat, 16 Camden Street, Johnson City, New York. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is JJ'S GRILL AND CATERING @ EN-JOIE, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 13, 2020.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 1120 A Farm to Market Road, Endwell, NY 13760.

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

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Front Street Residences LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 14, 2020. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Front Street Residences LLC, 237 W. Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Wesley's Corner Store, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 18, 2020.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 345 Conklin Ave, Binghamton, NY 13903.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: STAN Property Holdings, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 7, 2020. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Steve W. Pancoast, 154 Clifton Blvd., Vestal, NY 13850. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Anna Warfield Art, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/6/20. Off. loc.: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail: 151 Chapin St., Binghamton, NY 13905. Purp.: any lawful purp.

Zalvis Properties LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/22/20. Off. loc.: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail: 424 Clayton Ave., Vestal, NY 13850. Purp.: any lawful purp.

Tugs and Hugs, LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 1/29/2020. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Vikki Wiener, 20 Sylvan Ave., Asheville, NC 28801. General Purpose.

Notice of Formation of TZ Development LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/02/2020. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 168 Susquehanna Street, Binghamton, New York 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: 220 Stage Road, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was March 9, 2020. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Christina J. Graziadei, 80 Exchange Street, Ste. 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of THE HAIR KITCHEN, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/25/20. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 15 Penna Rd., Johnson City, NY 13790. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Trinity Valley Dairy LLC.

To place your legal notice, contact Bonnie at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereporter.org

2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is March 12, 2020.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Cortland.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 2859 Route 13, Cortland, NY 13045.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of VitalUS Real Estate LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/20/2020. Location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: VitalUS Real Estate LLC at 23 Oakdale Rd, Johnson City, NY, 13790. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

182 WIN, LLC NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ("LLC")

Articles of Organization of 182 Win, LLC filed with the NYS Secretary of State (NYSS) on 3/9/20. Office of LLC is in Broome County. The Secretary of State designated as agent for service of process against it. NYSS shall mail process to 182 Baldwin Street, Johnson City, NY 13790. Business purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Tammy S. Lippman LCSW, PLLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 25, 2020. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Channel Investors, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was March 11, 2020. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent

of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Jon J. Sarra, Esq., 80 Exchange Street, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: People Grow Together, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 20, 2020. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Attn: Daniel Mastey, 256 State Line Road, Windsor, NY 13865. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: The Self Stories, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was March 17, 2020. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Richard C. Lewis, 80 Exchange Street, Ste. 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is 33 South Washington St LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is March 19, 2020.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 21 Timberbluff Court, Binghamton, NY 13903.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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PREPARE FOR PASSOVER

Mailbox Shorts

Recipes by Jessica Halfin

Recipes by American-Israeli food writer are published weekly at www.hadassahmagazine.org/food/. A recent article was "Throw a Hametz Breakfast or Dessert Party Pre-Passover."

The articles also include cultural information about the food. Halfin is a baker, cook and food and culture writer. She is also the owner and operator of Haifa Street Food Tours, a company that leads custom foodie adventures in Haifa, Israel.

Chabad seder update

"Every year there are people who join us for the seder. We take the responsibility and privilege of providing a seder to our community very seriously," said Rabbi Aaron Slonim. "Because of our present challenges, it is unfortunately too early at this time - even

two weeks before *Pesach* begins - to say with certainty that we will be able to host the community seder. In fact, at this time, we would have to say that we will not host a community seder. However, if things turn around miraculously and gatherings are permitted, and medical authorities deem it safe, we will open our doors, even on very short notice. Interested parties should call Chabad on Sunday, April 5, to check on the status of our seder."

Chabad seder in a box

In light of the precautions being taken in the face of the coronavirus, Chabad of Binghamton announced that it will deliver a "seder in a box" to any older or immunologically compromised individual who fears attending a seder with a group of friends or family. Passover begins this year on the evening of Wednesday, April 8.

Interested parties are asked to e-mail aslonim@Jewishbu.com or call the Chabad office at 797-0015 to reserve a box for themselves, a family member or a friend. The box will include matzah, grape juice, dinner and all of the ceremonial items necessary for a seder. A haggadah will be included as well.

