The newly updated Reporter website, www.thereportergroup.org, has gone live. Among its features are article streams, hashtags and a safe donation option.

“The website has been a long time coming,” said Rabbi Rachel Esserman, executive editor of The Reporter. “I want to thank Jenn DePersio, our former production manager; Christi Sturdevant, our production associate; and Shelley Hubal, the executive director of the Federation, for all their help in making this possible. A few members of The Reporter Editorial Committee – Rebecca Kahn and Rachel Coker – also offered help and suggestions.”

New articles will go live on Friday mornings. The home page offers “teasers” to the top two local articles and a link to other local news. It also offers links to various article streams, including opinion (where Esserman and Hubal’s columns can be found), book reviews and general features. For those who prefer to see a web version of the hard copy of the paper, those can be found by clicking on “Current and Archived Issues.”

The site also has a “Community Directory,” which offers addresses and contact information for local synagogues and community organizations. It also offers links to the “Community Calendar” on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s website. Donations can also be made through the site by clicking on the “Donation” option at the top of the home page.

“Check out our new site,” said Esserman. “This new, user-friendly site offers quick, easy access to information.”

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s virtual gathering “Strengthening Ourselves, Strengthening Each Other,” which was held on June 15, was attended by 110 households. The event included readings, music by community members until 2023: Nancy Dorfman, Neil Auerbach, Brendan Byrnes, Sondra Foreman, Charles Gilinsky and Richard Lewin.

“The Binghamton Jewish community once again proved that it has a big heart,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. “This event was truly meaningful. Everyone was welcomed.”

Hubal noted this type of program speaks to one of the Federation’s most important missions, which is also one of her favorites. “One of my favorite things to do as executive director of the Federation is to create opportunities for our Jewish community to gather and take refuge under the umbrella of our faith,” she added. “This program did that.”

After the completion of the program, some people noted that they had not realized how much they needed to gather as a community, even if only by virtual means. Others spoke of the life-changing nature of the event. In addition, people mentioned that gathering with others gave them comfort and strength.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held its annual meeting via Zoom on June 17. More than 30 people attended. The nominations for the Executive Committee and the board were approved. There were reports on the 2020 Campaign, a look at events that have taken place during the last month and a review of the past year. A copy of the annual report can be found on the Federation website at www.jfgb.org/who-we-are/annual-report-june-2019-may-2020. Although the Federation was unable to hold its planned ice cream social, several of those attending created their own ice cream desserts at home. “This was not how I expected my first annual meeting to go,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. “This has been a difficult few months for many of us, but I am proud of what our community has accomplished and look forward to us doing even more. I’m also praying that by next year’s meeting, we will be able to gather in person.”

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The members of the Board of Directors for the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton are as follows:

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Dear Jews: The summer of 2020 is not about us

By David Suissa

(Jewish Journal via JNS) – An extraordinary moment has arisen in America that taps into a deep history of racism that畔uates the birth of our country. But instead of allowing blacks their moment, I’m seeing an outsourcing of hysterics from some in the Jewish community about “antisemitism rearing its ugly head again!”

A small fraction of the countless businesses that have been damaged and looted across the nation have a Jewish connection. I got a call from a New York woman who, after 2,000 years of persecution, we’re always on edge. Any sign that “they’re coming after us” is cause for alarm.

But let me ask you. What did you do the last time you saw a video of a cop killing a Jew because he was Jewish?

Nothing about the plight of Jews in America can compare to the racism that poised the black community. It’s a 400-year-old global history of horrible suffering and persecution, the difference between the suffering Jews and blacks have experienced in this country is not merely in degree, but in kind.

Every other week to see Larry. We ate breakfast at the same table and it was clear: doing so broke my mother’s heart.

I heard different stories from each of us about Larry. My father had a paralysis that started in 1619 is still lingering in our midst. Yes, we’ve come so far in the past 50 years, but we have a long way to go.

Why that fighting racism is the cause of the moment. It’s taping into a well of pain that is 406 years old. It has tapped into an emotion that is far more vivid than the color of their skin. Klein, who had taught at the school for 39 years, was doxed by the students (they made public his e-mail and home addresses) and is now under police protection because of death threats.

He isn’t alone.

Tiffany Riley, a Vermont school principal, was placed on administrative leave for a Facebook post that said “They’re coming after us” is cause for alarm.

I get it. Even one is too many. After 2,000 years of usage, I’m seeing an outpouring of historical knowledge that predates the birth of our country. But instead of allowing blacks their moment, I’m seeing an outsourcing of hysterics from some in the Jewish community about “antisemitism rearing its ugly head again!”

The question is, if it’s so easy to cancel someone for not going along with the prevailing orthodoxy about what constitutes racism, why does engaging in antisemitism not constitute racism, why does engaging in antisemitism not?

Many examples of similar incidents of political correctness and TV shows that took individuals out of the running for positions.

Harold Uhlig, an economics professor at the University of Chicago, was fired from a consulting job at the Federal Reserve for saying that Black Lives Matter had “tornoped itself” by aligning the movement with calls for defunding the police. A mob of outraged economists and journalists led by The New York Times and television star Chelsea Handler, who approvingly posted a video of a National of Islam hate-monger Louis Farrakhan on her Instagram page recently.

Remember Larry

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS) In the weeks since the brutal and unjustified killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, Americans have been exposed to a new level of publicizing and approvingly calling a “reckoning” that marks a fundamental shift in attitudes about race.

But the onset of this surge of public soul-searching and consciousness-raising about race has brought with it a trend that is deeply troubling. The heightened sensitivity about racism has led not merely to an epidemic of insinuation, but a crisis of defensiveness of character and identity.

The question is, if it’s so easy to cancel someone for not going along with the prevailing orthodoxy about what constitutes racism, why does engaging in antisemitism not constitute racism, why does engaging in antisemitism not?

Remember Larry

July 20 marks the 10th anniversary (death date) of the passing of Larry, a sweet, a-hal-a-half-year-old younger than me and a very important part of my life from the time he was born until the day he died.

