By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS) – You didn’t have to agree with everything Rabbi Jonathan Sacks said or wrote to understand the value of what he was trying to teach. The former chief rabbi of Great Britain, who died of cancer on November 7 at the age of 72, was a renowned communal leader, author, philosopher and educator who connected both universal and personal respect both in his own country where he was appointed to the House of Lords and around the world.

Although he was not always applauded throughout the Jewish world, he was also subjected to criticism. Liberal Jews deplored his willingness to compromise with and to avoid confrontations with non-Jewish groups. An ardent Jew, he saw his own political movement while that same community nevertheless didn’t recognize his leadership and were left cold by his teaching, which was grounded not just in the lessons of Torah, but also in the classical scholarship and thinking that he exemplified as someone who had earned a doctorate in philosophy. In an era when Jewish life is characterized by division and strife, his wisdom and strong moral voice was appreciated — as evidenced by the honors that were showered upon him — but often went unheeded.

Moreover, at a time when a growing number of Jews identify principally as having “no religion” while recognizing that they have ties to their people, the fact that his teaching was primarily based in Torah and its traditions meant that many American Jews were unable to give his ideas the serious hearing they deserved. Relevance to our lives meant that many American Jews were unable to connect with the growth of ultra-Orthodox movements that so many of them had been largely excluded by the forces tearing us apart.

The message is clear: if we are a nation, if we are a Jewish people, then we must have some kind of national identity. It is not unique to the United States. It is not unique to what many European countries, Israel and Lebanon have been going through in the aftermath of their somewhat inconclusive elections. 

Explanations for this “new normal” have included everything from economic woes to immigration from countries from countries without democratic traditions, to COVID-19. Many of these explanations are natural ideological and political trends, but we are still here. We can survive not only the pandemic, but we can survive outside forces too many times to count over the centuries. But we are still here. We can survive not only the pandemic, but we can survive outside forces too many times to count over the centuries. But we are still here. We can survive not only the pandemic, but we can survive outside forces too many times to count over the centuries. But we are still here. We can survive not only the pandemic, but we can survive outside forces too many times to count over the centuries. But we are still here. We can survive not only the pandemic, but we can survive outside forces too many times to count over the centuries. But we are still here. We can survive not only the pandemic, but we can survive outside forces too many times to count over the centuries. But we are still here. We can survive not only the pandemic, but we can survive outside forces too many times to count over the centuries. But we are still here. We can survive not only the pandemic, but we can survive outside forces too many times to count over the centuries. But we are still here. We can survive not only the pandemic, but we can survive outside forces too many times to count over the centuries. But we are still here. We can survive not only the pandemic, but we can survive outside forces too many times to count over the centuries. But we are still here. We can survive not only the pandemic, but we can survive outside forces too many times to count over the centuries. But we are still here. We can survive not only the pandemic, but we can survive outside forces too many times to count over the centuries. But we are still here. We can survive not only the pandemic, but we can survive outside forces too many times to count over the centuries.
Federation to hold drive-up Hanukkah event on Dec. 13

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a communitywide drive-up Hanukkah event in the Jewish Community Center parking lot, 506 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, on Sunday, December 13, at 4:30 pm. The event will include a candle lighting of a 9-foot LED lit chanukiah and the traditional blessings. Rabbi Benny Kelman will perform Hanukkah music. Doughnuts and chocolate will be passed out directly to people in their vehicles. If there are weather-related questions about whether the event will take place, check the Federation website at www.jfgb.org. A notice will also be sent out via a Federation e-mail blast. Anyone who wishes to be placed on the e-mail blast list should contact the Federation at director@jfgb.org.

People are asked to arrive early since they will be directed where to park their cars. For everyone’s safety, people will be asked to remain in their cars during the event. Anyone leaving their vehicle must wear a mask. Organizers also noted that the JCC will be closed, so no bathrooms will be available. Partnering in the event are Beth David Synagogue, the Jewish Community Center, the Rohr Chabad Center, Temple Concord and Temple Israel.

“I am so excited that we’ve found a fun, safe way for the community to get together for Hanukkah,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. “I’m looking forward to a wonderful event that will allow us to celebrate in person while still staying safe.”

