

## Statements against racism

### Local rabbis affirm Binghamton Interfaith Clergy Statement Against Racism

Rabbis Geoffrey Brown, Rachel Esserman and Barbara Goldman-Wartell are among local clergy who signed the "Binghamton Interfaith Clergy Statement Against Racism." The text of that statement follows.

As leaders of diverse predominantly white faith communities in the Binghamton, New York area, we are angry and saddened by the unspeakable tragedies of the Black deaths we have been witness to in recent weeks and the hideous underbelly of white supremacy that these events and the response to them has revealed.

We confess that our eyes have not always been open to the plight of those who have been the victims of brutality and violence. As people of privilege we are usually blind to 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 poor and 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 See "Clergy" on page 2

### JCC of Binghamton affirms anti-racism message

The Jewish Community Center of Binghamton affirms the message offered by its national organization, JCC Association of North America, which is the umbrella organization for all JCCs, YM-YWHAs and camps throughout North America.

**Statement from the JCCA: When One Community Hurts, We All Feel the Pain**

**"Each of Us Has a Part to Play"**

Rabbi Tarfon taught: "It is not your responsibility to finish the work [of perfecting the world], but you are not free to desist from it either." (Pirkei Avot 2:16)

We are profoundly disturbed and deeply offended by the specter of racism and discrimination in this country and join with the Black community and with all those demanding that we live up to the principles of freedom, equality, and justice that are the cornerstones of our society.

These same principles are integral to who we are. We take great pride in our own diversity – as a Jewish community and as a movement. People of color, of diverse

faiths and backgrounds, new immigrants and veteran Americans and Canadians all are part of our movement. They are JCC members and participants, and they hold proud and honored places on the staffs and boards of Jewish Community Centers and Camps from coast to coast. Embracing and honoring that diversity is fundamental to our mission – and may now be more important than ever.

We are inspired by voices calling upon us to come together to root out racism and inequality while those who would incite and 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 our diversity as Jews and as a community, is at the very heart of who we are and what we aspire to be.

Elie Wiesel, of blessed memory, Holocaust survivor and symbol of the Jewish people's triumph over evil during the worst period of vicious antisemitism in history, left us a legacy of great wisdom, See "JCC" on page 2

## Chabad Center to offer virtual tribute program

Chabad Center will hold a virtual tribute program "Alone, With G-d," to mark the 26<sup>th</sup> *yahrtzeit* of the Lubavitcher Rebbe on Tuesday, June 23, at 7:30 pm, via Zoom at [www.Jewishbu.com/virtual](http://www.Jewishbu.com/virtual). Prior registration for the program is not necessary. The multimedia program, produced by Yuval Films, explores through film and study the personal journals of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, much of which was written during his years as a refugee in Nazi Europe. Combining readings of eight entries from these journals with archival footage from the time and place in which they were written, the 35-minute film offers what has been called "a powerful and immediate encounter with the Rebbe's way of thinking in the face of devastating uncertainty."

"This program is not a Holocaust program," explained Rivkah Slonim. "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 – this is how many of us feel today. A study of the Rebbe's thinking during those challenging times can offer all of us new ways to think constructively – even during very difficult times."

"There is no question that the time in which these entries were written was 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 end-

ed. 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 *reshimot*, accompanied him in all his travels. The *reshimot* span the period from 1928-50.

"In these hundreds of pages, written with extreme concision in a small and crowded hand, are novel insights and collections of sources in all areas of the Torah, the legal and non-legal passages of the Talmud, ethics and homiletics, customs and practices, stories, lessons in the service of the

Creator and more," said organizers of the event. "The *reshimot* contain 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 will be explored further in a series of classes allowing participants to experience the way the Rebbe thought and wrote. The entry explores such topics as *hashgocho protis*, Divine providence, and *dirah b'tachonim*, building a dwelling place for the Divine, and the centrality of man to both. The three-part course will be offered on three successive Monday nights at 7 pm beginning June 29 via Zoom. To register for the classes, e-mail [rslonim@Jewishbu.com](mailto:rslonim@Jewishbu.com).

## Film Fest second virtual showing also "a success"

By Reporter staff

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, Daniel 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 rejections he 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 professional baseball player, and a member of Team Israel, Alex Katz join the Zoom call," she said. "Alex is currently signed



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

with the Kansas City Royals and will be playing for Team Israel in the Olympics in 2021. It was a

lot of fun to talk with them both. They answered questions for almost 50 minutes and covered everything from the team's trip to Israel, to the current state of baseball during COVID-19, to antisemitism in the sport."

Hubal also noted the positive response of viewers to the film. "Everyone I heard from really enjoyed the film," she added. "Many felt a real sense of pride in watching. If you were not able to view the film with us, it is available on iTunes."

In addition, Hubal noted the community's contribution to making the event a success. "I'd also like to offer a thank you to everyone that made a donation in support of the Film Fest," she said.

The Film Fest Committee is not certain if more films will be screened this season. If the committee does decide to offer more films, information will appear in future issues of *The Reporter*.

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including this excerpt from his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech in 1986: "I swore never to be silent whenever wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must – at that moment – become the center of the universe."

It's going to get better, and each of us has a part to play. **"Create Space for Healing and Justice"**

We at JCC Association are grieving and in solidarity with our Black coworkers, members, partners, neighbors, program participants, and the Black community across North America. You are our community. We cannot and we will not avert our gaze from your suffering.

We are heartbroken and outraged by the recent, senseless murders of Black Americans and countless others invoked in the cries we are hearing all over the globe.

May their memories be a blessing.

We are humbled by the breadth of the JCC Movement,

which connects us to hundreds of diverse communities across the continent. When one community hurts, we feel that pain. Standing in our Jewish context and experience, we link arms with the Black community to denounce the egregious crimes of hate and intolerance – the murders of precious Black lives.

How can we be better? How can we ensure that injustice does not prevail in our community? Rooted in our Jewish values of justice (*tzedek*), loving kindness (*chesed*) and repairing the world (*tikkun olam*), we wholeheartedly honor the experiences of our Black colleagues and commit to work internally to create space for healing and justice in our organization.

