Chabad Center to offer virtual tribute program

Chabad Center will hold a virtual tribute program “Alone, With G-d” to mark the yahrtzeit of the Lubavitcher Rebbe on Monday, June 29, via Zoom call. “This program is not a Holocaust program,” explained Rvkhv Shamoni. “Though the entries were written during the war, they are focused on how an individual confronts a world that suddenly feels hostile and vastly unfamiliar. In some ways—and thankfully, it is only some—is this how much of us feel today. A story of the Rebbe’s thinking during those challenging times can offer all of us new ways to think about our own reality— even during very difficult times.”

“Is there no question to the time in which we live? Is there no time in which we write as a sad time?” said Rabbi Aaron Slonim. “But after we see how the Rebbe ‘spoke’ during the darkest of times, the film also allows us to see how he ‘spoke’ after the war ended. There is sadness, but there is also the profoundest kind of hope. In a time where many are offering easy answers and solutions, this program suggests new questions and, perhaps more importantly, a new way to ask them.”

From his earliest years, the Rebbe would record his insights and ruminations. These private writings, which he himself called reshimos, accompanied him in all his travels. The exhibition span the period from 1926-50. “In these hundreds of pages, written with extreme conviction in a small and crowded handwriting, many inscribed within a world of sources in all areas of the Torah, the legal and non-legal passages of the Talmud, ethics and homelics, customs and practices, stories, lessons in the service of the Creator and more,” said organizers of the event. “The chol hamo’ed contains many ideas and concepts which were barely hinted at in his later public career, and represent a new stage in the revelation of the Rebbe’s message for the world.”

One of the entries featured in the film was a response to the events on May 14, 1948, when the State of Israel was declared. “Each of Us Has a Part to Play” is the statement of that response to them has revealed. We are inspired by voices calling upon us to come together to root out racism and inequality while those who would incite us to divide us, sow discord and disharmony that place our progress as a nation at risk. The ethos of the JCC Movement, predicated on a celebration of diversity as Jews and as a community, is at the very heart of who we are and what we aspire to.

We are angry and saddened by the actions that hurt, brutalize, and kill those without our privileges whose blood today cries from the soil. We confess that at times it takes the deaths of those created in God’s image like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade and countless others to awaken in us the need to seek justice and to dismantle systems of oppression. Our hearts are torn for every victim of white supremacy and police brutality. Every time we forget that each person is made in the image of God, we move further away from our own humanity.

We value the sanctity of every human life. Ideas and systems that support white supremacy are a cancer that eats away at our minds, hearts, and souls. Indifference and fear perpetuate systems of inequality that hurt people of color, working class white communities along with black, brown and native people.

We acknowledge the need to examine our own reflexive racist impulses, and to work every day on becoming anti-racist in thought, word and deed.

We commit ourselves to being guided to see “Chabad” on page 2

Screen shot of some of those who participated in the Zoom discussion.

Film Fest second virtual showing also "a success"

The Jewish International Film Fest of Greater Binghamton held its second virtual event. The film screened “Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel” directed by Seth Kramer, Danial A. Miller and Jeremy Newberger, which charted the underdog journey of Israel’s national baseball team when it competed for the first time in the World Baseball Classic. Almost 50 households signed up to view the film, which was available free for a 48-hour period. Twenty-four people attended the Zoom film discussion on June 8, which was led by Newberger and included a surprise: Alex Katz, a professional baseball player and a member of Team Israel, joined the group. “Jeremy Newberger, the film-maker, was really engaging!” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. “He gave us some history of the documentary, where the initial idea came from, some of the reactions it got when pitching it to producers, etc. He was very entertaining and clearly has enjoyed meeting with Jewish communities all over the country to discuss the film.”

Hubal was pleased with the surprise Newberger offered. “It was wonderful to have such a professional baseball player, and a member of Team Israel, Alex Katz join the Zoom call,” she added. “Alex is currently signed with the Kansas City Royals and is playing for Team Israel in the Olympics in 2021.”

News in brief...