Chabad’s menorah parade will follow the event. The procession will include dozens of vehicles featuring menorahs atop their roofs and will make its way through Vestal, culminating in downtown Binghamton. Anyone interested in taking part in the parade should RSVP at www.JewishBU.com/MenorahParade.

Operation Brotherhood to support Bandera’s Family Holiday Dinner

Operation Brotherhood, which is sponsored by Jewish Family Service, will once again support the Bandera’s Family Holiday Dinner. Volunteers are needed to deliver the meals on Friday, December 25. Joan Sprague, who is coordinating volunteers, noted that they are receiving more requests for the holiday meal this year due to the financial strain associated with job loss, or reduction in employment hours due to the effects of COVID-19.

To volunteer to deliver meals, contact Sprague at Spraguejm@verizon.net or 341-2443.

TC Lunch ‘n Learn programs

Temple Concord will hold three lunch ‘n learn programs with Congregation Shaarey Zedek and Rabbi Amy Bigman of East Lansing, MI. On Thursday, December 3, Dr. Amy Simon will speak on “Teaching the Holocaust and Antisemitism in 2020.” On Thursday, December 10, Dr. Kenneth J. Levine will discuss on “How Samuel David Rocker and Die Yiddishe Velt Turned Jewish Immigrants into Jewish Americans.” On Thursday, December 17, Dr. Margaret B. Valles will lecture on “Jewish Werewolves and What We Can Learn from Them.” All programs will take place from 11 am-noon. For Zoom links, contact the temple office at TempleConcordBinghamton@gmail.com or 723-7355.

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

December 18:HC Deadline December 9
January 1-14, 2021: January 21
January 15-28: January 6
January 29-February 11: January 20

All deadlines for the year can be found at www.thereportergroup.org/contact-us/faq under “Q: What are the Deadlines for the Paper?”

Happy Chanukah from Town of Vestal Councilwoman Patty Fitzgerald

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Jeffrey Horowitz on the death of his mother, Myra M. Horowitz.

 Operation e-mail blast. Anyone who wishes to be placed on the e-mail blast list should contact the Federation at director@jfgb.org.

People are asked to arrive early since they will be directed where to park their cars. For everyone’s safety, people will be asked to remain in their cars during the event. Anyone leaving their vehicle must wear a mask. Organizers also noted that the JCC will be closed, so no bathrooms will be available. Partnering in the event are Beth David Synagogue, the Jewish Community Center, the Rohr Chabad Center, Temple Concord and Temple Israel.

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TC to celebrate 70th anniversary on Dec. 13

Temple Concord will celebrate its 70th anniversary with a slide show, a toast and lights before joining the World Union for Progressive Judaism Hanukkah celebration “Many Candles, One World” on Sunday, December 13. Following the local Hanukkah Jewish Community Drive-In Event (see article on page 1) at 4:30 pm, Temple Concord will light the Hanukkah menorah in front of synagouge and the Kilmer Mansion at 5:30 pm. The in-person lighting will be broadcast on Zoom and Facebook. The anniversary event will take place at 7 pm on Zoom and the Temple Concord Facebook page.

The evening will culminate with the World Union for Progressive Judaism’s celebration “Many Candles, One World,” featuring Hanukkah music and traditions from around the world, and showcasing choirs, cantors and celebrity guests. The event will be broadcast at 8 pm partnership with Central Synagogue on its YouTube channel. To register, visit https://wjup.org/ch.

Temple Concord was founded 70 years ago and held its first Shabbat service in the Kilmer Mansion in December 1950. “We will be bringing the building and the memories to participants in our celebration,” said organizers of the event. “The celebration will include a slide show of holiday celebrations through the years, lighting our Hanukkah lights in our homes and raising a glass to celebrate the moment, honor the past and present, and look toward the future together.”

“This year, the Sunday of Hanukkah will be filled with many meaningful celebrations,” organizers added. “Be sure to join us in celebrating Hanukkah and our anniversary.”

About the cover

This year’s Hanukkah cover was illustrated by Art Edel, a freelance artist and graphic designer who lives in Savannah, GA. 