The subsidized cost of the "Seder in a Box" is \$36. Community members who wish to assist in this 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 the Chabad office. Checks earmarked for this purpose may be sent to Chabad, 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

Shmura matzah

Handmade *shmura* matzah will be available for purchase through the Chabad Center for \$17 a pound (three matzahs can be purchased for \$10) as long as the supply lasts. Interested parties are urged to place their orders as soon as possible. To order *shmura* matzah, call the Chabad Center at 797-0015.



Off the Shelf

Another haggadah - this time by Tablet

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

I have a friend who collects *haggadot* (the plural of *haggadah*). She's always looking for new and interesting ones for her collection. That means finding those with either beautiful illustrations, contemporary readings or new commentary. I don't think of myself as a collector and have turned down offers of review copies of new *haggadot* because most of them didn't look as if they contained anything interesting or different enough for me to write about.

However, I made an exception for "The Passover Haggadah: An Ancient Story for Modern Times Brought to You By Tablet Magazine" with drawings by Israeli artist Shai Azoulay (Artison). Why? I recently read two books published by Tablet editors that I loved: "The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia" and "The 100 Most Jewish Foods: A Highly Debatable List." Both those works were such fun to read that I couldn't resist seeing what the writers and editors of Tablet would do with a *haggadah*.

I was not disappointed. Some parts resemble a traditional *haggadah* - for example, it includes the traditional text and an English translation. The editors note they chose to keep gendered language in the translation,

meaning the pronoun used when referring to God is he. One major difference from many of the *haggadot* I've seen is that *all* the Hebrew is transliterated. This makes it easier to conduct a seder in Hebrew while also allowing guests or family who don't know the Hebrew alphabet to not feel left out.

The *haggadah* includes easy-to-follow instructions and short explanations about the different seder customs. Questions are offered that can be used to encourage discussion. The work includes both the four sons found in the traditional *haggadah* and four daughters, which gives the book a contemporary spin. For those who prefer to concentrate on seder highlights, there are boxes labeled "leap frog," which tell readers the page number of "the next big moment" (at least, from the point of view of the editors).

The special Tablet touches are what's really fun, though. For example, I love the table of contents, which offers such sections as "The Pre-Game: Everything Before the Big Night," "Showtime: The Seder Begins," "Some Food. Not a Lot. Mostly Matzah," "The Home Stretch" and "The After-Party." You can also

"Drink Your Plagues: 10 Deadly Cocktails" and learn about "Charosets of the World" (and a website address is listed where you can find the recipes for both). The drawings throughout the book also add to the delights.

The work includes short essays that offer contemporary looks at the seder. For example, Liz Gallet's "Passover's Kitchen Revelation: Cutting Down on Food Waste" asks readers to consider how the themes of the holiday can help us both cut down on waste and become closer to the Divine. There are "Five Commandments for doing it just right" under the title "How to Host

a Seder" that give helpful suggestions for those who have never before hosted a seder. The last section of the *haggadah* features three essays: Howard Jacobson's humorous take on the song "Dayenu," Anne Roiphe's disturbing portrait of "Elijah" and singer Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell's moving look at how Yiddish helped him connect to Negro spirituals.

The Tablet "The Passover Haggadah" will not appeal to everyone. However, if you are looking for a new *haggadah* to use at your seder, or suggestions that might jazz up your evening, it's definitely worth checking out.

PASSOVER 2020 Greetings

April 3 (Deadline: 3/26) April 10 (Deadline: 4/2) Health Care Greetings issue

Passover is traditionally a time for sharing with family, friends and strangers. While your seder table may not be large enough to fit all these people, you can share the warmth of this holiday with the entire local Jewish community by placing a Passover greeting in *The Reporter*. You may choose from the designs, messages and sizes shown here - more are available. You may also choose your own message, as long as it fits into the space of the greeting you select. (Custom designs available upon request.) The price of the small greeting is \$20 (styles C & D), the medium one is \$38 (styles A & B), and the next sizes are not shown. The next actual size is 3.22" x 2.958" and is \$57. The largest size is 3.22" x 3.95" and is \$76. To ensure that your greeting is published, simply fill out the form below and choose a design that you would like to accompany your greeting, or contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereporter.org. Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter* and sent to: *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

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

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Weekly Parasha

Vayikra, Leviticus 1:1-5:26

Bringing a sense of order to our lives

RABBI SUZANNE BRODY, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING,
TEMPLE BETH-EL, ITHACA

When I am overwhelmed, I make “to do” lists. Whether they are on pieces of scrap paper, on my phone or in a planner, creating these lists calms the racing of my thoughts, helps me to get out of my own head and start actually getting things done. Sometimes, though, a simple “to do” list isn’t enough. In these moments, when it feels like I need 48 hours in a day to accomplish the tasks on my list, I create elaborate schedules. Based on past experience, I know that I won’t really follow the schedule as I write and color code it. But, there is something about the act of committing things to paper that has a way of taming the runaway thoughts and giving an illusion of control.