Community is at the center of our name. As leaders of the JCC Movement, the beautiful mosaic of our communities is our greatest strength. We are made better daily by our Black colleagues and community members – those who care for our seniors and children, tend to our health and wellness, enrich us through arts and culture, and strengthen us in countless other ways. We thank them not only with words, but loving action.

May this be a promise. May we begin here, with both humility and strength. Let us do better, and play our important part, in repairing this world.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

From JNS.org

**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 the Palestinians, but rejected President Donald Trump's "Peace to Prosperity" plan as the basis for any international process. In comments he made after chairing video discussions between the ministers 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 internationally 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 other way than to resume talks." Israel has repeatedly called on the Palestinians to join it at the negotiation table, to no avail.

**Clergy**.....Continued from page 1

by and supporting Black leadership in our community in identifying the problems and solutions needed to bring about justice, and therefore work for peace.

We affirm today that we are our sibling's keeper. Our traditions proclaim that we cannot stand idly by while our neighbor bleeds (Lev. 19: 16). Today we commit ourselves to the work of healing the wounds of racism and systems of privilege in all of their forms and work toward a day when all of God's children will be treated with the dignity that is due to those of sacred worth.

We commit ourselves to the work toward the transformation of ourselves and our faith communities. We will educate our faith communities on the realities of racism and its predominance in our world. We will listen to the protesters and learn from 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 be in harm's way.

We acknowledge, uphold, and will actively work to support the goals outlined by the NAACP:

- Binghamton must reinstate its standing Citizen Review Board and invest it with subpoena power.
- Review of Police Departments Use of Force Continuum, ensuring that they have at least 6 levels of steps, with clear rules on escalation.
- Banning of kneeholds and chokeholds as acceptable in Use of Force Continuums
- 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's record of disciplining or charging officers charged with misconduct.

ment's record of disciplining or charging officers charged with misconduct.

Together we take a journey of transformation to ground ourselves in the deep truth that our own liberation and wholeness are woven into the larger struggle for racial justice, and in deep solidarity with black, brown, and native clergy and faith leaders to embody the beloved community.

We pray that the God of justice and compassion will empower all of God's people to work toward the dismantling of the systems of oppression and privilege. We will work together for the day when all people are treated with the same sacred worth. Finally, we hope for the transformation of systems of oppression and privilege to systems that acknowledge the inherent worth of all individuals and create a better world.

We, the undersigned, affirm this statement:

**Opinion**

*In My Own Words*

**Changing the police force**

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I 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 works in a sweat shop, bemoans the fact that she's in love with a "cop." She thinks about what would happen if she tried to introduce him to her friends: she knows they despise the police who arrested strikers protesting for a living wage.

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 how the police treated you depended on who you were. She was referring to police action against anti-war and civil rights protestors who were often treated badly. A recent reminder of this occurred when someone in my rabbinical

association noted the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the shooting at Kent State University, a shooting done by the National Guard, which is another type of police force.

By now it's clear that there is systemic racism in many – if not most – police forces. This is not to condemn all policemen, but, like the rest of us, they are often blinded by the privileges with which they were born. There has been talk about changing or dismantling police forces across the country. Some worry this will lead to anarchy and lawlessness. There does need to be some kind of social control, especially in large societies, but does it have to look like a police force or are there other possible ways for this to happen?

What most people don't realize is that the professional police force is a fairly recent historical development. The first professional police force was founded in London in 1829 when the Metropolitan Police Act was passed by Parliament. During Colonial times in the United States, part-time night watchmen kept an eye out for illegal activities. Some of them were volunteers, while others worked for private corporations. It wasn't until 1838 in Boston that the first publicly-funded police force was created. It was the first U.S. police force to have paid full-time workers. Sometimes the police were used by political bosses and/or big business to enforce a particular kind of social control – against political opponents or striking workers. Over time, the definition of what the police are responsible for changed and increased.

(As an aside: In the American South before the Civil War, Slave Patrols served as a type of police force. As their name suggests, their purpose was to return escaped slaves to their masters, for which they were paid a reward. They also sometimes captured free Blacks and sold them in slavery.)

Where does this leave us today? That's an excellent question and one that legislators are beginning to investigate. Do we reform current police departments, using education to teach them to better deal with minority communities? Do we demand that those who use excessive force on a regular basis be fired? Do we seek new ways to handle problems before they arise, for example, more help for those addicted to drug and employment programs that offer a living wage? Should we reconsider what is a criminal offense and what behavior deserves treatment and reform, rather than imprisonment? Perhaps we need a mix of all of the above.

Every society – from hunter-gatherer groups to advanced technological ones – needs some form of social control. What form that takes is open to debate. Everyone in a society needs to feel they are protected and safe. Yet the cynic in me notes that no society – and no police force or other structure we set up – will ever be perfect because imperfect humans will be doing the work. However, as the ancient rabbis noted, we must try to create a better world. That's the task of every generation, even if we fear that perfect world will never exist.

**Correction**

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



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# Virtual production featuring Wendy Wasserstein's writing at Hangar Theatre

The Hangar Theatre Company will perform "Uncommon Excerpts and Others: The Wendy Chronicles" directed by Hangar's Artistic Director Michael Barakiva and Associate Artistic Director/Education Director Shirley Serotsky on Saturday, June 20, at 7:30 pm. Virtual tickets cost \$20 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" and "The Sisters Rosensweig") 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 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 – educational and recreational – for those who are not allowed out of the house. Below is a sampling of those. *The Reporter* will publish additional listings as they become available.

- ◆ Sal Litvak, AKA the Accidental Talmud, is offering a live show on Facebook based on the Daf Yomi cycle of Talmud study. The cycle began on January 5. To find information about current and past episodes, visit [www.accidentaltalmudist.org/atdaily/](http://www.accidentaltalmudist.org/atdaily/).

- ◆ 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://thejle.com/kik/>.

- ◆ 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](http://www.qesher.com).