He had a learning disability, in his case Down Syndrome. My parents and I all crawling on our hands and knees to the his heresy, the Fed acceded to their demand, saying there was no room at the institution for “racism,” even though the econo-

I cherish every warm memory and sweet words they have with physical or mental disabilities get to heaven, those who aren’t, for some reason, I still meet people who knew and remember Larry, and told me it was a good thing, and one thing that told me how well they knew him was that they asked us to have a meal together and to have dinner at the same restaurant each time and then went to Grand Way with him to buy a present. He was fond of sponges. "I can't live without a sponge," he would say. He loved that the same restaurant.

Remember Larry

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

By Toby Kohn, Richard Lewis, and "ch" properly.) My mother was upset that he wanted to cover you with a blanket (sometimes jokingly about – the things he said and did. May his memory be a blanket in Peanuts), vacuum cleaners and Santa Claus.

In many ways, I'm seeing an outsourc- ing of hysterics from some in the Jewish community about “antisemitism rearing its ugly head again!”

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Remember Larry

Opinion

Why can’t you get canceled for antisemitism?

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Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 14

By Reporter staff

A variety of Jewish groups are offering online resources – educational and recreational – for those who are not allowed to leave their homes. Below is a sampling of those. The Reporter will publish additional listings as they become available.

- The B’nai Israel-Friendship League will offer the webinar “From ‘Start Up’ to ‘Grown Up’: Accessing the Israeli Market in a Post-COVID World” on Wednesday, July 1, at noon. The webinar will explore how Israel’s economy is likely to look after COVID recovery. It will seek to answer such questions as, will Israel continue to be a…

- Be’Chol Lashon is offering interviews with Jewish Black on its “Black Lives Matter” page. To read the articles, visit https://globaljews.org/. That page connects to a variety of blog articles about the topic.

- The Friends of IDF filmed the webinar it did with Dr. Ruth Westheimer called “Dynamism: Dialogue with Survivor, Hannahagan Snapir, and Traillblazer, the World-Renowned Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer.” Westheimer offers a look at her time in the Haganah. The event was moderated by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, investigative reporter and news anchor Jerry Levine. It can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZY1e12CFk&feature=emb_title.

- Be’Chol Lashon is offering free access to its “Passport to Peace” educational regional resource which explores the history and traditions of Jewish communities around the world and celebrate the fact that Jews are a multicultural people. The program is appropriate for use with children age 9 and older.

- NCSY will hold “Bike NCSY 2020” on Sunday, August 9. There will be multiple pre-arranged regional routes, a group ride pace, and a chance for socializing with other teens. For more information or to register, visit https://bike.ncsy.org/.

- Jewish Action, the quarterly magazine of the Orthodox Union, is a new publication that seeks to convey Orthodox Jewish values and concerns in a way that will enlighten, educate and inspire its readers. To receive issues by e-mail and curated Jewish Action content, visit https://jewishaction.com.

- The Moscow State Yiddish Theater collection at the Blavatnik Archive Foundation is now fully cataloged and accessible online at www.blavatnikarchive.org/collection-2. The collection consists of 581 items, including 147 photographs and 434 documents in Russian, Yiddish, Ukrainian, Hebrew, German and French. Formerly, it was the family archive of Lasta Minkova (1895-1979) and Solomon Zil’bert (1897-1997). Yiddish actors and members of the GOSET (Gesudarstvennyi evreiskii teat) troupe. Although the collection contains documents from the 1900s through the 1970s, most are from GOSET’s “golden years,” the 1920s-30s. The collection includes the theater’s internal memos and letters, draft playbills, scripts, annotated by actors, administrative correspondence, minutes of the local actors’ union meetings, posters, bills and more.

- Mayim Bialik will host “FunOrthodox: Star-Studded Evening of Comedy/Music.” The event will take place on Sunday, June 28, at 8 p.m., and be available online after the live show. FunOrthodox (funorthodox.com) will include performances by Emmy Award-winning comedians Bruce Vilanch and Judy Gold, Leah Gottfried (and the cast of the web series “Soon by You”), Cory Kahany (“Last Comic Standing”), and more. FunOrthodox will include 14 acts. The show runs approximately 70 minutes. The trailer can be viewed at https://tinyurl.com/FunOrthodoxTease. The event will launch via Facebook LIVE on Eshel’s Facebook page. All proceeds from the event will benefit the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Eshel Inc., which works to make the lives of LGBT+ Jews, their families and their communities. For more information, visit www.eshelinc.org.

- The 2020 Annual Community Guide – largest issue of the year – with special business, dine-out, health care sections & more! See issue dates: July 17 – Ad appears on page 9
Sometimes when looking at a book featuring a love story, I end up debating to which genre it belongs. Would it be placed on the romance shelves of a bookstore or with works of literary fiction? The reason for my debate is that I like to judge a work by what the author is attempting to accomplish. I have nothing against either genre, but there is a difference between the two. For example, the romance genre tends to focus more on the plot, while serious fiction concentrates on the complex psychological and intellectual aspects of the relationships. The line between the genres is thin. Readers might question into which category Jane Austen would be if she were writing today. It's pretty clear, though, that the two worlds would most likely not appeal to readers of the romance or rom-con genres, even though the underlying theme of both is love and its aftermath.

This work is based on the story of two real life women: half-Jewish Lucie Schwob and Suzanne Malherbe, who reinvented themselves as Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore. The two women met in 1909 when they were 14 and 17, and found themselves immediately attracted to each other. Their parents encouraged their friendship, although they were unaware of the sexual aspect of it. Their ability to hide their feelings became easier when Lucie’s divorced father married Suzanne’s widowed mother, allowing the two of them to claim to be sisters. That meant they could live together without raising suspicion about the true nature of their relationship.