Unfortunately, even the illusion of control can at times evaporate. As the old Yiddish saying goes, “*a mensh tracht und Gott lacht.*” That is to say, even the best laid plans of mice and men oftentimes go awry. This seems especially true given the current coronavirus pandemic we are facing. Despite the guidelines

shared by health organizations these past few weeks, it has felt impossible to know what to do next. Do we still hold services? Do we cancel events we have been planning for months? What do we do with the children if we close the schools? The ever-changing landscape caused by the spread of COVID-19 means that plans shift rapidly as we do our best to keep ourselves and those around us healthy.

I, therefore, found it rather comforting to open up to this week’s Torah portion and find the instructions regarding the sacrifices laid out in explicit detail. There are no questions about what to do or even about who partakes of the offering. There is not even room to get confused about the differences between a burnt offering and a sin offering because the same information is presented for the latter as for the former. Even the times for the offerings are unambiguous: anyone could bring a burnt offering at any time. In the times of the Temple, the burnt offerings served as our way to reach out to God

to renew our connection with the eternal and, in a time of uncertainty, the details around the offerings brought order and a sense of purpose.

Today, we connect with God in other ways such as prayer, study, charity and deeds of lovingkindness. While it may seem that these activities lack the step-by-step instructions of the burnt offerings, we can still use them to bring peace and a sense of order to our lives. We can set aside special times to pray and study. We can donate to charities that are helping the communities most impacted by the epidemic. We can check on our neighbors and elderly members of our community to ensure that they are healthy and have the items they need to remain so.

In this time, when we isolate ourselves from one another physically, the Torah reminds us that we can always renew our connection to God, even if we no longer follow the elaborate steps of sacrificing the burnt offering and need to figure out our own ways back to connection with God and with the people in our communities.

Congregational Notes

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
Rabbi: Zev Silber
Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 722-1793
Rabbi's Office: 722-7514
Fax: 722-7121
Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm
Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
Website: www.bethdavid.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton

Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch
Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors
E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu, rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com
Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 797-0015
Fax: 797-0095
Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com
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Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming
E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com
Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.
To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.
Chabad will be holding pre-Shabbat virtual programs.
For more information, visit www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

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

Kol Haverim

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

Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

Area synagogues have announced that they are limiting face-to-face gatherings. That means there will be no services or programming held until further notice. Some meetings, services and classes will be available online or by phone. For specific information regarding services (including online services), meetings and classes at any of the area synagogues, contact them by phone or e-mail.

Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell
Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm
Phone: 723-7355
Fax: 723-0785
Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com
Website: www.templeconcord.com
Regular service times: Friday, 8 pm; Saturday, 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.
Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year unless otherwise noted.

Friday, March 27: United States Census Shabbat observed during virtual Shabbat services at 8 pm, which will be held on Temple Concord's Facebook page.

Saturday, March 28: Virtual Torah study at 9:15 am at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102> or by calling 1-929-205-6099, then putting in the meeting ID number, 342 411 102#.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

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



Friday, March 27, light candles before..... 7:06 pm
Saturday, March 28, Shabbat ends 8:07 pm
Friday, April 3, light candles before..... 7:14 pm
Saturday, April 4, Shabbat ends 8:15 pm

Temple Israel

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

Friday, March 27, at 5:30 pm: Virtual services at <https://zoom.us/j/769979223> or by phone by calling 1-646-558-8656, meeting ID: 769 979 223.

The temple office will be closed Wednesday-Friday, April 8-10, and Wednesday-Thursday, April 15-16.