Greek premier visits Israel; riots in Jaffa over planned homeless shelter; and more.

Special Sections

Legal Notices

Book Review

Personal and Business Services

Classifieds
EU wants U.S. to join effort to restart Mideast peace talks

European Union foreign ministers on June 15 urged the United States to join a new effort to restart stalled peace talks between Israel and President Donald Trump’s “Peace to Prosperity” plan as the basis for any international process. In comments he made after chairing a video conference of statesmen and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, E.U. foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the Europeans “recognize the merit of the U.S. plan because it has created a certain momentum where there was nothing,” according to an AP report. However, Borrell went on to say that “this momentum can be used to start a joint international effort on the basis of existing international agreed parameters,” namely a two-state solution, based along the 1967 lines, with the possibility of mutually agreed land swaps. “We made clear that it is important to encourage the Israelis and the Palestinians to engage in a credible and meaningful political process,” Borrell said. “For us, there is no option but to have an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue where the Palestinians can join it at the negotiation table, to no avail.

We, the undersigned, affirm this statement:

By and supporting Black leadership in our community in identifying the problems and solutions needed to bring about a better world.

We affirm today that we are our sibling’s keeper. Our traditions proclaim that we cannot stand idly by while our neighbors are burned out, as Black colleagues who participate in our community. We will educate our faith communities on the realities of racism and its predominance in our world. We will listen to the protests and take action in the plight of our siblings, brothers and sisters. We will encounter the realities of our world and work toward its transformation. We will accompany and protect the right of our neighbors to protest and when applicable use our own privilege to protect those who may not have others’. We acknowledge, uphold, and will actively work to support the goals outlined by the NAACP’s Commission on a Jim Crow Citizen Review Board and invest it with subpoena power. - Review of Police Departments Use of Force Continua, ensuring that they have at least 6 levels of steps, with clear rules on escalation. - Banning of kneelings and chokeholds as acceptable methods of enforcing Force Continua. - Review by Black leadership in local communities of the State’s Open Records Act(s) to determine if officer misconduct information and disciplinary histories are shielded from the public. - Review by Black leadership of the Police Department

- Continued from page 1

Continued from page 1

Correction

The condolence note on page three of the June 5 issue of The Reporter had the wrong name for the late husband of Lynn Green. His name should have been Howard Robert Green. The Reporter apologizes for the error.

In My Own Words

Changing the police force

Grew up with mixed feelings about the police. On the one hand, I was told that the police were the ones who would help me if I was lost or in danger. On the other hand, music from the Broadway show “Fiorello,” which tells the story of Fiorello La Guardia, regularly played in our household. The musical spoke of how the police supported big business in the fight against labor unions. In one song, a woman, who seems to be a journalism professor, bemoans the fact that she’s in love with a “cop.” She thinks about what it’s like to live in a world where the police do their job.

I also remember a conversation I had in college. I worked part-time at the university and was saying something nice about the police to one of my coworkers. She noted that she was in love with a “cop.” She thinks about what it’s like to live in a world where the police do their job.

We need to have a conversation about changing or dismantling police forces across the country, where the police are responsible for private corporations and not only with words, but loving action.Maybe we begin here, with both humility and strength. Let us do better, and play our important part, in repairing this world.

We pray that the God of justice and compassion will weallow their memories to be a blessing. We at the JCC Association are grieving and in solidarity with the Black community across the United States. We will encounter the realities of our world and work toward its transformation. We will accompany and protect the right of our neighbors to protest and when applicable use our own privilege to protect those who may not have others’.

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Virtual production featuring Wendy Wasserstein’s writing at Hangar Theatre

The Hangar Theatre Company will perform “Uncommon Experiences: The Wendy Chronicles” directed by Hangar’s Artistic Director Michael Bankiva and Associate Artistic Director/Education Director Shirley Senosky on Saturday, June 20 at 7 p.m. Virtual tickets cost $30 each and are available at 607-273-ARTS and hangartheatre.org. Students can purchase $10 tickets with online promo code: LEARN. The virtual production will be a collection of scenes and excerpts by Tony and Pulitzer Award winner Wendy Wasserstein, ranging from her better-known comedies (“The Heidi Chronicles”) to her lesser-known essays and esoterica. The piece was compiled by Barakiva, who worked for Wasserstein for the last five years of her life. Former Hangar Theatre and Playwrights Horizons Artistic Director Bob Moss served as a mentor to Wasserstein.