Grandparents Debbie and Robert Lerner, great-grandfather Walt Selan, and parents Lisa and Michael Conts proudly announce the birth of their newborn son Alexander Jacob! 
Russian or Jewish, or a combination of both? That’s the question often raised in works about Russian Jews, whether they live in the former Soviet Union, the United States or Israel. In two recent novels, the emphasis often falls on the Russian aspect of their identities, even after they’ve left Mother Russia. Their Russian ethnicity is an indispensable part of their psyche – many times more important than their Jewish heritage. In the “The Nesting Dolls” (Harper), Aлина Adams writes about three generations of Russian women: the characters travel from Odessa to Siberia, and back to Odessa before moving to Brighton Beach. Rochelle Distelheim looks at a Russian family’s adjustment to life in Israel when two of its three members mourn having had to leave their motherland in “Jerusalem As a Second Language” (Aubade Publishing).

“The Nesting Dolls” actually covers five generations of women in the same family, although the main focus is on three of them: Daria; her granddaughter Natasha; and Natasha’s granddaughter Zoe. The U.S.S.R. under Stalin is not a safe place to live, especially if you are Jewish, as Daria discovers. The family – Daria, her husband, Edward, and their two daughters – are sent to Siberia for offenses against the regime. The family – Daria, her husband, Edward, and their two daughters – are sent to Siberia for offenses against the regime. The family – Daria, her husband, Edward, and their two daughters – are sent to Siberia for offenses against the regime.

Then she meets someone who might help her fit into both worlds, but is that really what she wants?

“The Nesting Dolls” is an accurate title for this novel, although each doll (generation) revealed offers a surprise: these women are as different as they are similar. Each section builds on what has occurred before, and Zoe’s chapters – in which no one faces a life-and-death decision – were a complete delight. The choices made in the other two sections, though, showed the depth of character of not only the women in this family, but the men who love them. Their combined decisions make this novel well worth reading.

While the family in “The Nesting Dolls” emigrated to the United States, in “Jerusalem As a Second Language,” the Zalinikovs moved to Israel in 1998, partly due to discrimination against Jews and partly due to unsafe conditions in a Russia corrupted by black marketeers and mafioso. The three members of the family – Manya and Yair, and their daughter Galina – have very different reactions to their new country. The previously non-religious Yair finds himself fascinated by talmudic study, which appeals to his mathematical mind. He wants to share his new love of religion and religious life with Galina, who finds it and Reb Turrowtaub, the man with whom her husband studies, of no interest. Manya misses Russian life and looks for ways to give her life meaning in a country that doesn’t feel like home. Her biggest worry, though, is Galina. Even though Galina has been given a two-year deferment from the Israeli army, Manya makes it her mission to prevent her from ever being inducted. Galina also misses Russia; classes at the Hebrew University don’t offer enough distraction. Going to dance clubs, however, seems to offer some relief.

The Zalinikov family’s life gets more complicated when Yuri’s teacher tries to broaden the reach of his teachings by hosting a television show, the source of whose funding is questionable. Although Manya does not like Reb Turrowtaub, she discovers in his wife a kindred spirit. But religion is driving Manya and Yair apart, rather than bringing them together, and Manya worries the man she married may be lost to her.

“Jerusalem As a Second Language” offers an interesting look at the way some Russian Jews feel more Russian than Jewish, making it difficult for them to adjust to life in another country. The author also explores how riches can tempt even the most religious, in addition to painting a portrait of Israeli life by those who have not yet adjusted to their new world.

“The Nesting Dolls” and “Jerusalem As a Second Language” are both excellent choices for book clubs because they offer a great many questions for discussion. The novels also show how, unlike some cultures and countries, Mother Russia’s influence and culture move to the next generation.

Before I request a review copy of a novel, I check to see if it contains Jewish content. At a minimum, there has to be at least one Jewish character. If religion plays a role in the book, that’s even better. When looking at works by Israeli authors, though, the same rules don’t always apply. Almost all Jewish Israeli authors have Jewish characters in their books – that is, if their works take place in Israel. However, as you’ll see in the review below, some focus on everyday existence while others feature Jewish heritage and history. All offer a world where Judaism is considered a normal part of daily life.