As Claude and Marcel, the two moved to Paris to pursue careers as avant garde artists and photographers. While Marcel tried her hand as an illustrator and photographer, neither was very successful, although they managed to part in the artistic excitement of post-World War I Paris, including knowing many of the involved in the Surrealist movement. However, the women’s personal lives were even more interesting. The eponymous relationship threatened their partnership, but, at least in the novel, Marcel’s only desire is to be with Claude.

In 1914, two years after Paris fell to the Germans in the English Channel, which was seized by the Germans during World War II. That’s when the most unusual aspect of their lives occurs: their travesty inadvertently causes two women begin a campaign against the Nazis in order to denigrate and undermine their conquerors. Looking back, the changes in their personal and professional lives seem to build on the other. Instead, readers are left to fill the section when Elio and Michel tried to learn the truth about his life radically changes. The next section begins several months after the war.

When Esquire magazine named all-time baseball all-star teams for various ethnic groups, racism preceded its voters. Jews, for example, were represented by black ballplayers, let alone Jewish ballplayers of quality, and this creates problems; anyone who is left off the team is forced to pitch the opening game because it fell on Yom Kippur, threw four no-hitters, including a perfect game; established a then season strikeout record of 382; and winning the Most Valuable Player award in 1961. Aciman’s characters spend a great deal of time discussing politics or sports, multiple opinions surface. With recognition that others have their own informed views, here’s my attempt at an all-time Jewish baseball all-star team.

Pitcher: Sandy Koufax was at the peak, baseball’s greatest pitcher. With a blazing fastball, a wicked curve and pinpoint control, the Dodger Hall of Famer struck out 97 wins, against only 27 losses, from 1963-1966. Despite an arm injury that required pitching through severe pain, Koufax retired from the game at age 30. Koufax threw four no-hitters, including a perfect game; established a then season strikeout record of 382, led Major League Baseball in wins with season totals of 25, 26, and 27; and won a Most Valuable Player award.

Nolan Ryan, good with the bat and the mitt, was a New York Giant catcher for 10 seasons in a career abbreviated by World War II service. Nicknamed “Harry the Horse,” John Hudek had a .448 on base percentage, 280 home runs, 1,020 RBIs topped the circuit and his .304 batting average. A five-time All-Star and hall of fame inductee, Ryan was a very successful pitcher.

Famer was a Red Sox star. Tim Lincecum, good with the bat and the mitt, was a New York Giant catcher for 10 seasons in a career abbreviated by World War II service. Nicknamed “Harry the Horse,” after a Dancing with the Stars appearance, Danny Espinosa was a very successful pitcher. Espinosa, good with the bat and the mitt, was a New York Giant catcher for 10 seasons in a career abbreviated by World War II service. Nicknamed “Harry the Horse,” after a Dancing with the Stars appearance, Danny Espinosa was a very successful pitcher.

Kinsler scored 100 or more runs, and over a 14-year career recorded 1,243 runs scored. With sure hands and a strong arm, the former Cincinnati Reds owner, a vociferous antisemite. Because of the park’s association with Marge Schott, the former Cincinnati Reds owner, a vociferous antisemite.


Off the Shelf Different styles of love

RABBI RACHEL EISERMAN

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Six-year-old on stroll discovers rare Canaanite artifact

By JNS staff

(JNS) – An Israeli 6-year-old out on a hike with his family before the coronavirus lockdown in March is credited with discovering a very rare artifact attributed to the Canaanites 3,500 years ago.

Imti Elya was walking with his family at the archeological site Tel Gamla of Kibbutz Re’em near the Gaza border when he found a square clay impression of a man who appeared to be held captive by another man, according to an Israel Antiquities Authority press release on May 23.

As per Israeli law, Imti’s parents – suspecting that the item was an ancient artifact – turned it in to the Israel Antiquities Authority and the National Treasures Department.

Or  the Jewish food scene
Neither meat nor milk, sort of

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

“What’s this par-va thing,” said the voice on the other end of the phone. That question came from the mother of a non-Jewish friend. She’d just learned she was allergic to milk and her doctor told her to look for the kosher symbol with the word pareve next to it. Although this was long before I was a rabbi, I still knew enough to explain that if a product was pareve, that guaranteed it contained no dairy or dairy byproducts.

If he knew the answer to the question today, I might have gone on into more detail since the idea of pareve is an interesting one (although I might have given my usual pronunciation of the word “the eyes glaze over.”) The basic idea is that pareve food contains no meat or dairy products. That means fruit, vegetables, grains and nuts. In other words, all of the 99% of all foods are pareve. However, while grains themselves are pareve, that doesn’t mean that everything made for them is. As is any person who has been on a medically restricted diet soon learns, it’s all the ingredients that count, not just the type of food. So, breads can be pareve or breads can contain milk. In fact, any cooked or prepared food may contain some ingredients you would least expect. (If you don’t believe me, just watch a few episodes of the Food Network’s “Diners, Drive-ins and Dives.” I can’t tell you how many times I’ve said, “They put that in there? I can’t eat that!”)

There was one pareve food I left out of my list above and that’s because it’s one of the most difficult to explain: fish is pareve. Yes, technically, fish is neither meat nor milk, and can be eaten with both meat and milk meals (although some folks feel so uncomfortable about that they serve fish as a separate course on its own dishes). That means the divide between meat and milk is not one between living animals and plants. In fact, in biblical times, fowl (chicken, geese, etc.) were considered pareve. The division seems to be between animals whose mothers feed their newborn babies milk, and those who do not. Chickens and other fowl lay eggs and have no milk to give. For a variety of reasons (which I won’t go into here because your eyes would glaze over), fowl came to be considered meat, but fish still did not receive that designation.