Norwich Jewish Center

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

Penn-York Jewish Community

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

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
Phone: 607-756-7181
President: Bruce Fein, 607-423-3346
Service leaders: Lay leadership
Shabbat services: Either Friday evening at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 10 am from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot. Holiday services are also held. Check the weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.
Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis. Temple Brith Sholom is a small egalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is “Likrat Shabbat,” while the Saturday morning siddur is “Gates of Prayer.” The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

Bank Continued from page 2

will receive all the money back, plus a modest interest. This will empower Ogen to give out larger loans, as well as doubling the size of them, and providing for a part of the economy that is sometimes neglected.

Ogen's aspirations represent a change in paradigm that Balasha says could solve Israel's major problem of access to credit. "This is revolutionary in Israel," he maintains, "as it could give services to the public that doesn't have access."

Though Israel is known as the "Startup Nation," he says that sector represents only 8 percent of Israel's workforce. "Most Israelis are not a part of it, and those in the periphery are left behind, creating one of the biggest gaps in Western civilization between those who have and those who do not."

Outside of those who have access to capital, credit and investors, continues Balasha, "if you want to open a restaurant, barber shop or mom and pop enterprise, for commercial banks it's hard to give [the average Israeli] a loan, and it can be expensive." He stresses that small and medium business must not be forgotten, as they are the "beating heart of the economy, representing 96 percent of Israel's businesses."

"That's where we come in," he says. "We are here to help those enterprises and people who are not appealing for the financial system."

Ogen is doing so by helping nonprofits and attempting to solve Israel's three biggest challenges in credit, which according to Balasha, are the housing crisis, debt crisis and integration of the *haredi* community into Israel's economy.

For entities currently suffering under the caretaker government that is not providing much-needed budgets, Ogen offers loans for the *amuta* ("nonprofit") sector that Balasha calls an "economic titan," representing 6 percent of Israel's GDP. "With most income coming from the government, which has crazy delays in its payment schedule, there is a credit emergency for nonprofits which have huge and often vital financial pledges going unmet." Especially for those in the health and welfare sectors, Ogen can help with short-term cash-flow issues as nonprofits await government funding.

Regarding one of the greatest challenges in Israel's economy, Balasha poses that 70 percent of Israel's population does not have access to a down payment on a home, creating a problem for emerging adults looking to purchase one. "Sometimes, inheriting an apartment is the only chance for Israelis to be able to buy now, which is mainly the case only for third-generation Israelis of Ashkenazi descent," he explains.

To address this challenge, Balasha says, Ogen has financial advisors who coach young families "from A-Z to go through the process of looking at income, expenditure, equity, savings and loans, as well as help with contracts and mortgages - all paid for by donors."

Second, to help families living under the poverty line who are caught in deep debt, Ogen is partnering with third-party organizations and the Israeli government to create a program for debt consolidation and financial rehabilitation with interest-free loans (contingent upon financial coaching).

Lastly, Balasha maintains that loans will be pivotal for the *haredi* community, with figures estimating that the sector will represent one-third of Israel's population by the year 2050. "If they don't integrate into the workforce as the rest of population, Israel's GDP per capita will decline dramatically, but if they integrate in high-quality jobs, Israel's GDP per capita could beat Canada's," he says. Therefore, Ogen will designate part of its funds to help sponsor *haredim* with loans for living expenses while they are studying for high-tech professions.

"We see it as a national mission," says Balasha. "We want to change lives, and credit is a lifeline for people who need to build a business, acquire a trade or buy an apartment."

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BD Sisterhood met on Shushan Purim



At left: Members and friends of Beth David Sisterhood met on Shushan Purim.



At right: Rivka Kellman explained some of the deeper meanings of the megillah.

Families Continued from page 4

baggage they bring with them is not only that which carries their clothes. Fortunately for the readers, family members finally realize just how much they mean to each other. They also learn more about the lives of Jews in Europe in contemporary times, especially just how much antisemitism still exists.

"Chasing Echoes" is well done and fun to read. The family tree, complete with drawings of the characters, was extremely helpful since some of the Blooms closely resemble each other. Parts of the book will have readers cheering and others will touch their hearts. This is a great work for those who love graphic novels about families.