Barakiva stated, “I hold the most sincere respect and love for Wendy. Working for her was a life-defining experience, and the kind of apprenticeship on which the theatrical tradition has survived for thousands of years. The chance to revisit her material has been a powerful balm during national upheaval, and a reminder that Wendy’s work not only defined the moment in which it was written, but was also decades ahead of its time.”

Wasserstein was called “a one-of-a-kind artist, who broke boundaries and challenged societal views.” She won a Tony for best new play for “The Heidi Chronicles” (the first time a woman had won the prize solo) and was honored with numerous other awards, including the Obie, the Pulitzer Prize, a Drama Desk award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. More of her plays made it to Broadway than for any woman playwright since Lillian Hellman.

Her plays spoke to an entire generation and defined their moment,” said organizers. “While often remembered for the populist nature and likable sense of humor present in all of her plays, Wasserstein herself noted the politics of being popular in a 1997 interview with the Paris Review. ‘My work is often thought of as lightweight commercial comedy, and I have always thought, No, you don’t understand: this is in fact a political act.’ The Sisters Rosensweig had the largest advance in Broadway history (for a straight play). Nobody is going to turn down a play on Broadway because a woman wrote it or because it’s about women.”

Wendy’s impact on the theatre community was deeply felt and acknowledged; after her death in 2006, the lights across Broadway were dimmed in her honor.

Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 13

By Reporter staff

A variety of Jewish groups are offering online resources – from podcasts to courses – that allow people to connect from the comfort of their homes.

- Shalit, AKA the Accidental Talmudist, is offering a live show on Facebook based on the Dad Yomi cycle of Talmud. Check the event page on Facebook for information about past and current topics. Visit www.acidentaltaalmudist.org/adaly.
- The Jewish Learning Experience initiative is offering an online Kids In The Kitchen program for children ages 3-10. The program takes place on Wednesdays at 3:30 pm. Children will learn to make a variety of Jewish dishes. For more information, visit https://tlje.org/kk.
- Every Sunday, Qesher offers interactive lectures by specialists in Jewish subjects via Zoom. There is a fee, with three different rates offered. The lectures are limited to 25 people so they can ask questions. For more information, visit www.qesher.com.
- The Folio: A Jewish Week/UJA Cultural Series “On the Trail of Kafka’s Literary Afterlife” – a virtual conversation with Benjamin巴克, who won the 2020 Sami Rohr Prize for his book “Kafka’s Last Trial: The Case of a Literary Legacy” – will take place on Thursday, June 25 at 7 p.m. The event will be hosted by Rabbi Irving Greenzang of the Jewish Community Center in Brooklyn and is sponsored by JCC in the Heights. To register, visit www.ukjf.org/event/view/folio-balcon.
- Tikvah Online Academy, https://tikvahuniversity.academy/, offers seminars for seventh-eighth graders, ninth-10th graders, and high school students. The courses include seminars on Jewish ideas and Western civilization, the history and heroes of Israel, the future of American democracy, the fight against antisemitism, and the principles of a free economy and free society. The weekly online classes can be taken from anywhere in the world, and students are welcome to enroll in one or more classes throughout the summer. Visit https://fun.tikkun.org.
- GENErally Speaking with Stephanie Butnick is a new series that explores issues related to the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. It looks to answer such questions as, what does it mean to be a third- or fourth-generation survivor? Is trauma transmitted through epigenetics, or inherited along with family stories and heirlooms? The series is hosted by Tablet Magazine Deputy Editor Stephanie Butnick. The first installment featured guests Alyssa Greengrass Sommer and David Wachs, who are dedicated to sharing their grandparents’ stories of the Holocaust with audiences around New York City. The video of the first installment can be watched on YouTube.com by searching for “GENErally Speaking with Stephanie Butnick.”
- The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival, one of the longest running film festivals in the United States, has announced that its 34th season will be virtual. Films from around the world that examine Jewish history, heritage and culture will be available online on six consecutive Mondays from July 6 through August 10 at 4 pm and 8 pm. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit https://berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org.
- The Midreshet Lindenbaum of Israel’s Ohr Torah Stone is offering a Virtual Beit Midrash program for young women completing 10th and 11th grades. The three-week program, June 22-July 9, will focus on Torah and Talmud, the land of Torah and contemporary halachah. Virtual tours of the campus are part of the curriculum. Classes will take place Monday through Thursday and are limited to 15 students. For information, e-mail ML@ots.org.il.
- Green Olive Tours offered some free virtual tours of Israel. It’s too late to take them live, but the videos of the tours are available at https://blog.toursinenglish.com/series/resources.htm
See “Family” on page 7
How do people determine what city or country feels like home? This question was raised by two recent memoirs: “I Want You to Know We’re Still Here: A Post-Holocaust Memoir” by Ethan Greenberg, who was born in Europe to Holocaust survivors, and “Hank Greenberg: The Hero of Heroes” by John Rosenberg, who spent his youth in New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.