In the beginning, it was probably because, like milk-enriched Jewish food studies (most of my research papers in rabbinical school had something to do with food), it’s probably because of the many medical diets I’ve been on. Those who were raised with me recently would probably be surprised about how picky an eater I was as a kid. My mom once quipped that I was the only person she knew who could look at a restaurant menu and find nothing to eat. If the food wasn’t made exactly the way I ate it at home, then I wasn’t interested. When I was a kid, I even once considered just getting cereal as a meal. Ah, the phrase “the foolishness of the young” comes to mind when I think about that. But all my health problems taught me one thing: no matter how much I liked it – I was worth getting sick over. Unfortunately, it’s not always easy to pinpoint what causes problems – just ask all the people who figure out if a food triggers their migraines.

Food – and eating – can affect us psychologically, not just physically. However, that’s a topic for another day. I’m just glad that the little kid who showed little to no interest in food now enjoys the wide variety. I try to remind myself when I’m not thrilled with a meal that I should be grateful that I have the ability to eat – to eat. So, whether you prefer meat, dairy or that “par-va thing,” enjoy your meal. As the Israelites say, “Beshovon” (bon appetit)!”

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The organizations photographed and documented the find, and determined that the 1.1-inch-square clay impression was probably a badge or medal of honor made to commemorate a Canaanite battle victory some time in the Late Bronze Age between the 12th and 11th centuries B.C.E. According to archaeologists, the item comes from a period in which the Egyptians ruled a Canaan divided into four city-states governed by local kings that periodically had internal wars.

In investigating it, researchers compared it to similar artifacts, the most similar of which was discovered in Northern Sinai 100 years ago during a British excavation, according to a report by The Times of Israel. See “Rare” on page 6

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June 26-July 2, 2020

**ADL: Anti-Israel activities on campus contribute to Jewish students feeling “threatened”**

By JNS staff

(JNS) While most anti-Israel activism on college and university campuses came in the form of political expression, a significant segment of the activism reported in 2019 contributed to an atmosphere in which Jewish students felt under attack—and from which antisemitism sometimes emerged, according to an Anti-Defamation League report released on May 27.

The report comes as some campuses plan to reopen in the face of six months online due to the coronavirus global pandemic.

“We anticipate a significant uptick in anti-Israel activity once students are able to return,” said ADL national president and CEO Jonathan Greenblatt. “Some of the more radical expressions of anti-Israel sentiment that we witnessed last year morphed into outright antisemitism.

Many of these manifestations left Jewish students feeling besieged and threatened.”

**Rare . . . . . . . Continued from page 5**

“The scene depicted on the tablet is taken from descriptions of victory parades; hence the tablet should be identified as a story depicting the ruler’s power over his enemies. This opens a visual window to understanding the struggle for dominance in the south of the country during the Canaanite period,” the Israel Antiquities Authority announced in a statement.

According to archaeologists, Tel Gama may be the site of the Canaanite city of Yuraz, mentioned in ancient Egyptian letters as the southernmost edge of Canaan.

As a reward for finding the item, Lami was presented with a certificate of good citizenship and was photographed with the small tablet.

**CANCELED**

When a commenter asked her if she would single out for praise some out-of-context statement of Adolf Hitler, she argued that Farrakhan’s hate was different because “he is just responsible for his own promotion of antisemitic beliefs. They are very different.”

In garden work, antisemitism is just another opinion, an otherwise laudable person might hold, not evidence of murderous hate.

In the current moral panic about racism, one might have expected a surge of anger directed toward Handler by her colleagues in the entertainment industry, in addition to announcements that indicated that both individuals and companies wouldn’t work with her in the future. That didn’t happen. Instead, several celebrities even more famous, such as Jennifer Anniston, Jennifer Garner and Michelle Obama, avoided the avalanche of public attacks from the Initialized Apartheid movement on the grounds that Handler had not given them any reason to be treated as an honored celebrity. Nor has that changed, since during the past two weeks she has made the rounds of the Sunday morning talk shows, where hosts like CNN’s Jake Tapper fawn on her.

The practice of shaming, shunning and silencing those with unpopular or even offensive views is antiblastic to democracy and the free exchange of ideas. That is especially true when it involves actions or statements that are not actually racist.

At the same time, it says something truly ominous about our society and culture that questioning the BLM movement—even while avowing that, of course, black lives matter—can destroy a career, while endorsing antisemites and even engaging in Jew-hated is not considered a big deal. We already know that the consequences of giving antisemites a pass can lead to horror. Apparently, those who pose as the supposedly enlightened guardians of our culture have either forgotten that or no longer care about it.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor-in-chief of JNS – Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter, @jonathans_tobin.

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**Quick Reference Guide to Planned Giving**

Use this planned giving quick reference guide to help determine the best strategy for achieving your philanthropic and financial goals.

For further information or assistance, please contact Shelley Hubal at 724-2332 or director@jfgb.org

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- Make a quick and easy gift
- Avoid tax on capital gains
- Defer a gift until after your death
- Receive guaranteed fixed income that is partially tax-free
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**Then You Can:**

- Simply write a check now or use a credit card
- Contribute long-term appreciated stock or other securities
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- Create a charitable gift annuity
- Name a charity as the beneficiary of the remainder of the retirement assets after your lifetime
- Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need or purchase a new one and designate the charity as the owner
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**Your Benefits May Include:**

- An income tax deduction and immediate charitable impact
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- Current and future savings on income taxes plus fixed stable payments
- Tax relief to your family on inherited assets
- Current and possible future income tax deductions
- Reducing taxable income

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**Reducing taxable income**

**Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need or purchase a new one and designate the charity as the owner**

**A charitable deduction plus no capital gains tax**

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**Current and future savings on income taxes plus fixed stable payments**

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**Current and possible future income tax deductions**

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Pro-Israel political groups see success in campaigning ahead of November elections

By Jackson Richman

(JNS) – As restrictions related to the coronavirus are being incrementally lifted nationwide, Jewish and pro-Israel political groups have continued to conduct their business online since March, when closures first started.

While groups such as the Jewish Democratic Council of America, Democratic Majority for Israel and the Republican Jewish Coalition have been hosting virtual events, like any other organization, the relatively new reality is causing them to shift strategy in terms of organizing and campaigning.