Wishing the Community

A HAPPY & HEALTHY

CHANUKAH

Richard C. David
Mayor of Binghamton

Paid for by Friends to Elect Rich David

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HAPPY CHANUKAH!
TC to offer one-man live performance on Dec. 12

Temple Concord will offer the virtual live performance from Jerusalem of Evan Kent’s one man show “Jerusalem of Shards: Putting the Pieces Together” on Zoom on Saturday, December 12, at 4 pm. At the end of the performance, Kent will talk to the Zoom audience. This will be followed by Havadalah and a lighting of Hanukkah lights. Registration for the program is required. To register, visit https://binghamton.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYoduitqD8jH92j3OGu by-F947jdc-vk9-. After registering, each person will receive a confirmation e-mail including information about joining the meeting.

“Temple Concord is pleased to offer an exciting program for Hanukkah this year,” said organizers of the event. “Evan will transport us from the streets of Jerusalem to the villages of Eastern Europe to the suburbs of Long Island in the 1960s – sharing stores of his grandparent’s immigration to the United States at the beginning of the 20th century interwoven with his own tales of his aliya just a few years ago.”

They added, “Shards’ takes us on a poignant, often humorous, journey that spans continents, decades and generations. The theatrical adventure includes one actor, 21 characters, three puppets, four generations and eight songs adding up to one unforgettable theatrical adventure. Ultimately ‘Shards’ is the story of finding home, finding homeland, and along the way learning a bit more about yourself. The talk with Evan will give us all a greater sense of connection.”

Other North American Reform congregations joining with Temple Concord to be part of this program to the U.S. are Vassar Temple, Poughkeepsie, NY; Congregation Shaarey Zedek, East Lansing, MI; Temple Israel, Columbus, GA; Temple Beth Israel, York, PA; B’nai Abraham, Elyria, OH; and Temple Beth El, Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

For more information, or to watch the recordings about the show, visit https://vimeo.com/226114959 or Kent’s website at www.evankent.com.

Kilmer Mansion Restoration announces $30,000 matching funds challenge

A group of generous Temple Concord members have come together to match every dollar donated to the Kilmer Mansion Restoration and Preservation Fund throughout the month of December, up to $30,000.

“Every time I walk into the mansion, I’m struck again by how beautiful and special it is – the intricately carved woodwork, the colorful marble fireplaces, the delicate plasterwork,” said Lisa Blackwell, Temple Concord president. “There are few places like the mansion left in our community and it is truly irreplaceable.”

The 122-year-old historic building became the first home of Temple Concord in 1950. Some of the features of the Kilmer Mansion are in danger of collapse. The terraces and covered porch have been closed for safety, so no events can be held in those spaces until they can be rebuilt.

“The Kilmer Mansion is a community treasure and we must restore it,” Blackwell said. “Together, we can make that happen. Now is an especially great time to donate because every dollar people give will be doubled, getting twice as much work done.”

Donations can be made by check, payable to Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905 (note Kilmer Mansion Fund on the check). Gifts can also be made online at https://rb.gy/nozqdw, or by texting GIVE to 607-228-8005.

For more information, please contact the Kilmer Mansion Restoration office at 607-722-8000.

Annual Campaign 2021
Keep our volunteers safe. Make your pledge early!

Your gift is more important than ever. Do a Mitzvah! Please pledge early.

You can make your pledge 3 ways:

1) Visit the Federation website at www.jfgb.org and click on “make a pledge.”

2) E-mail Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal at director@jfgb.org with “pledge” in the subject line.

3) Fill out the form in this ad and mail it to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

Mail this form to:

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500 Clubhouse Rd.,
Vestal, NY 13850

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Fiction

Happy New Year!

December 4-17, 2020

Continued from page 4

Happy Chanukah

Temple Israel hatched an Enrichment Program

A group of parents from Temple Israel gathered to brainstorm ways to bring their children together safely while helping them continue to learn. The result was the Temple Israel Enrichment pod. “It’s been a trying fall season for parents with school-aged children as they struggled with if or when schools will open,” said those working with the T.I.E. pod. “After a spring shut-down and summer plans laid to rest, parents were hopeful that, by fall, work and school schedules would be back to ‘normal.’ That didn’t happen. It still hasn’t happened. So Temple Israel parents hatched the T.I.E. pod.”