- ◆ The Folio: A Jewish Week/UJA Cultural Series "On the Trail of Kafka's Literary Afterlife" – a virtual conversation with Benjamin Balint, who won the 2020 Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature for his book "Kafka's Last Trial: The Case of a Literary Legacy" – will take place on Thursday, June 25, at 6 pm. He will be in conversation with Sandee Brawarsky, cultural editor of the *Jewish Week*. To register, visit [www.ujafedny.org/event/view/folio-balint](http://www.ujafedny.org/event/view/folio-balint). Donations to support the event will be accepted.

- ◆ Tikvah Online Academy, <https://tikvahfund.org/academy/>, offers seminars for seven-eighth-graders, ninth-10th-graders, 11th-12th-graders and college 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. Its weekly online classes can be taken from anywhere in the world, and students are welcome to enroll in one or more courses throughout summer 2020.

- ◆ 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 at [www.YouTube.com](http://www.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 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 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 country are part of the curriculum. Classes will take place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. For information, e-mail [ML@ots.org.il](mailto:ML@ots.org.il).

- ◆ Green Olive Tours offered some free virtual tours of Jerusalem. It's too late to take them live, but the videos of the tours are available at <https://blog.toursinenglish.com/p/resources.html>.

See "Family" on page 7



## DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
July 3 .....	June 24
July 17 .....	July 8
July 31 .....	July 22
August 14 .....	August 5



*Dr. Arielle Marisa Payes*

Congratulations on completing your studies and being awarded your Psy.D. doctorate from Pepperdine University. We are all so proud of you!

*Love, Mom, Dad, Aaron, & Adam*

### HOWARD ROBERT GREEN

Howard Robert Green of Binghamton NY, 75 years young, passed away peacefully Tuesday May 26, 2020, at Wilson Hospital. He fought a great battle every day. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Lynne Green, sons Jay and Brett, daughters Pam and Rae Ellen, and their spouses Michelle, Wendy, Lee and Jason, in addition to 11 grandchildren and his loving brother Stuart. And man's best friend, his third rescue dog Mavis.

For the past 52 years with his brother Stuart, Howard owned Magic City Ice. He was a workaholic, but behind the tough exterior was a true marshmallow and softy. He loved his Boston Red Sox and his alma mater University of Alabama, where he met his bride Lynne. Patience was not his forte, but he truly loved watching his children and grandchildren compete in sports. When he was ready to go from anywhere or any event it wasn't personal, he just left!

In the final days of his life, everything came full circle. He made peace with everyone in the family. He was kind, he was loving, he thanked people, he told them he loved them. That was the father, the husband, the brother, the person that everyone knew was in him, that showed in his last days. The whole entire Green family will miss and love him dearly. He will be in our hearts forever!

On Thursday, May 28, 2020, funeral services were held privately by immediate family members at Temple Israel Riverside Cemetery, in Binghamton, NY. Any donations in Howard's name can be made to the Humane Society of Binghamton New York.

☆☆☆

## We Want the Community to Kvell with You!

If your baby was born between July 2019 and July 2020, submit your baby's picture to us for our FAMILY LIVING ISSUE on July 3. Pictures must be in our hands by Tuesday, June 23. You are welcome to put your photo into an envelope and stop by or mail to our office at the JCC (500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal), slide it under our door if we're not open, or e-mail to [TReporter@aol.com](mailto:TReporter@aol.com) as a JPEG or TIFF. Please include baby's name, sex, date of birth, parents' names, and living grandparents' names and great-grandparents' names.



Photos may be picked up at *The Reporter* after July 3<sup>rd</sup> or include a self-addressed stamped envelope and we will send them back.



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Coming to our July 17 issue...

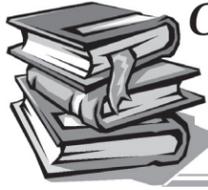
# The 2020 Annual Community Guide

the largest issue of the year, with special business, dine-out, health care sections & more!

Issue date: July 17 • Ad deadline: July 9



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Off the Shelf

# Family and finding a home

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

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 Esther Safran Foer (Tim Duggan Books) and "I Belong to Vienna: A Jewish Family's Story of Exile and Return" by Anna Goldenberg (New Vessel Press). Foer, who was born in Europe to Holocaust survivors, notes how her mother – who refused ever to set foot in Ukraine once safe in the U.S. – feared for Foer's safety when she traveled to that country in 2009. Goldenberg writes of how her Austrian grandparents, who lived through World War II, chose to return permanently to Vienna after spending time in the United States. Reading the books felt like a study in contrasts.

The impetus for the memoirs was different for each writer. Foer is looking to uncover family history; the author 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, on the other hand, explores why her family has felt such a close connection to Vienna, even after the treatment they received during the war. She knows much more about her grandfather Hansi's story than those of other members of the family. Hansi, who survived the war by hiding in the apartment of a family friend, wrote about his experiences, which were not typical. Since Hansi didn't look Jewish, he was able to roam the city, including spending time in the library and attending the opera.

Although both authors lost family to the Nazis, Foer is far more haunted by the loss. She lists family names, but

wishes she could uncover more details about their lives, even as she continues to search through databases and meets people who knew them. She continues to use her maiden name, Safran, so it will not disappear – the last name Safran Foer might be familiar to readers of the books written by two of her sons, Jonathan and Joshua. Foer's mother did not have an easy adjustment to life after the war, particularly mourning the fact that she never said goodbye to her own mother and sister. As a child, Foer felt it was her responsibility to bring her mother joy, especially after the death of her father.

After years of research, Foer decides she needs to travel to Ukraine to see the country herself and visit the sites where her relatives lived and died. She is accompanied by her son, Franklin, a historian, who helps her to understand what she sees. It is an extremely emotional trip, particularly when she and Franklin visit the mass grave where her grandmother, great-grandmother and too many other relatives for her to count are buried. Between her research and her journey, she learns enough about her family, including her half-sister, to give her some feeling of relief 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. Goldenberg returned because she missed her close-knit family. For Hansi, it was a combination of several things.