Even before the pandemic, JDCA has “always been focused on digital advertising and organizing,” and has been “only increasing these efforts with the support of our donors to organize across the country to elect Joe Biden as the next president, usher in a Democratic-led Senate and maintain Democratic control of the House,” JDCA Executive Director Halie Soifer told JNS.

JDCA has hosted an online event with surrogates of the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, in addition to webinars with other Democrats, including U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Ben Cardin (D-MD).

JDCA has endorsed Biden, in addition to 50 or so candidates for the U.S. Senate and Representatives and the U.S. Senate. The organization also “hosted the largest national virtual phone bank for Jewish voters this election cycle, and has also launched chapters in swing states, including Wisconsin and Ohio, and is launching others before the end of June,” said Soifer.

JDCA has released several ads in support of Biden, contrasting him and his record with U.S. President Donald Trump, and focusing on “the increased danger under Trump posed by the rise of white nationalism and antisemitism,” said Soifer.

Six-point vehicle check: a gift that keeps on giving

DMFI has held informational virtual events, including with Biden foreign-policy adviser and former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Tony Blinken, and former Biden chief of staff and White House Ebola head Ron Klain. The organization has also pushed for Democrats to adopt a softer tone on Israel, possibly applying sovereignty to parts of the West Bank, including playing an “active role” in “watering down” a letter by Democratic senators warning Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Benny Gantz about annexation.

This effort by DMFI included sending a memo to all the Democratic Senate offices and having meetings with some of them. “In a non-COVID world, you could go out and meet with people in person,” said Mellman. “Here, you do it on the phone and email, and so on. So it’s different, but the work goes on.”

He added that “we switched from phone calls to Zoom,” the video-conferencing application many people and businesses have been using amid the pandemic. “We were doing phone calls before to bring people together from around the country who may not be able to be in the same place at the same time,” he said. “So instead of making those calls, we switched to virtual events, but that have video with them like Zoom.” Mellman said conducting events in this manner has allowed for a more interactive experience.

DMFI’s political action committee, DMFIPAC, has been involved in a number of Democratic primary races. For example, it did a six-figure buy against former CIA agent Valerie Plame, who in 2017 shared an antisemitic article and ended up losing on June 2 to attorney Teresa Leger Fernandez in the Democratic primary in New Mexico’s 3rd Congressional District.

Along with supporting Biden, endorsed by DMFI in March, DMFIPAC has been focused solely on primary races, some of which were pushed off due to the global pandemic.

JDCA has released its June 23 race between Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and progressive Jamaal Bowman in New York’s 16th Congressional District. Bowman, who has been endorsed by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), and the group Justice Democrats have been critical of Israel, such as calling for conditioning U.S. assistance to there; Engel is known as a “steadfast supporter” of the Jewish state.

On the other side of the aisle, the Republican Jewish Coalition has been campaigning to re-elect Trump and other Republicans, in addition to new GOP candidates to Congress. The organization’s National Victory Team “has been conducting extensive Jewish outreach after seamlessly transitioning to virtual grassroots efforts,” RJC spokesperson Neil Strauss told JNS.

RJC has so far “executed 11 successful National Days of Action, with hundreds of RJC volunteers participating across the country, supporting President Trump and the GOP,” he said.

Conducting business digitally has been beneficial, maintained Strauss, who cited his organization’s “increased ability to reach more voters at home” through “phone calls, text messages, e-mail, digital, social media, etc.”

“We’ve seen a dramatic spike in the percentage of voters we’re able to directly connect with, compared to pre-COVID circumstances, which makes these modes of grassroots outreach even more valuable. Since March 1, we have spoken to 106,968 persuasive Jewish voters in specific battleground states using our cutting-edge technology, our large investment in data modeling to discover Jewish voters – data no one else has the ability to best voters in politics,” Strauss said.

See “Elections” on page 11

Six-point vehicle check: a gift that keeps on giving

NAPSI - A six-point vehicle check is a gift that will keep on giving, both in better vehicle performance and fewer unexpected repairs, says the Car Care Council.

“Inspecting six key systems ahead of time can save you the headaches and cost of an emergency breakdown later, said Rich White, executive director of the Car Care Council. “Regular vehicle maintenance is always more convenient and less expensive than when mixed with water. Signs before they fail, it is advisable to replace batteries that perform worse. Because batteries don’t always give warning of corrosion-free. Cold weather is hard on batteries, so it’s wise to check the battery and charging system for optimum performance.”

The Car Care Council recommends this vehicle check:

1. Battery – Keep the battery connections clean, tight and corrosion-free. Cold weather is hard on batteries, so it’s wise to check the battery and charging system for optimum performance. Because batteries don’t always give warning signs before they fail, it’s advisable to replace batteries that are less than 3 years old.

2. Antifreeze - Antifreeze ( coolant) should be flushed and replaced at least every two years in most vehicles. Don’t add 100 percent antifreeze, however, as full-strength antifreeze actually has a lower freezing point than when mixed with water.

3. Brakes - Have the brake system checked. Brakes are critical to vehicle safety and particularly important when driving on icy or snow-covered roads.

4. Tires - Check the tire tread depth and tire pressure. If snow and ice are a problem where you’ll be driving, consider tires designed to grip slick roads. Check tire pressure weekly, as tires lose pressure when temperatures drop.

5. Oil – Be diligent about changing the oil at recommended intervals and check the fuel, air and transmission filters at the time recommended by the car manufacturer.

6. Wiper Blades – Cold weather can affect the life of wiper blades that are torn, damaged or rigid, so it’s wise to replace wiper blades that are torn, damaged or rigid before the winter season.