For 10 weeks from September through November, eight children spanning upper elementary and middle school (grades three-eight) met once a week for three hours outside with all COVID-19 safety protocols in place. The T.I.E. pod was open to both members and non-members of Temple Israel. The purpose of the T.I.E. pod was to provide public school parents an option for their children to learn in a hands-on, in-person, socially distant and masked inquir-y-based enrichment program. The program was not meant to supplant the regular school curriculum, but rather provide an opportunity for an enrichment program that recognizes the importance of allowing children to explore the human- ities and the arts in an area of COVID. Skills fostered by the program included applying process skills used in fields of inquiry; recognizing problems and approaches to problem solving; understanding and appreciating individual differences; and becoming a self-directed learner through exploration of ideas and materials.

T.I.E. pod had two instructors: Gil Choi and Morgan Milovich. Choi is a Binghamton University B.A. graduate with a focus in act- ing and directing. He has performed locally with various community theater troupes and has toured worldwide with Bing hamton-based dance trio Galumpka. Choi attended Hillel Academy as a child. In his class, the students read from a wide variety of materials, including William Shakespeare, Ray Bradbury, female and male writers, Latinx authors and Russian writers. The children wrote their own short stories every week and were taught how to construct literature with multidimensional characters. The students separately, but collaboratively, constructed two large clay scenes. Lastly, they designed a card game based on their work, which was sent to a graphic designer so that hard copies of their game were printed out and they could each keep a copy. See “Enrichment” on page 10

TI Sisterhood held art event

On November 22, the Temple Israel Sisterhood welcomed Flora Rosefsky live on Zoom from Atlanta to teach members how to create a collage that celebrates something of significance to the artist. By using the traditional Polish method of paper cutting called Wycinanki, or drawing with scissors, Sisterhood members from Vermont to Florida to California joined the Zoom program to learn how to design personal legacies. Rosefsky shared many of her collages with the 32 women who participated in the program.

“We were given time to work on our designs, choose our art papers and practice various methods of cutting,” said organizers of the event. “We were able to ask questions and appreciated Flora’s expert guidance in organizing our thoughts and ideas, and transferring them to the design. Many members shared their collages and the stories behind them. Some of these will be featured as special photographs in the next edition of the Temple Israel bulletin. This opening event was a beautiful and meaningful way to begin our Sisterhood year.”

The Sisterhood thanked event Co-chairwomen Beverly Rosen and Maxine Rosenberg, and their committee: Kathy Hurwitz, Barbara Zelter, Marcia Hofstein, Arlene Oster and Barbara Gilbert.

“Three” D. A. Mishani is best known for his detective series featuring police inspector Avraham Mishani. His recent best work, “Three” (Europe Editions), is a departure in that it’s a stand-alone novel. Its first section, when readers learn about Ohad’s adjustment to life after divorce, reads as a psychological work exploring the life of a lonely woman trying to help her son adjust to being abandoned by his father. The insights offered are so well done that its ending came as a complete surprise.

The second section continues in this psychological vein by offering a portrait of Emilia, an immigrant caregiver whose patient has died. She now not only has to find a new place to work, but somewhere to live since she shared an apartment with her patient and his wife. Her adjustment to a new home and her employment are carefully explored and, at first, her story seems to have no connection to Or na’s. Yet, one detail emerges that finally ties together the lives of the women.

To say anything about the plot of the third section would give away too much of the story. It is, however, where Mishani shows his greatest skill by creating not only page-turning suspense, but an impressive surprise, making this work perfect for those who love thrillers. The only complaint readers may have is that the psychology of one of the characters is never explored and left instead to the readers’ imaginations. While the author does not specifically highlight Israeli life, readers can learn about Israeli culture through the everyday details that are offered, including the use of caregivers from foreign countries who serve as aides to the old and infirm. However, sociological considerations take second place to suspense.
American football, "like the country in which it was created, was rough. It was a war... a war of cultures... and it was a war that jumped out of the mud," observed sportswriter Sally Jenkins. By the 1920’s Golden Age of Sports, however, college football ranked as the dominant athletic spectacle on campuses. Nonetheless, professional football, in the form of the nascent National Football League, struggled for legitimacy throughout the decade. Enshrined in both the College Football Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Benny Friedman, the game’s first Jewish superstar, contributed significantly to the continued growth of the collegiate gridiron and to the branding of the NFL.