After experiencing prejudice first-hand in Europe, he and his wife were disturbed by the racial discrimination and segregation even black physicians experienced in the U.S. While his wife became fluent in English, Hansi never felt at home in the language. Not being able to express himself or to understand others made him extremely uncomfortable. The most important reason, though, may have been that Hansi could not desert Feldner. He knew that, while he might have finally been able to settle in the U.S., the man who was like a father to him could not. The two had become very close over the years and Feldner had been a major influence on the direction Hansi's life took after the war. That connection could not be broken.

Goldenberg notes that when Hansi wrote of his experiences during the war, he didn't seem frightened or unsettled during the time he was hiding. The opposite was felt by Foer's mother, who, in her old age, was still afraid of the treatment a Jew might receive in Ukraine. The allure of Vienna seemed to override what the Germans and 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.

Book club members and readers who enjoy seeing two sides of an issue should find it interesting to read "I Want You to Know We're Still Here" and "I Belong to Vienna" together. The stories complement each other, while, at the same time, showing the different directions people's lives took in the aftermath of World War II and the Holocaust.

## Play Ball! Jews in the outfield (and the infield, too)

### Baseball book minyan: Ten great titles on Jews and the national pastime

By Bill Simons

We Jews are people of the book and of the bat with an affinity for both scholarship and baseball. Beyond rooting for our home teams, we pay special attention to Jewish players on other teams. Our diamond is six-pointed. Something is missing this season, however. From Little 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. A baseball book minyan, 10 volumes on Jews and the national pastime, follows.

"Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American," edited by Josh Perelman, is the book to read first. The anthology spans the whole course of Jewish baseball from Lip Pike, the 1870s pioneer Jewish major leaguer, to contemporary times. An all-star team of journalists, scholars, novelists and players contribute observant and interesting essays – most original and a few classic reprints – that cover the gamut of the Jewish baseball experience. The *Jewish Daily Forward's* 1909 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.

"The Golem's Mighty Swing" by James Sturm demonstrates that the graphic novel has come of age as literature. The tale concerns a fictional Jewish baseball team, the talented Stars of David, who dramatize their Jewishness

to attract curious fans. The Stars, challenging local town teams, barnstorming the Christian – and often antisemitic – Midwest of the 1920s. The golem of the title, evoking the creature of Jewish mythology fashioned from inanimate material, is actually a massive former Negro Leaguer who plays for the Stars. In the novel's climax, the Stars of David, under the leadership of their playing manager, symbolically named Noah, just barely escape an American pogrom and a torrential flood.

"The Catcher Was a Spy: The Mysterious Life of Moe Berg" by Nicholas Dawidoff is a compelling, albeit critical, biography of probably the most brilliant and enigmatic individual to ever play Major League Baseball. The son of Russian immigrant Jews, Berg was an implacable foe of the Nazis. For 15 seasons, he was a "good field, no hit" catcher. Berg was also a linguist, attorney and America's top atomic spy during World War II. Charged by the OSS with monitoring German physicist Werner Heisenberg, Berg carried a pistol in case circumstances necessitated the assassination of Heisenberg as well as cyanide to preclude his own capture.

"Hank Greenberg: The Hero of Heroes" by John Rosengren is the definitive biography of the Jewish Hall of Fame slugger of the 1930s and 1940s. Greenberg's home run exploits strongly resonated in the consciousness of the second-generation Jewish Americans who came of age amidst the rising antisemitism of the Great Depression and World War II. Exhaustively researched, candid in interpre-

tation, fully contextualized and well written, Rosengren affirms and augments the case for Greenberg's status as a central figure in baseball and Jewish-American history. Greenberg's relationship with Judaism threads through the biography, including the Detroit Tiger superstar's dilemma over whether to play on the High Holidays.

"Out of Left Field: Jews and Black Baseball" by Rebecca Alpert tells the little-known story of Jewish involvement in Black baseball in the years before Jackie Robinson integrated MLB. Jews played three distinct roles in Black baseball – entrepreneurs, reformers and players. Alpert introduces Jewish booking agents, promoters, league officials and team owners who occupied a central role in the Negro Leagues. Significant support for baseball integration came from Jewish sportswriters, including *Daily Worker* pundits. And Black Jewish ballplayers, recounts Alpert, found their most notable representation in the Belleville Grays, a team sponsored by Temple Beth El in Belleville, VA.

"The Chosen" by Chaim Potok is an outlier amongst our baseball book minyan. Only the first chapter concerns bats and balls, and the game is softball. In 1944, the penultimate year of World War II, two very different Jewish school teams compete on an asphalt diamond in Brooklyn. The star batter on the Chasidic squad, Danny Saunders, hates the largely assimilated players on the opposing Modern Orthodox team, particularly its pitcher Reuven Malter. From Danny's bat, a ferocious line drive smashes into **See "Baseball" on page 5**

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Canticoke Farms, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/20/20. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 7952 State Rte. 79, Whitney Point, NY 13862. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of KBGC, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/22/2020. 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, 106 Washington Avenue, #1, Endicott, New York 13760. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of ONE SMART FELLER LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with

Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/29/20. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Registered Agent Solutions, Inc., 99 Washington Ave., Ste. 1008, Albany, NY 12260. Purpose: any lawful activities.

LPK Textiles International LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 4/29/2020. Cty: Broome. SSNY design. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Glenn Purcell, 37 W. 39th St., Ste. 1101, NY, NY 10018. General Purpose.

Notice of Formation of J.L. Woit Engineering, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with NYS Dept. of State (SSNY) on 5/11/2020. Office location: Broome County.

SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: 22 Cumberland Way, Scarborough, ME 04074. Purpose: Any Lawful 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 Confluence Plaza LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is May 18, 2020.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.

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LLC is located is Broome.

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Notice of Formation of Building Washington LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/16/2017. 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: Corporate Filings of New York, 90 State Street, Suite 700, Office 40, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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# Ancient Israelites 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.

Israeli researchers found a mixture of cannabis and dry dung in the residue on a 2,700-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 psychoactive role. Cannabis odors are not appealing, and do not justify bringing the inflorescences 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."