“Regular vehicle maintenance is always more convenient and less expensive than when mixed with water. Signs before they fail, it is advisable to replace batteries that are more than 3 years old. Antifreeze - Antifreeze ( coolant) should be flushed and replaced at least every two years in most vehicles. Don’t add 100 percent antifreeze, however, as full-strength antifreeze actually has a lower freezing point than when mixed with water. Brakes - Have the brake system checked. Brakes are critical to vehicle safety and particularly important when driving on icy or snow-covered roads. Tires - Check the tire tread depth and tire pressure. If snow and ice are a problem where you’ll be driving, consider tires designed to grip slick roads. Check tire pressure weekly, as tires lose pressure when temperatures drop. Oil – Be diligent about changing the oil at recommended intervals and check the fuel, air and transmission filters at the time recommended by the car manufacturer. Wiper Blades – Cold weather can affect the life of wiper blades that are torn, damaged or rigid, so it’s wise to replace wiper blades that are torn, damaged or rigid before the winter season.”

Don’t Drink & Drive

A community service message from Binghamton Police Benevolent Association

MELLIN & KINCAID
DON’T DRINK & DRIVE

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**Resources.**

- National Museum of Jewish American History will offer the live program “Conversation and Concert with Rabbi Yosef Goldman” on Wednesday, July 1, at 6 pm. It will explore the music of Goldman’s new album, “Open My Heart.” Goldman will sit down virtually with NMAJH public programs manager and musician Dan Samuels to talk about his upbringing, musical influences, favorite collaborators and what drives his efforts to heal the world with music. There will be a premiere of never-before-seen recordings of Goldman and other musicians created during the making of the album. There is no cost for the program, although donations will be accepted. The program will be available on the NMAJH Facebook page and at NMAJH.org via a pop-up message on that page.
- Jewish Book Week will hold the webinar “Rebecca Abrams in conversation with Rabbi Yosef Goldman: Jewish Treasures” on Wednesday, July 8, at 2 pm. Rebecca Abrams, award-winning author of “The Jewish Journey,” will present “Jewish Treasures: An exploration of the Bodleian Library’s world-class Jewish manuscripts collection.” There is no cost for the program. For the program register, visit https://programs.cjb.net/event/meet-emma-lazarus-2020-06-28.

**From JNS.org**

- Iran announces successful Indian Ocean missile test
- Iran announced on June 18 that it had completed a successful test of domestically made missiles in a military exercise in the Indian Ocean. The exercise, named “Ramadan Martyrs,” was held to test new short- and long-range cruise missiles, Iran’s Tasnim News Agency reported. The missiles hit their targets at a distance of 280 kilometers (174 miles), according to the report. The report comes on the heels of a statement on June 16 by U.S. Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook that Washington is seeking to extend the arms embargo on Tehran indefinitely. The arms embargo, set to expire in October, was established in the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the nuclear deal reached between Iran and world powers in 2015. Also on June 16, the chief of staff of Iran’s armed forces, Maj. Gen. Mohammad Hossein Bagheri, was quoted by a member of the Iranian Parliament as having said in a closed-door meeting that the United States tried to bribe and then threatened the crews of five oil tankers transiting the Persian Gulf in May, in the event that U.S. forces intercepted Iranian tankers heading to Venezuela. 

- Israel announced that it had identified a rare strain of the COVID-19 virus that is believed to be highly contagious and could spread rapidly, according to a study published in the journal *Nature*.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

- The Jewish National Fund is offering virtual tours of Israel. The tours include regular tourist sites, off-the-beaten-path sites, Jewish National Fund projects and places. Included are the Old City of Jerusalem, Ayatlon Institute, Rosh Ha’Nikra, Akko, JNF’s Sderot Indoor Recreation Center, Be’er Sheva, Timna Park and more. The $50 registration fee ($36 for JNFuture tours) per Zoom spot includes a week of live touring in Israel for one hour a day Monday-Friday. After a break, there will be one-hour social dinner/cocktail hour. Friday will feature a one-hour pre-Shabbat experience. For more information, visit www.jnf.org/travel-pages/jnf-virtual-tours-to-israel or contact Rabbi Cohen at rocbeh2@jnf.org or 121-879-9305.
- YesHiva University, the Rabbinical Council of America and the Orthodox Union will hold a “Siyum in the Arab Emirates” on Monday, June 29, at 9 pm. There will be a short feature film, “Rabbi Lamm in His Own Words: The Role of Torah in the Modern World,” followed by a siyum. The event will be live streamed at bit.ly/RabbiLammSiyum.
- The Ayin Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies releases its second educational film bringing Torah and science together. “Quantum Torah with Alexander Poltorak II” is a short documentary about Torah and science that seeks to uncover parallels between Jewish tradition and quantum physics. The second episode in this series focuses on wave-particle duality as a metaphor for principles of iQAL (general) and PR (particular) quantum mechanics of biblical hermeneutics, quantum-mechanical superposition. The film can be seen at https://youtu.be/nIoX7H8vQCA or on the YouTube Quantum Torah channel at www.youtube.com/QuantumTorah.

**Build a road map to help seniors stop or reduce driving**

(NAPS) - Parents don’t hesitate to talk to their teenagers about driving safely, but no one is talking to seniors.

Many older people rely on driving for the independence and freedom to go where they want, when they want. The idea of giving up driving often sparks feelings of anger, anxiety and loneliness. Though many seniors can continue to drive safely as they get older, physical and cognitive changes may put older adults in more risk-taking behavior. To help families start the dialogue about cognitive behavioral changes, occupational therapist and senior driving expert Ellen Schold Davis offers five suggestions.

1. Do all you can to keep a safe driver safer. For example, explore the CarFit program, an educational program created by the American Automobile Association, AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association, available at www.carfit.org. The program is designed to help families understand how their vehicle affects their loved one’s driving abilities, communicate concerns, and plan ways to transition driving practices can help take the emotion out of the situation. To help families start the dialogue, occupational therapist and senior driving expert Ellen Schold Davis offers five suggestions.

2. Develop an objective process to assess a loved one’s driving abilities, cognitive behavioral changes, and plans for transitioning driving practices can help take the emotion out of the situation. To help families start the dialogue, occupational therapist and senior driving expert Ellen Schold Davis offers five suggestions.