The son of Russian Jewish immigrants, Friedman, born in 1905, grew up in Cleveland. Young Benny resented the time that Hebrew school took from play, as well as a teaching style that taught language without providing an understanding of the text. Benny, however, found other facets of Judaism more appealing. He had fond memories of lighting the Shabbat candles, challah baking and his mother putting pennies—the Hebrew lucky 18—in the pushke, the small box for charitable donations, to keep him safe on the football field.

Although his mother initially opposed Benny playing football, due to the threat of injury, his enthusiasm eventually won her over, particularly when Benny’s evident skills brought Mrs. Friedman an attention that set her apart from her friends. During his senior year, Benny led the Glenville High School football team to the Cleveland city championship. When the University of Michigan recruited Benny to play at Ann Arbor, although Friedman arrived at Michigan without an athletic scholarship, necessitating part-time jobs, he was initially elated with the opportunity to play football for the Wolverines. By 1923, powerhouse Michigan teams under the legendary Coach Fielding “Hurry Up” Yost had won six national championships. Playing for the freshman team in 1923, Friedman demonstrated that he was ready for the varsity. In 1924, however, Yost, by then Michigan athletic director, yielded the coaching reins to George Little. The abrasive Little lashed out at Friedman, the only Jew on the squad at the time, with various tactless and bizarre accusations. Despite Friedman’s brilliant play, Little made his superstar feel insecure about his spot in the starting lineup. Fortunately for Friedman, Little, after one season as head coach, departed Ann Arbor and Yost returned as head coach.

With the return of Coach Yost, Michigan football and Benny Friedman would soar in 1925 and 1926. During both seasons, Yost’s Wolverines, paced by 60-minute man Friedman, won Big Ten Conference championships with identical 7-1-0 records. Friedman’s remarkable broken-field running, precision passing, kicking and exceptional play in the defensive secondary brought him consensus All-American honors both years. Save for Red Grange, Friedman, despite his modest 5’10”, 178-pound stature, was arguably the best and most publicized college football player of the 1920s. None of Friedman’s passes were intercepted for a touchdown. Friedman and his primary receiver, Bennie Oosterbaan, made a dazzling Benny-to-Bennie combination. In 1925, Benny ran for a 57-yard touch- down in the opening game, returned a punt over 60 yards for a touchdown the next week, threw five touchdowns against Indiana complimented by a 55-yard touchdown run and nine points kicking, and so the season—and the next—went. Friedman’s 1925 Wolverines outscored the opposition by an incredible 227-3. In 1926, Friedman’s senior year, Michigan and its star were again dominant. In perhaps Benny’s greatest game, against Navy, Friedman accounted for all of the Wolverines’ scoring. American Sports writer Murray Cook, noting Benny as the first football standard bearer. When Michigan named Benny team captain, nearly 80,000 Jews wired their congratulations. And The Jewish Daily Forward sent a reporter to Ann Arbor to interview Friedman.

Although the NFL in its early days lacked the prestige, fan base or stability of the college game, Friedman was not ready to hang up his cleats. He made his 1927 pro football debut in his hometown with the Cleveland Bulldogs, who built their team around Friedman, and the rookie broke the league record for touchdown passes. Friedman led the NFL in touchdowns three seasons later and in 1928 and changed its name to the Wolverines, and Friedman led the NFL in both passing and rushing touchdowns, the only player to achieve that distinction in the league’s history.

Coming off a 4-7 record, the football Giants, fighting for survival at the gate, signed the 20-year-old Friedman on January 30, 1929. Mara purchased the Wolverines in order to bring Friedman to New York, counting on the handsome, charismatic star to fill the seats in a city that already loved the game and its Jews. At the Polo Grounds, Friedman’s uncle, pointing to some young dark-haired fans, said to Benny, “There’s your crowd.”

Remaining a triple scoring threat as runner, passer and kicker, as well as a defensive stalwart, Friedman again paced the NFL in touchdowns passes in 1929 and 1930, leading the Giants to 13 wins both seasons and making the All-Pro team for the fourth consecutive season. Friedman’s 20 touchdown passes in 1929 set a record that endured until 1942 and was as impressive as Babe Ruth’s 60 home runs. Keep in mind that the football that was then shaped like a watermelon. Prior to Friedman, passing in American football, primarily employed as a desperation play and discouraged by the rules, which then stipulated that an incomplete pass required turning the ball over to the other team. Tailbacks still dominated the offense. The T-formation quarterback was a decade in the future before finessed by another Jewish pass and playing.”