*At right: Tel Arad in the eastern Negev Desert, where there's a fortress constructed by the kingdom of Judah around the eighth century BCE. (Photo by Wikimedia Commons)*



## Baseball.....

Continued from page 4

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 Famer 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 romance 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. Growing up in a Jewish home and subject to antisemitism as a collegiate, Miller early on developed a strong commitment to social justice. Prior to Miller, professional baseball was dominated by team owners. As executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association

(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, Selig, 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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## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

### Israel's Supreme Court overturns "Settlement Regulation Law"

Israel's Supreme Court ruled on June 9 against legislation aimed at retroactively legalizing settlements in certain parts of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank). The Judea and Samaria Regulation Law, passed by the Knesset in 2017, allows for the legalization of the status of Israeli residences built on Palestinian-owned land. In a nearly unanimous decision, eight of the nine justices on the panel ruled the Regulation Law "unconstitutional," on the grounds that it "violates the property rights and equality of Palestinians, and gives clear priority to the interests of Israeli settlers over Palestinian residents." The law, which has been frozen since its passage three years ago, stipulates that the land on which the settlements have been built will remain the property of their legal Palestinian owners, but their usage will be expropriated by Israel. In exchange, the owners will be compensated at a rate of 125 percent of the property's value. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party responded by stating, "It is unfortunate that the Supreme Court would invalidate an important ruling for settlement and its future. We will work to legislate a new law." Likud's partners in the government, the Blue and White Party – led by Defense Minister and Vice Premier Benny Gantz – reacted differently. "We respect the Supreme Court's decision and will make sure it is upheld." The power of the courts was one of the key issues in the recent rounds of Knesset elections, and remains a main point of contention between the right and the left, with the former vowing to fight against judicial overreach and the latter defending the judges' intervening in political matters.

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## Weekly Parasha

Shelach Lecha, Numbers 13:1-15:41

# Shelach: agents of the exile

RABBI BARUCH BINYAMIN HAKOHEN MELMAN, TEMPLE ISRAEL OF THE POCONOS

Exile can be a state of mind, but it can also be very real. The Nation of Israel was on track to be united with the Land of Israel when the sin of the spies caused a deep rupture, delaying the reunion until the passing of the generation that was accustomed to a negative slave mind set. Thus, the exile of the mind led to an exile of the body. Our thoughts determine who we are to become, what our destiny will be.

The Torah identifies two agents of the exile. One agent leading us to sin was the organ of vision, viz. the eyes. Whereas in Eden man saw himself as larger than God and thus his eyes caused him to disobey, leading to the first exile (the exile from Eden), this new exile similarly was caused by the eyes. This time the sin was that man saw himself as being too small, just the opposite of Eden!

"...We were *in our eyes* like tiny grasshoppers, that's all

that we were *in their eyes* (*vanhi v'eyneynu kachagavim v'chen hayinu b'eyneyhem* – Numbers 13:33).

This smallness of vision was a universal pathology. The fixing or corrective for the sin of Eden was not that man should think of himself as being small, God forbid, but rather that he should see his own greatness and become a partner with God to fix the world. Obeying God is essentially forming a partnership with the Divine.

The sin of anger is the other root cause of our exile, in fact of all forms of exile – physical, spiritual, national and moral.

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 Source. There is anger, but there is also the acting out of the anger. They are not the same, not identical. God became angry at times with Israel, but Moshe was able to assuage that anger. The *tefillin* on the arm in a sense symbolize that binding, that sense of restraint, and can save us from irrevocable action we may later regret. The *yad* is the hand, but it also symbolizes the 10 spies who spoke negatively about the Land. By gazing at the *yad* we can recall and fix through our speech that which had impacted us so negatively. We can put out our hand and say *dai*, enough, by just switching the letters, and be conscious of how our words can impact others.

At the end of our *parasha*, Shelach (Numbers 13:38), See "Exile" on page 7

## Congregational Notes

### 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-3:30 pm; Fri., 8 am-3 pm  
 E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbb.com  
 Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org  
 Service Schedule: Tuesday, 5:30 pm; Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am

On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom.

On Saturday, June 20, the Torah portion is Numbers 13:1-15:41 and the haftarah is Joshua 2:1-24.

On Saturday, June 20, at 9:15 pm, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Sunday, June 21, at noon, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Torah study services via Zoom.

Temple Israel is collecting for CHOW during regular business hours. The bin is between the two sets of glass doors at the entrance. Buzz to enter the first set of doors to access the bin.

Temple office hours will be Friday, June 19, 8 am-noon; Monday, June 22, 2-4 pm; Tuesday, June 23, office closed; Wednesday, June 2, 10 am-noon; Thursday, June 25, 2-4 pm; and closed Friday, June 26.

### 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

### 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.

### 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  
 Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education  
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 E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com  
 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.

### 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.

### 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 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.

### Kol Haverim

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

Friday, June 19, light candles before..... 8:24 pm  
 Saturday, June 20, Shabbat ends ..... 9:25 pm  
 Friday, June 26, light candles before..... 8:25 pm  
 Saturday, June 27, Shabbat ends ..... 9:26 pm

### 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.

All services and programs are online only. Friday night Shabbat services will start at 7 pm for the month of June.

Friday, June 19: Shabbat services at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/97613250758>, or by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 976 1325 0758 and password 610020, or at [www.facebook.com/templeconcord/](http://www.facebook.com/templeconcord/).

Saturday June 20: Torah study at 9:15 am at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102>, or by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 342 411 102.

Saturday, June 20: "Havdalah with a Bonus" at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866>, by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 526 246 866, or at [www.facebook.com/templeconcord/](http://www.facebook.com/templeconcord/).

Friday, June 26: Shabbat services, which will celebrate Pride Month and use additional materials, at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/97613250758> or by calling 929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 976 1325 0758 and password 610020, or at [www.facebook.com/templeconcord/](http://www.facebook.com/templeconcord/).

Saturday June 27: Torah study at 9:15 am at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102>, or by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 342 411 102.