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**ADAMAH AT HOME**

- “Adahm at Home is a three-week virtual program to build food skills, ecological connection and Jewish community that will be held from July 6-26. It is open to all aged 18 and older who can commit to 12-15 hours a week. The program will support students in getting their hands dirty—growing food on balconies or in backyards, preparing and preserving food in the kitchen, and exploring their local food system. The program is being offered on a sliding scale. Applications are due Wednesday, July 1, or until 25 spots are filled. For more information, visit https://hazon.org/adahm/adahm-at-home.

- The Jewish National Fund is offering virtual tours of Israel. The tours include regular tourist sites, off-the-beaten-path sites, Jewish National Fund projects and places. Included are the Old City of Jerusalem, Ayatlon Institute, Rosh Ha’Nikras, Akko, JNF’s Sderot Indoor Recreation Center, Be’er Sheva, Timna Park and more. The $50 registration fee ($36 for JNFuture tours) per Zoom spot includes a week of live touring in Israel for one hour a day Monday-Friday. After a break, there will be one-hour social dinner/cocktail hour. Friday will feature a one-hour pre-Shabbat experience. For more information, visit www.jnf.org/travel-pages/jnf-virtual-tours-to-israel or contact Rabbi Cohen at rocbeh2@jnf.org or 121-879-9305.

- YesHiva University, the Rabbinical Council of America and the Orthodox Union will hold a “Siyum in the Arab Emirates” on Monday, June 29, at 9 pm. There will be a short feature film, “Rabbi Lamm in His Own Words: The Role of Torah in the Modern World,” followed by a siyum. The event will be live streamed at bit.ly/RabbiLammSiyum.

- The Ayin Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies releases its second educational film bringing Torah and science together. “Quantum Torah with Alexander Poltorak II” is a short documentary about Torah and science that seeks to uncover parallels between Jewish tradition and quantum physics. The second episode in this series focuses on wave-particle duality as a metaphor for principles of iQAL (general) and PR (particular) quantum mechanics of biblical hermeneutics, quantum-mechanical superposition. The film can be seen at https://youtu.be/nIoX7H8vQCA or on the YouTube Quantum Torah channel at www.youtube.com/QuantumTorah.

**For additional resources, see issues of The Reporter on its website, www.thereportergroup.org.**
Israel team aims to reach Neptune’s moon with Trident project

By Brian Blum

(Israel21c via JNS) – Is there life on Triton, the largest moon circling the planet Neptune? An Israeli project aims to find out. One of its key measurement tools will be a super-accurate clock that loses less than one second every 10 million years.

But first, the Israeli project – dubbed “Trident” after the Roman sea god Neptune’s three-pronged spear – must be chosen by NASA to head to space.

Trident, sponsored by the Weizmann Institute of Science and the Israel Space Agency, is one of four projects chosen out of 22 proposals. Each project will now receive $3 million. However, only two will make the final cut for launch in 2026. The craft is expected to reach Neptune in 2038.

Some 4.5 billion kilometers (2.8 billion miles) from Earth, Triton is a promising candidate for finding life in the solar system: Scientists suspect that it has a liquid water ocean under its icy surface.

Triton orbits in the opposite direction to all the other moons of the Neptune system. Scientists suspect that it has a liquid water ocean under its icy surface.

At right: A global mosaic of Neptune’s moon Triton, taken in 1989 by Voyager 2 during its flyby of the Neptune system. (Photo courtesy of NASA/JPL/USGS)

After Triton, the next target will be Triton’s moon, Nereid, and the Israel Space Agency aims to send a spacecraft to lake Nereid in 2058.

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Giving Dignity to Man

TIMOTHY SZCZESNY
DONNAMARIE OLIVIERI
Directors

When alcohol is the driver, nobody’s safe! It doesn’t take a large amount to do a lot of damage. Even one drink can cloud judgment and slow reflexes enough to hamper fast thinking and total control at the wheel. At holidays when many people celebrate “to the limit”, steer clear of disaster. If you take a drink, don’t take the driver’s seat and make it a safe and happy holiday weekend!

Don’t Let Alcohol Get Behind the Wheel

Driving...Continued from page 8

2. Get the facts. Any decisions about driving cessation should be based on data. Seniors deserve to have more than just opinions influencing whether or not they can continue to drive. Get the facts with evaluations from medical professionals, such as a physical or vision exam. Encourage your loved one to take a driving self-assessment.

Check...Continued from page 7

cracked or don’t properly clean your windshield should be replaced. Some manufacturers offer special winter blades that have a rubber boot covering the arm assembly to keep snow and ice out. When changing the blades, have the windshield wiper system nozzles cleaned and adjusted if necessary, and check the fluid level in the windshield washer reservoir.

During the cold months, keep your vehicle’s gas tank at least half full as that decreases the chance of moisture forming in the gas lines and possibly freezing. And if you’re due for a tune-up, consider having it done soon. Winter magnifies existing problems such as pings, hard starts, sluggish performance or rough idling.

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the “Be Car Care Aware” consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers. For more information or for a free “Car Care Guide,” visit www.carcare.org.

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be farmers and shepherds. The answer can be found in Numbers 18:21-25, where God says to the Levites, “You will speak to the Levites and say to them, ‘When you take a tithe [tax] from the children of Israel [Jews], you shall give a tithe of it as a gift for the Lord... and you will give that gift that was also set apart to the Lord to Aaron the priest.’” While the Levites receive a portion of produce given by others for their own use, they also have to tithe what they receive. That portion is said to be in honor of God, although it’s precisely who receives the actual goods.

When you think about it, it makes sense that if society (or God) requires people to perform certain tasks for the good of society (in this case, that sacrifice that God needs), then the rest of the population should support them.

The biblical tax is a reasonable one, unlike that demanded by the Levites, which would mean that God was unhappy with Israel.