Newly married to the Nazis, Hansi was afraid of the treatment a Jew might receive in Ukraine. The Austrians had done to Jews during the war. Hansi had the opportunity to know people who were willing to protect him and to separate the culture of Vienna from the people who lived there. Foer’s mother only knew fear. Ukraine was not always hospitable to Jews before the war and there was no reason for her to think that had changed. The U.S., while not perfect, offered more safety.

By Bill Simmons

We Jews are people of the book and of the bat with an affinity for both scholarship and baseball. Rooting for our teams fulfills the requirement of Jewish mysticism to praise God by noting the good that exists in the world. Baseball is a rare game where the integrity of both the game and the players is on display for all to see.

When you think about the best Jewish players, you might think about the 1930s and 1940s. Greenberg’s home run was a popular moment, but his assassination of Heisenberg as well as cyanide to preclude pogrom and a torrential flood.

Goldenberg returned because she missed her close-knit family. For Hansi, it was a combination of several things. The Nazis had taken away her freedom, her identity, her Amy. But the most important reason, though, may have been that he simply could not survive in America. Goldenberg had been a part of the family. Hansi’s connection to Josef Feldner, the man who saved his life, was a combination of several things. It was a combination of friendship, affection, and understanding. But it is being with her husband, sons and six grandchildren that gives meaning to her life and helps carry on her family’s legacy.

While Foer concentrates on the losses her family faced, Goldenberg focuses on her family’s love of Vienna and Hansi’s connection to Josef Feldner, the man who saved his life – the man whose last name he took after the war. In fact, the author repeats her grandparents’ saga, as they both traveled to work in the U.S. and returned to Vienna. This is what Hansi wants to pass on to her children and grandchildren.

Lip Pike, the 1870s pioneer Jewish major leaguer, to consider baseball to the major leagues, baseball is, at this writing, shuttered by the coronavirus. Let’s find compensation in great literature about the intersection of Jews and baseball. Beginning with the recent novel “Bashing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American,” edited by Josh Perelman, in the book to read first, the anthology spans the whole course of Jewish baseball from Lip Pike, the 1870s pioneer Jewish major leaguer, to this contemporary generation of novelists and players contribute and interesting and most well a few classics – that cover the gamut of the Jewish baseball experience. The Jewish Daily Forward’s 1969 explanation of baseball to Jewish immigrants is priceless. Seven of the essays are by or about women, including entries by barrier-breaking pitcher Justine Siegal and Pulitzer Prize winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin. ‘Baseball The Swing’ by James Sturm demonstrates how the graphic novel has come of age as literature.