Saturday June 27: "Havdalah with a Bonus" at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866>, or by calling 929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 526 246 866, or at [www.facebook.com/templeconcord/](http://www.facebook.com/templeconcord/).

### 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.

### Norwich Jewish Center

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

### Temple 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.

# First international Dead Sea photo competition attracts global attention

By Eliana Rudee

(JNS) – In honor of 50 years of Earth Day this year, an Israeli-led photo competition by photojournalist and Dead Sea activist Noam Bedein garnered global attention with nearly 9.1 million votes cast for 3,500 photographers hailing from more than 40 countries around the world.

From Earth Day on April 22 until May 21, more than 13,000 photos were submitted for the photo competition of the Dead Sea, which was initiated to help preserve the memory of the shrinking wonder of the world that spans both Israel and Jordan. According to Bedein, the competition represents a new way to “bring the Dead Sea back to life” by sharing photos that portray the “essence and beauty” of the sea, “the joy it brings to those who visit it,” as well as a way to “illustrate the dramatic changes and environmental challenges it faces.”

Bedein, with ex-fashion designer turned entrepreneur and art collector Ari Leon Fruchter, whose family are among



A view of the Dead Sea from inside a cave covered in salt and other minerals. (Photo courtesy of JNS)

## Exile . . . . . Continued from page 6

we have the mitzvah of wearing fringes on the corners of our garments – *veasu lahem tzitzit al kanfei bigdeyhem ledorotam* “have them make tassels on the corners of their garments for all their generations.”

This is already a sign of our healing. The reference to future generations speaks to Israel’s eternal mission. *tzitzit*, the singular, is the diadem of gold that the High Priest wore on his forehead (Leviticus 8:9). *tzitzit* is the plural, and yet, it lacks the letter *yud* which indicates the plural form. It is spelled *tzadi*, *yud*, *tzadi*, *tav*. The missing letter *yud* (numerical value of 10) reminds us of the 10 spies who caused Israel to sin. More importantly, it reminds us that just as the *kohen gadol*, the high priest, had the words *Kodesh Lashem*, Holy to God, engraved on his *tzitzit*, his golden diadem, so, too, is *all* of Israel, as represented by the *yud*, the community of 10, enjoined to strive to be Holy before God, for all their generations. Phylacteries are essentially that – a spiritual prophylactic to prevent and ward off the potential for spiritual exile which inheres within each of us, both as individuals and as a nation.

The *tefillin shel rosh*, the head *tefillin* which rest above and between the eyes, serves as the symbolic spiritual prophylactic for the nation – in the realm of thought and vision, while the *tefillin shel yad*, the arm *tefillin*, serve as a spiritual prophylactic for their actions in the realm of deed. The *tzitzit*, the fringed garment, points to a unity between the people and its spiritual leadership, in that one day all of Israel will come to take on its destined priestly role to serve God and to serve the nations, bringing them closer to recognizing the One God. The *tzitzit* are a fixing for the sin of the spies.

“*Ve lo taturu acharei levavchem ve’acharei eyneychem...*” – “and so that you not go through the world as tourists, without responsibility or sense of consequences – following after your heart and your eyes...”

Being that this passage follows the narrative of the spies and actually uses the same word root (*latur*), it is clear that the *tallit* is therefore a fixing for the sin of our forefathers when their eyes and their hearts led them astray. *Levavchem* (your hearts) is in the plural. Just as we have two eyes we also have two hearts.

The *tallit* envelops us, ensconces us, serving as a reminder of God’s own generous eye and expansive heart. The thread of blue in the *tallit* reminds us of heaven. It gives us hope. The Kabbalah teaches that *tikva*, or hope, is connected to the word *yikavu*, as in *yikavu hamayim*, from Genesis. There is an opening created, a channel, allowing the light to pour in. As Leonard Cohen, the late poet/singer has said, “there is a crack in everything. That’s how the light gets in.”

Hashem made the first holy crack to let in the holy rays of light. This supernal ray connects us to creation, and in wearing the *tallit* we connect with the primordial hope instilled within the cosmos at the dawn of creation. Our morning prayers, when we don all three – the *tallit* and the two *batei tefillin*, the two phylacteries, are to bring us closer to the realization of the dream – to end our collective soul exile and thus restore Eden’s vision of harmony in our lives. May it come quickly and soon in our day.

the founders of the Israel Museum, is currently laying the foundations of the Dead Sea Museum, which features art exhibitions in virtual reality and commissioned digital artworks, with a permanent virtual museum and exhibition. The top 40 images from the competition will be printed and included in an exhibition planned for September 16 at the Dead Sea in collaboration with the Dead Sea Museum, at which point \$6,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded.

“With millions of visitors year after year, this natural wonder – once the beauty secret of Cleopatra – is literally vanishing before our eyes. A complex array of environmental, economic and political factors is causing the Dead Sea to disappear at an alarming rate and we feel it is time to enshrine these images before it is too late,” said Bedein ahead of the competition.

Bedein has been photographing the Dead Sea through time-lapse photography for the last four years and leading eco-boat tours there, though both have come to a halt during the time of the coronavirus outbreak.

To make the competition accessible for photographers from all around the world, translations of 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.

“This is a great way for people to show support for an environmental cause. It’s been exciting to see the attention the Dead 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,” he continued. “So the first priority of the ‘Red-Dead canal,’ is providing desalinated water to Jordan with cooperation from Israel, the P.A. [Palestinian Authority] and Jordan.

“Environmental diplomacy can help promote Israeli water technology and solutions, and, at the end of the day, can influence public opinion,” said Bedein. “For many 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

## Family . . . . . Continued from page 3

◆ Matan is offering a four-part series, “Disability Wisdom in Jewish Tradition Webinar Series with Rabbi Lauren Tuchman.” The four-session online class will look at what Judaism has to say about the role and agency of people with disabilities as subjects and shapers of their own lives and experiences. The first session has already taken place, but it’s still possible to attend any of the final three, which will take place on Thursdays, June 25, July 2 and July 9. For more information or to register, visit [www.tfaforms.com/4830268](http://www.tfaforms.com/4830268).