The idea of a hierarchical society based on inherited family lines and the idea of sin against the grain of American society. Family fortunes and influence wax and wane over time; the major players in each decade can belong to different ethnic groups. The biblical text is a reasonable one, but the timing and circumstance of sets of statuses were clearly decreed by God. For example, in the opening sections of Korach, this week’s portion, the interest of the idea of Korach, Dathan, and Abiram, showing that the priesthood belongs only apart to the Lord to Aaron the priest.” While the Levites receive a portion of produce given by others for their own use, they also have to tithe what they receive. That portion is said to be in honor of God, although it’s precisely who receives the actual goods.

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IDF hosts virtual conference with militaries worldwide to discuss pandemic insights

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS) – The Israel Defense recently held a virtual conference with militaries of its kind – with militaries around the world to discuss insights on technological trends and operational issues during the coronavirus pandemic. Lt. Col. O, from the J6 (telecommunications) and Cyber Defense Directorate, which organized the conference, told JNS that about 60 participants from 19 countries in 45 locations took part.

“The organization principle was, first of all, to be in touch at a time when there are no delegations and no outbound travel since March,” explained the officer. “This contact is very important for us.”

The aim of the conference is to create a community of knowledge for information-sharing in the pandemic era, he added, allowing participants to also see, hear and speak to one another, while sharing valuable lessons.

Countries that took part included the United States, Britain, Thailand, Cyprus, Greece and several others. The video conference featured lectures by IDF representatives who are among the Israelis’ military’s J6 and Cyber Defense Directorate adapted itself, as a technological unit, to the coronavirus restrictions.

“We explained how the unit accesses data on platforms, how it changed its modus operandi in working from home and what tools were needed for this. How we manage a routine of remote learning and the ways we had to think out of the box to provide unique solutions,” stated Lt. Col. O. The conference participants shared insights on remote personnel management, the development of specialized applications to suit the social-distancing regulations. The IDF adapted itself, as a technological unit, to the coronavirus restrictions.

Presentations also included ways that the directorate adapted itself, as a technological unit, to the coronavirus restrictions. Lt. Col. O. “It underlined how small the differences are between teleworking in Europe, Asia, the East and the West are all dealing with the same challenges, it becomes clear that this is a part of a global village. Officers from the IDF’s software unit, Shachar, and the broader Unit for Telecommunications and Information Technology (known by its Hebrew acronym, Lotem) provided examples during the conference of effective solutions that can be used on a large scale. Two members, by presenting their own ways of coping with the times. The conference discussed cyber-defense efforts in recent months with the unit’s and the unit’s leadership’s role in national efforts.

“Other teams in one space, alongside new secure remote working channels. The video conference was able to plug in, there’s no question of using the video feature. Still, Mellman acknowledged that “if you don’t have maps for this, everything else is useless. We are probably not far from the point where we will not be able to maintain this type of remote personnel management. The video conference was a highly fruitful dialogue," said Lt. Col. O. “It underlined how small the differences are between teleworking in Europe, Asia, the East and the West are all dealing with the same challenges, it becomes clear that this is a part of a global village. Officers from the IDF’s software unit, Shachar, and the broader Unit for Telecommunications and Information Technology (known by its Hebrew acronym, Lotem) provided examples during the conference of effective solutions that can be used on a large scale. Two members, by presenting their own ways of coping with the times. The conference discussed cyber-defense efforts in recent months with the unit’s and the unit’s leadership’s role in national efforts.

The IDF participants shared insights on remote personnel management, the development of specialized applications to suit the social-distancing regulations. (Photo courtesy of IDF Spokesperson’s Unit)

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June 26-July 2, 2020

Report: Israel turns to fish to prevent Iranian hacking

Following a reported Iranian hack of Israel’s water infrastructure in April, the country’s National Cyber Directorate took responsibility for overseeing and protecting the water supply system—using, among other things, fish. In addition to higher alert levels for system’s keys, Israel also employs fish to detect contaminants in the Eshkol water purification site in Beer Sheva to monitor the water and to detect any changes, according to Channel 12. The site is filled with drinking water, and the bigger fish react to build-up signs of harmful contaminants. “The little ones react faster than the bigger ones. They’re not interested in the bigger picture,” said engineer Ortal Shlafman, according to the report. “The control center is added to the system.”

12. The fish, in aquariums filled with drinking water, are selected for its easy access to visitors and its quiet environment, says that the location of the memorial – Ostarrichi Park – was selected to be in Austria because that country has been the target of many cyber attacks.

“The location of the memorial – Ostarrichi Park – was selected for its easy access to visitors and its quiet environment, as ‘a place of reverence.” The cost of the memorial is estimated at $5.5 million euros ($6 million). It is being funded in part by the Austrian government, local authorities and through donations from the Austrian business community.

CA police investigate top-off Holocaust memorial fountain

A Holocaust memorial fountain in Santa Rosa, CA, was vandalized the week of June 19. The fountain at Santa Rosa Memorial Park was “toppled onto the ground in pieces,” reported The Santa Rosa Press Democrat.

The memorial was built in 2016 by Daniel Judd in honor of his parents, Emil and Lillian Judd. His mother, Lillian, was a Holocaust survivor who died at age 92 from complications related to a stroke that year. Behind the fountain, which can be used as a hand-washing station, is a mosaic and list of 12 Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Authorities are investigating the vandalism as a potential hate crime.

Neptune

Neptune is the eighth and farthest known planet from the Sun. It was the first of the four outer planets to be discovered. The planet’s core is believed to be made of rocky material, with a thick layer of liquid water above it. Neptune has a large magnetic field, which is caused by the planet’s rapid rotation. Neptune is an important target for astronomers because it is one of the few planets in our solar system that is not disrupted by the gravitational influence of nearby stars.

The Trident mission to Neptune is part of NASA’s Discovery program, which aims to explore the outer planets. The mission is led by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland. The spacecraft will be launched in 2024 and will reach Neptune in 2029. The mission will study the planet’s atmosphere, geology, and magnetic field, and will also search for evidence of life in the outer solar system.