While "Chasing Echoes" takes place in the 21st century, the events of "In the Spider Web" occur during 1967. This thriller contains a large number of characters whose faces and descriptions are shown in an introductory cast of characters. The action moves from Brazil to Israel and back as a group of Nazis is discovered in South America. What sets off the action is the death of Alberto Hunkes, an executive with Volkswagen who was about to sign a lucrative contract with a law firm. One of those lawyers, Jewish Jairo Silverman, is upset when someone attending the funeral offers a Nazi salute. Although not religious, Silverman is disturbed because he is the one who helped Hunkes receive his citizenship papers. The plot becomes more complex when mysterious men threaten Silverman and Hunkes' wife.



Above, left and right: A page from "In the Spider Web"



In Israel, during the same time period, Yitzchak Austerlitz visits Yad Vashem and sees the face of the man who destroyed his family during the Holocaust. Austerlitz wants to learn the man's name and whereabouts since he can't concentrate on anything except his desire to avenge those who died. Of course, these different plot lines are connected in interesting and sometimes unexpected ways. This thriller does have a particularly theological slant, with one character noting that God uses antisemitism against Jews whenever they don't uphold God's laws. However, the plot is so exciting that most readers won't notice or care about its theology.

"In the Spider Web" would make a great film. There's enough drama and pathos to satisfy those who love thrillers and conspiracy novels.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

COVID-19 reaches Gaza, sparking concern due to poor local health system

Palestinian health officials announced on March 22 that two residents of Gaza that recently returned from Pakistan had tested positive for COVID-19, raising concerns that due the poor health care and dense population in the Hamas-controlled enclave, the virus would spread rapidly. The Gaza Strip, with its population of more than two million, is at high risk from the virus; there are similar concerns regarding Syria, Libya and Yemen, according to the AP. Abdelnasser Soboh, director of the World Health Organization's Gaza office, said Gaza has only 62 ventilators – 15 of which are already in use. "If there is a spread to hundreds, this will cause a challenge to the health care system," said Soboh, according to the report. Despite the fact that hundreds of Gazans have returned from abroad in the past two weeks, only 92 have been tested. More than 1,270 have been quarantined after entering Gaza, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. On March 21, Hamas closed wedding halls and the weekly street markets, according to the report.

Netflix announces release date for "Fauda" season 3

Season 3 of the Israeli series "Fauda" will begin streaming on Netflix on April 16. It will be available in April everywhere except France and French-speaking territories (June 4) and Israel (June 25), according to Deadline. The thriller tells the story of an undercover unit in the Israeli Defense Forces with a focus on Israeli agent Doron Kavillio, played by the show's creator, Lior Raz. The show's last two seasons took place primarily in the West Bank, but the third season, which was partly filmed in the Israeli-Arab town of Jisr az-Zarqa, moves to the Gaza Strip. Deadline explained that in

the third season, Kavillio "is deep undercover in the West Bank, posing as an Israeli Arab boxing instructor in a sports club belonging to a low-level Hamas member. Following numerous, deadly clashes with Hamas and a tragic incident that all but shatters the team's morale, Doron and the team find themselves in unfamiliar territory: Gaza." The 12-episode season, like past seasons of the show, will be presented in Hebrew and Arabic with subtitles.

Pompeo: Iranian officials stole more than \$1B in coronavirus assistance

Iranian officials have stolen more than \$1 billion in European assistance to combat the coronavirus pandemic, instead pocketing the funds for themselves, alleges U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Iran has the sixth-most confirmed coronavirus cases with 23,049, and the highest number of cases in the Middle East. At least 1,812 people have died from the virus. On March 23, Pompeo released a new list of five allegations of how the regime has handled the outbreak. "In February, Iran's chief terror airline, Mahan Air, ran at least 55 flights between Tehran and China, further infecting the Iranian people," said Pompeo. "At least five foreign countries' first cases of coronavirus were directly imported from Iran, putting millions more lives at risk." Mahan Air, which is sanctioned by the United States and Germany, has operated flights between Iran and China, despite both countries being two of the most infected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, according to a Voice of America report on March 19. "The Iranian regime ignored repeated warnings from its own health officials, and denied its first death from the coronavirus for at least nine days," said Pompeo. "The regime continues to lie to the Iranian people and the world about the number of cases and deaths, which are unfortunately far higher than