◆ Respectability is holding a series of webinars on “Disability Access and Inclusion Training Series for Jewish Organizations and Activists.” For more information on specific training sessions or to register, visit [www.respectability.org/jewish-events/](http://www.respectability.org/jewish-events/).

◆ Masa is holding a virtual Israel Fair on Sunday, June 21, at <https://masaisrael.easyvirtuallfair.com/>. Those who sign up for a Masa program are permitted to travel to Israel. There will be more than 70 Masa program representatives to help people find a program, whether people are looking to develop a career, study abroad, travel or volunteer.

◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold the series “Family History Today: Jewish Refugees and the U.S.-Mexico Border Live on Zoom” on Monday, June 29, at 6 pm. The program will look at the refugees who left Europe and the Middle East between the two world wars, first traveling to Latin America and then moving to the U.S. Moriah Amit, the Center for Jewish History’s senior genealogy librarian, will explore this lesser-known history of Jewish refugee immigration. Donations are requested, but not required. For more information or to register, visit <https://jewishrefugees.bpt.me/>.

◆ Aleph is holding a series of virtual concerts. These include “An Evening of Social Justice and Praise: Featuring Nefesh Mountain and Hazzan Jessi Roemer” on Sunday, June 28, at 7:30 pm; “Erev Shel Kochavim: An Evening of Stars,” an Aleph virtual cabaret, on Sunday, July 19, at 7 pm (welcome and centering from 6:45-7:15 pm); “Sing a New Song Psalms Showcase

◆ Featuring Cantor Linda Hirschhorn, Rabbi David Shneyer and Friends” on Sunday, August 16, at 7:30 pm; and “Rosh Chodesh Elul: Evening of Kirtan Chant Featuring the Kirtan Rabbi and Friends” on Thursday, August 20, at 7:30 pm. The cost is “pay what you can.” For more information and to register, visit <https://aleph.org/rocsconcerts>.

◆ The website jewishLIVE defines itself as “your portal to live-streaming Jewish experiences on the internet.” For more information, visit [www.jewishlive.org](http://www.jewishlive.org).

For additional resources, see previous issues of *The Reporter* on its website, [www.thereporter.org](http://www.thereporter.org).



Some of the salt formations along the shoreline of the Dead Sea. (Photo courtesy of JNS)

partnership with Earth Day Middle East, part of the global Earth Day Network, which sharing an announcement of the competition with 34 Middle East and North African eco-organizations.

Among the 3,500-plus photographers participating in the Israeli-initiated challenge were photographers from the Palestinian Authority, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Rilwan Hasse, 44, submitted his photo from Dubai, expressing that the Dead Sea for him as a Muslim is not only a pleasurable experience, but a religious one as well, as “the Dead Sea is mentioned in the Koran.”

He expressed his intent to spread the message that the Dead Sea is a positive place to visit, telling JNS of his hope that his photograph “will help to spread knowledge about the Dead Sea.”

Khalid Khan, 32, submitted his photo to the competition from Bahrain, photographing the Dead Sea from the Jordanian side. “The Dead Sea is one of the greatest wonders of our times,” he told JNS. “Being the lowest point on earth, it truly captures the essence of a surreal experience for anyone visiting. Sadly, it’s disappearing, and so we need to take the necessary steps to preserve its beauty in our memories.”

He recalled the beauty taking the photograph he submitted, explaining: “It was almost late evening. The sun was setting. I went to the marked spot and was absolutely mesmerized by the beauty of the sea. The distinctive salt formations and the setting sun created a unique experience. I set up my camera and found these beautiful patterns of the salt formations under the surface of the calm sea, so I decided to take a long exposure shot to smooth out the sea so the patterns could be more visible under the sea surface.

“The message I want to convey through my photograph is that, just as there are hidden layers under the Dead Sea surface revealing the beautiful salt formations that speak of the past, in the same way all us humans have multiple layers of memories and emotions beneath our surface,” continued Khan. “These might not be visible on first sight, but if you look closer and dig deeper, you are bound to find them eventually, helping us better understand each other.”

## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

### Israel wishes UAE luck on upcoming Mars mission

Israel’s Foreign Ministry wished the United Arab Emirates the “best of luck” on June 9 ahead of a planned mission next month to Mars. According to NASA, the Emirates Mars Mission is scheduled to launch on July 14. The mission’s objective is to orbit the planet with an unmanned probe, called Hope, and study its atmosphere over the course of one Martian year. “We wish the UAE the best of luck on the launch of this scientific mission, and hope this step will contribute towards deeper cooperation between all countries in the region,” Israel’s Foreign Ministry posted in Arabic to its “Israel in the Gulf” Twitter account. Israel’s public statement is part of a pattern of warming relations between the two nations. The UAE will become the first Arab country to send a mission to Mars. Omran Sharaf, the mission’s project manager at the Dubai-based Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Center, said, “This mission is not just about the UAE, it’s about the region, it’s about the Arab issue. ... The region is going through tough times and we do need good news and we need the youth in the region to really start looking inwards, building their own nations and putting differences aside to coexist with people with different faiths and backgrounds and work together,” he said.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

**Greek premier visits Israel to discuss tourism, Turkish threat**

Israeli 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 entire area 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 area of 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 at the end of December in Athens for a seventh 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. Following the meeting on June 16, agreements regarding cyber, agriculture and tourism were to be signed.

**Israel passes law allowing ministers temporarily to give up parliament 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 Law," if such a minister or deputy minister later resigns, is dismissed or is appointed prime minister, vice prime minister or acting prime minister, he or she automatically returns to the Knesset at the expense of the new MK. The law allows for between one and five members of a party who are also ministers or deputy ministers to give up their parliament seats in favor of party members below them on their party's list. The bill was approved in its second and third readings, with 66 votes in favor and 43 against. It required 61 votes to pass. The passing of the law was a condition of the coalition agreement signed between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu and Vice Premier Benny Gantz. The legislation is important to Gantz's Blue and White Party, as 12 of the 15 Blue and White members elected to the Knesset during the March elections are ministers or deputy ministers and thus are unable 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 welcome first step towards 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 head Yair Lapid slammed the government on Twitter, claiming: "Instead of unemployment benefits for freelance workers and grants for the unemployed, they are wasting public funds on [political] jobs."