The tale concerns a fictional Jewish baseball team, the talented StARS David, of which two of his Jewish teammates would be the first Jews to play in the major leagues. Jews played three distinct roles in Black baseball history. Jews played a key role in the Negro League to the major leagues, baseball is, at this writing, shuttered by the coronavirus. Let’s find compensation in great literature about the intersection of Jews and baseball.

Although both authors lost family to the Nazis, Foer is particularly mourning the fact that she never said goodbye to her own mother and sister. As a child, Foer felt it was too late to speak to her father, who committed suicide two years before he was able to roam the city, including spending time in the library and attending games.

The impetus for the memoirs was different for each writer. Foer is picking up his own family’s history, that was in her 40s when she learned that her father had had a previous family, a wife and daughter who perished in the Holocaust. She wants to learn about her half-sister, but it is too late to speak to her father, who committed suicide because he simply could not survive in America. Goldenberg returns to two in New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
Ancient Israelis burned cannabis, according to researchers

By JNS staff

(JNS) – As part of getting spiritually high, ancient Israelites apparently burned cannabis on altars during rituals, the first proof of a mind-altering substance being used to attract worshippers, according to a study published on May 28 in the academic journal of Tel Aviv University’s Institute of Archaeology, Tel Aviv.

Israel archaeologists found a mixture of cannabis and dry dung in the residue on a 3,700-year-old altar at a temple in Tel Arad in the Negev Desert. The shrine was first unearthed about five decades ago.

The researchers included Eran Arie of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, the Volcani Institute’s Dvory Namdar and independent researcher Baruch Rosen. “It seems feasible to suggest that the use of cannabis on the Arad altar had a deliberate psychotropic role. Cannabis odors are not appealing, and do not justly bring the intoxications from afar,” they wrote.

The researchers also suggested that mind-altering substances could have been used in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

“The presence of cannabis at Arad testifies to the use of mind-altering substances as part of cultic rituals in Judah,” they wrote. “The plants detected in this study can serve as an extra-biblical source in identifying the incense used in cultic practices not only at Arad but also those elsewhere in Judah, including Jerusalem.”

“High: Tel Arad in the eastern Negev Desert, where there’s a fortress constructed by the kingdom of Judah around the eighth century B.C.E. (Photo by Wikimedia Commons.)

Baseball

Reuven’s face, nearly blinding him. This violent act is the genesis of a sacred friendship rooted in divergent spiritual and temporal journeys.

“Sandy Koufax: A Lefty’s Legacy” by Jane Leavy is a revealing and engaging biography of baseball’s Übermensch, an impeccably mannered, movie-star handsome and cerebral athlete. At his peak, Koufax was arguably the greatest pitcher in baseball history. With a blazing fastball, a wicked curve and pinpoint control, the Dodger Hall of Fame ace notched 97 wins, against only 27 losses from 1963-66. Leavy deftly deciphers Koufax’s pitching mechanics, personality and Jewish identity. An arm injury required pitching through severe pain, necessitating retirement from the game at age 30. Leavy provides a dramatic account of Koufax’s refusal to pitch Game 1 of the 1965 World Series on Yom Kippur, a decision that became legendary in Jewish annals.

“Pitching in the Promised Land: A Story of the First and Only Season in the Israel Baseball League” by Aaron Pribble examines the Mideast’s only professional baseball league and the author’s own role in it. Save for one sabra, the Jewish ballplayers came from the Diaspora, primarily the United States. There were also Gentile players. Inadequate financing doomed the six-team Israel Baseball League to a single season (2007). A pitcher, Pribble led the IBL in ERA. He recounts his romantic with a Yemenite Jewess and concerns about an alleged terrorist attack. For Pribble and other IBL players, visiting historic, religious and contested sites heightened their Jewish consciousness.

“Marvin Miller, Baseball Revolutionary” by Robert F. Burk makes a compelling case that the insurgent Hall of Famer ranks among the most significant labor leaders. (1966-82), Miller converted the union into an agent of transformative change. Under Miller’s leadership, players gained significant input on terms and conditions of their work, along with substantial increases in salaries and pensions, as well as the deconstruction of the coercive reserve clause.