the regime admits." Pompeo also alleged that "as Iranian regime officials ask for more funds, it is important to note that since 2012, Iran has spent over \$16 billion on terror abroad, and used sanctions relief from the JCPOA to fill up its proxies' coffers. Regime officials stole over a billion euros intended for medical supplies, and continue to hoard desperately needed masks, gloves and other medical equipment for sale on the black market." Pompeo asserted that "U.S. sanctions do not target imports of food, medicine and medical equipment, or other humanitarian goods. Iranian documents show their health companies have been able to import testing kits without obstacle from U.S. sanctions since January." Finally, Pompeo stated that "the United States has offered over \$100 million in medical assistance to foreign countries, including to the Iranian people, and our scientists are working tirelessly to develop a vaccine. [Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali] Khamenei rejected this offer because he works tirelessly to concoct conspiracy theories and prioritizes ideology over the Iranian people."

Zionist. . . . Continued from page 1

Rabbi Josh Weinberg, vice president for Israel and Reform Zionism for the Union for Reform Judaism, while pleased with the results, was somewhat disappointed by how things turned out.

"I think we did really well – we got 10,000 more votes than last time; a 15 percent increase. We're still the largest Zionist organization in the United States, and I'm happy about that," he said, acknowledging that he was "surprised" and "a bit saddened" by the gains of the Orthodox slates because he felt that at least one group focused their campaign on being anti-Reform Judaism.

"While we are trying to promote pluralism and equality, they were busy saying they were running squarely against us," said Weinberg. "I think [the results] will be impactful, and we have our work cut out for us. I think that means American Jews really also love and are connected to Israel, and want to see our values reflected in Israel."

The Orthodox Israel Coalition-Mizrachi slate, representing the Modern Orthodox and Religious Zionist movements, won nearly 21,700 votes. The new Eretz HaKodesh slate, backed by the Young Israel movement, accounted for about 20,000 votes. Both groups pushed their communities extensively to vote in the hopes of ensuring that Israel follow Orthodox standards for issues like prayer at the Western Wall and conversion, and continue to fund religious institutions.

"Our motivation was to protect the holiness of the Land of Israel, and cultivate traditional Jewish practices and beliefs," Rabbi Pesach Lerner, president of the Coalition for Jewish Values and the leader of the Eretz HaKodesh slate, said in a release.

Rabbi Moshe Parnes, dean of the Hollywood Community Kollel in Hollywood, FL, added that "it's so rewarding to see how many Jews, especially younger voters, are invested in preserving the Jewish character of the state of Israel. This vote will help solidify the future of the Jewish people and unify the Jewish nation around its eternal, unchanging principles."

Said Rabbi Doron Perez, chief executive of the Mizrachi worldwide movement, "These results show the dedication and commitment of religious Zionists to safeguard nearly \$1 billion going to programs and services that help our community and world Jewry."

Rounding out the top four slates was Mercaz USA, which represents the interests of Conservative Jewry, with more than 14,600 votes.

Though the slate they ran on came in seventh, the National Council of Jewish Women were satisfied with the results. In a Tweet, they wrote, "... it's official, NCJW is going to Congress! The World Zionist Congress that is. Thank you to everyone who voted in this historic election."

The women's group was part of the Hatkivah Progressive Israel slate, which also included left-wing groups Americans for Peace Now, J Street and the New Israel Fund. While some had expected the slate, which ran on a platform that included opposition to the "current policy of permanent occupation and annexation," to do better, Hatkivah pointed out online that it received 250 percent more votes in this current election than last time: 7,932 votes vs. 3,148.

Surging ahead of the progressive left slate was the ZOA Coalition, led by the Zionist Organization of America, which received more than 10,000 votes.

"The Zionist Organization of America is thrilled to announce that a clear majority of the American delegates elected to the World Zionist Congress are devoted right-of-center, clear thinking, proud Zionists," the group said in a statement. "Our fabulous partners in Israel are also excited by these positive election results. ... [T]he ZOA Coalition received almost four times the number of votes it received in the previous election."

At the end of the day, the results send a clear message, said Sarna. "I think that with all that's going on – meaning the national elections in the United States and the coronavirus – it was just harder for the non-Orthodox movements to make this a priority for their members, and they didn't show up at the polls. As result of that, the other side has more power," he explained. "The great lesson is if you don't show up, you may not get the kind of results that you would like. I think that will be the lesson for those unhappy with these results."

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