**Balearic Islands parliament passes bill condemning antisemitism, BDS**

The parliament of Spain's Balearic Islands has passed a bill condemning antisemitism, as per the widely accepted definition by International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and the anti-Israel BDS movement. The legislation, approved by all major parties on June 6, pertains to Ibiza, Majorca, Palma and other areas. 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 religious facilities." Jewish and pro-Israel groups applauded the legislation. Ignacio Wenley Palacios, the Lawfare Project's senior counsel in Spain, said "boycotts by public institutions have all the attributes of the most intolerable discrimination. They deny relations and the provision of public services to individuals not because of their behavior, but because of something they cannot change nor avoid: their country of origin." "Identifying and defining antisemitism are critical steps in eradicating it. Thank you," tweeted the World Jewish Congress on June 15.

**Western Negev fires due to arson, no connection to Gaza, says investigator**

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – A spate of 11 fires in fields in the Eshkol Regional Council in the western Negev Desert on June 13 sparked concern that the area was being targeted by a new wave of arson terrorism from the Gaza Strip. These fears were compounded by the fact that terrorist leaders in Gaza have recently been threatening to resume sending explosives-laden balloons over the border fence into communities in southern

Israel. Indeed, shortly after the fires were first reported, security personnel spotted balloons being inflated on the Gaza side of the border fence, approximately half a kilometer (0.3 miles) from the locations of the fires. However, according to an arson investigator with the Fire and Rescue Services who examined the sites of the two largest conflagrations, which broke out at Kibbutz Be'eri and Kibbutz Nir Am, while the fires "bore clear signs of arson," they had "nothing to do with the balloons." Security forces and firefighters managed to contain the blazes. No injuries were reported. Indendiary devices attached to balloons launched by terrorists in the Gaza Strip have caused hundreds of fires and extensive damage in recent years.

**Riots in Jaffa over plan to build homeless shelter on old cemetery**

Israeli police arrested four Muslim residents of Jaffa the morning of June 14 on suspicion of their involvement in rioting over that weekend. Muslim rioters in Jaffa, south of Tel Aviv, lit a truck on fire the night of June 12, damaging nearby vehicles, and threw a firebomb at a Tel Aviv municipal building, causing extensive damage. The violence is reportedly due to the city's plan to build a homeless center on what used to be a Muslim cemetery. The cemetery in question dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but Muslim authorities later removed any remains and converted the cemetery into a soccer field. The Muslim community is fighting to preserve the area, but an Israeli court ruled in January that the project could continue. The Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality responded to the riots, saying: "The perpetrators are a small handful of people who do not represent most Jaffa residents and who have lost confidence in the municipality. We will continue to build a homeless shelter, according to court approval, and will not stop because of the damage done to municipal or other public property. Keep in mind, the site of the homeless shelter has not been a cemetery for more than 100 years and served as a soccer field for the city's Muslim football club."

**Senate committee votes to continue security aid, jets to Israel**

The U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee approved a \$740.5 billion 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (or NDAA) on June 10 that includes the continuation of American assistance to Israel for missile-defense programs. It will also allow 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 blueprint for the upcoming year allocates \$500 million toward missile-defense systems in Israel such as the Iron Dome, David's Sling and Arrow 3 in accordance with the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding, or MOU, between the U.S. and Israel worth \$38 billion over a decade. Additionally, the proposed NDAA would allow the U.S. Air Force to keep six F-35 fighter jets that were slated for Turkey, but canceled after Ankara acquired the Russian S-400 missile system last year. As a result, the U.S. booted Turkey from the F-35 program. Finally, the Senate NDAA would require the U.S. secretary of defense to inform Congress 30 days prior to reducing the number of U.S. Armed Forces deployed to Multinational Force and Observers in Egypt to fewer than 430 members. This comes amid reports that the Pentagon is seeking to reduce some of its members from the peacekeeping force. The Senate NDAA, which must match the yet-to-be-drafted version by the U.S. House of Representatives, will need an appropriations bill to fund it.

**Poll: 68 percent of Israelis favor sovereignty in Judea and Samaria**

A survey of Israeli Jewish citizens found that 68 percent favor sovereignty in Judea and Samaria, and 72 percent say the Israeli government should not leave Jewish communities as enclaves within a Palestinian sovereign entity. The survey, published on June 11 by Israel National News, was conducted by the Maagar Mochot Institute for the Samaria Regional Council and had 511 respondents. The study also found that the overwhelming majority of *haredim* support annexation, with 72 percent of Shas voters and 62 percent of United Torah Judaism voters supporting it. Among Likud voters, 64 percent support extending sovereignty, while the figures for the Yamina and Yisrael Beiteinu parties were 90 percent and 62 percent, respectively. Even 14 percent of Labor-Gesher-Meretz voters support the move, according to the report.

**Israeli justice minister vows to block any attempt to bypass Supreme Court**

Israeli Justice Minister Avi Nissenkorn of the center-left Blue and White Party on June 13 vowed to work against the legislation of an override clause which would prevent the Supreme Court from striking down laws passed by the Knesset. "There will be no court-bypassing law as long as I'm justice minister," he said. Speaking with Channel 12 News in his first interview since being appointed justice minister, Nissenkorn said, "I think the system today needs to be defended. Its public image has been tarnished, mostly without justification." Nissenkorn was seemingly referring to statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the beginning of his trial on corruption charges in May, when he attacked police and prosecutors, accusing them of politicizing the justice system in order to bring him down. Nissenkorn's statement came just a week after the Supreme Court struck down as "unconstitutional" the 2017 Regulation Law, which granted the state the authority to appropriate private Palestinian land in the disputed territories of Judea and Samaria, with compensation to the owners.

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