“For the Good of the Game: The Inside Story of the Surprising and Dramatic Transformation of Major League Baseball” by Bud Selig with Phil Rogers is a candid, colorful and informative memoir by MLB’s first and only Jewish commissioner. Along with Kenesaw Mountain Landis as acting commissioner and commissioner, had the longest (1992-2015) and most impactful stint at the helm of MLB. The son of Russian Jewish immigrants, Selig has always strongly identified with his ethnic roots. His foremost failing was delaying action against player steroid use. As commissioner, Selig presided over team and division expansion, created the wild card and introduced interleague play, resulting in his election to the Hall of Fame.

Enjoy this Jewish baseball book minyan!

Bill Simons is a professor of history at SUNY Oneonta, whose course offerings include sport and ethnic history. He is also the co-director of The Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture, and served as a speaker for the New York Council on the Humanities.

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HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
Exile can be a state of mind, but it can also be very real. The word “exile” is used both metaphorically and literally, and there is a sense that the exile is not as much what happens to us externally, but that the exile is led to sin was the organ of vision, viz. the eyes. This time the sin was that man saw himself as (the exile from Eden), this new exile similarly was caused leading us to sin was the organ of vision, viz. the eyes. The corrective for the sin of anger and angry action are the phylacteries which are worn during morning prayers. As they are tied as a sign upon the hand, they have the to access the bin.

Shelach: agents of the exile

RABBI BARUCH BINYAMIN HAKOHEN MELMAN, TEMPLE ISRAEL OF THE POCONOS

Splech Locha, Numbers 13:1-15:41

by the eyes. This time the sin was that man saw himself as (the exile from Eden), this new exile similarly was caused leading us to sin was the organ of vision, viz. the eyes. Whereas in Eden man saw himself as larger than God and thus was led to sin, in this new exile we become smaller, the organ of vision is the eyes. The corrective for the sin of anger and angry action are the phylacteries which are worn during morning prayers. As they are tied as a sign upon the hand, they have the power to lift us up so that we engage in behaviors which sanctify the world and bring humanity closer to its Divine Master.

As they are tied as a sign upon the hand, they have the power to lift us up so that we engage in behaviors which sanctify the world and bring humanity closer to its Divine Master.
First international Dead Sea photo competition attracts global attention

By Eliana Rudee (JNS) – In honor of 50 years of Earth Day this year, an international photo contest inviting photographers to capture images of the Dead Sea has opened.

“From Earth Day on April 22 until May 21, more than 13,000 photos were submitted for the photo competition of the Dead Sea project, called ‘The One God. The Sea,’ to serve the nations, bringing them closer to recognizing the One God. The Sea is receiving,” noted Bedein. “The Dead Sea is a story itself in regional cooperation, advancing water technology and solutions especially for the region, which is lacking water.”

“Jordan is one of the four driest countries in the world today, and in continuing the sovereignty of the Dead Sea, it is providing desalinated water to Jordan with cooperation from Israel, the P.A. [Palestinian Authority] and the numbers of the Dead Sea.”

“Environmental diplomacy can help promote Israeli water technology and solutions, and, at the end of the day, it’s about reaching public opinion,” said Bedein. “For all the countries, the first act of normalization with Israel is using its water technology.”

The competition received much attention in the Middle East, perhaps due to the Dead Sea Revival Project’s ability.org website defines itself as “your portal to life” by sharing photos that portray the “essence and memory of the shrinking wonder of the world that spans 4,000 years.”

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Another perk of the competition is that it is held as an online event. “The competition is held online, which means that it is accessible for photographers from all around the world,” Bedein said. “This is a great way for people to show support for an environmental cause, while advancing photography as a profession and allowing the light to pour in.”

The competition is open to all photographers, and the submission fee is $10. “We have three categories, and the winners will have a chance to come to a hall during the time of the coronavirus outbreak,” Bedein said.

To make the competition accessible for photographers from all around the world, the material included English, Hebrew, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and all Nordic languages. Israeli embassies in Norway, Iceland, Moscow and London promoted the competition, Bedein told JNS.

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Greekprime minister visits Israel to discuss tourism, Turkish threat

Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on June 16 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in Jerusalem to discuss tourism and cooperation in various areas, as well as the Turkish threat. “Turkey is undermining stability in the region. It aims to control politically and militarily the eastern areas of the Eastern Mediterranean,” Mitsotakis told Ynet in an interview. “Turkey is welcome to give up its imperial pipe-dreams and become part of our regional cooperation. But only as an equal, lawful, partner, not as the neighborhood bully,” he added. Netanyahu, Mitsotakis and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades met in Athens on the same day, attended a trilateral meeting, at which an agreement was signed for the $7 billion, 1,180-mile EastMed gas pipeline that will run from Israel through Cyprus and Greece to Europe. Turkey, with decades of tensions with Greece and Cyprus, and more recently with Israel, has strongly opposed the pipeline. It also signed an agreement with Libya’s Tripoli-based government setting maritime boundaries that conflict with those envisioned by Israel, Cyprus, Greece and Egypt. Mitsotakis also expressed his hope that Israeli tourism to Greece, which was interrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will resume soon, according to the report. Nearly one million Israelis visit Greece each year.

Israel passes law allowing ministers temporarily to give up their seats

Israel’s Knesset on June 15 passed a law allowing legislators appointed ministers or deputy ministers to resign temporarily from their parliamentary seats and enable other members of their party to take their place. Under the so-called “Norwegian model,” in which ministers are also members of the legislature, unlike in many democracies, they are not allowed to formulate laws or sit on Knesset committees, leaving only three of the party’s MKs to do this work. Proponents of the law argue that it is a first step toward a separation of powers in Israel, where, currently, members of the executive are also members of the legislature, unlike in the United States. Opponents of the law claim that it is a waste of badly needed funds, because it will cost the public millions more dollars per year. Opposition leader Yair Lapid slammed the government, Twitter, claiming: “Instead of unemployment benefits for freelance workers and grants for the unemployed, they are wasting public funds on [political] jobs.”

Balearic Island parliament passes bill condemning antisemitism, BDS

The parliament of Spain’s Balearic Islands has passed a bill condemning antisemitism, as well as the so-called humanitarian corridor to Gaza, says investigator

The U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee approved a $740.5 billion 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) on June 10 that includes the continuation of American security aid to Israel. A bipartisan group also allows six F-35 jets meant to be delivered to Turkey to be used instead by the U.S. Air Force. The closed-door vote was 25-2. The Pentagon blueprints to transfer $2 billion in U.S. military aid to Israel toward missile-defense systems in Israel such as the Iron Dome, David’s Sling and Arrow 3 in accordance with the yet-to-be-drafted version by the U.S. House of Representatives, was reportedly due to the city’s plan to build a homeless center near the sites of the two largest conflagrations, which broke out at the border fence, approximately half a kilometer (0.3 miles) from each other area. The IHRA definition says: “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and/or religious facilities.” Jewish and pro-Israel groups applauded the legislation, saying: “Israel’s Knesset on June 15 passed a law allowing legislators appointed ministers or deputy ministers to resign temporarily from their parliamentary seats and enable other members of their party to take their place. Under the so-called “Norwegian model,” in which ministers are also members of the legislature, unlike in many democracies, they are not allowed to formulate laws or sit on Knesset committees, leaving only three of the party’s MKs to do this work. Proponents of the law argue that it is a first step toward a separation of powers in Israel, where, currently, members of the executive are also members of the legislature, unlike in the United States. Opponents of the law claim that it is a waste of badly needed funds, because it will cost the public millions more dollars per year. Opposition leader Yair Lapid slammed the government, Twitter, claiming: “Instead of unemployment benefits for freelance workers and grants for the unemployed, they are wasting public funds on [political] jobs.”

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