Friedman was the NFL’s first great passer and he changed the way the game was played. Spending his last campaign with the Chicago Cardinals, Friedman retired from active play in 1934. For a number of years, Friedman remained the NFL career leader in touchdown passes and passing yards.

As a player, Benny experienced remarkable success. Part II of the Friedman story will examine the triumph and tragedy of his coaching career.

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.

Learn . . . . Continued from page 3

“The December series has some surprising, thematic overlap,” said organizers of the event. “Each of these three presentations will deal with the complexity of Jewish identity in a complex world. In addition, all three speakers are professors involved with Jewish Studies at Michigan State University. Amy Simon will speak about her experiences teaching the Holocaust and antisemitism to students at MSU. Ken Levine will speak about a Midwestern Yiddish newspaper, The Jewish World, and how it helped Jewish immigrants socialize to the U.S. in the early 20th century. Margot Valles will talk about what we can learn from Jewish werewolves.”

Simon is the William and Audrey Farber Family Endowed Chair of Holocaust Studies and European Jewish History, participating in the Department of History, James Madison College, and Jewish Studies. Her research examines victim representations of perpetrators in Yiddish diaries written in the Warszaw, Lodz, and Vilna ghettos during World War II. She completed her Ph.D. at Indiana University in 2015 and was the recipient of a Saul Kagan Claims Conference Fellowship as well as the Leon Mil- man Memorial Fellowship at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Levine earned his J.D. at Case Western Reserve Uni- versity and his Ph.D. at Michigan State University. He is a faculty member in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at Michigan State University. His work concentrates on leadership, organizational communication and small group communication within organizations. His research examines the impact of organizational communication on leadership effectiveness, leadership communication and small group communication within organizations. His research examines the impact of organizational communication on the size of the organization, leadership effectiveness, leadership communication and small group communication within organizations.
Hollie S. Levine, a lifelong resident of Broome County and of the local Jewish community, has been elected to serve as the Broome County Family Court judge.

Her term of office will begin on Friday, January 1, and she will serve as the next Broome County Family Court judge.

Levine has practiced law in Broome County for 35 years. She began her career at the Broome County Public Defender’s Office. She then worked at the Attorney General’s Office, where she was in charge of the Public Advocate Bureau. She worked for Broome County establishing a program for the management of the Assigned Counsel Program. Levine also worked at Legal Aid and in private practice. She was a court attorney for Broome County Family Court Judge Herbert Ray. She has worked for Mental Hygiene Legal Service for the past 20 years representing individuals with mental illness or developmental disabilities.

Levine said that her entire career has been dedicated to trying to make people’s lives better. She credits her desire to have a career in public service to the Jewish values she absorbed as a child. She considers the values of tikvah olam, repairing the world, and the values of pursuing justice central to how she lives her life and the work she has done.

Levine sees these values as hallmarks of her career and said they will continue to guide her in her new role as a Family Court judge.

Levine elected as BC Family Court judge

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 Museum of the Jewish People is offering a new initiative called Foodish. The initiative’s mission is to promote a sense of belonging and reinforce Jewish identity through engagement with Jewish food. It will include user generated family stories, descriptions of communities and heritage, and recipes. To learn more and sign up for its newsletter, visit https://foodish.network/.

The Museum at Eldridge Street will hold several virtual events: "Time-Travel Storytime | The Story of Emma Lazarus, Liberty’s Voice" on Sunday, December 6, from 3-4 pm; and "Riters on the Bimah: Women and the Kosher Meat Boycott" on Monday, December 7, from 6-7 pm, in addition to several ongoing virtual classes, such as "Introduction to Jewish Mysticism" and "From Freedom to Slavery and Back Again: The Biblical Book of Exodus." For more information or to register, visit https://www.eldridgestreet.org/events/.

The Jewish Theological Seminary will hold several online events: “Living a Life of Meaning: Trauma and Testimony in an Oversharing Society” on Monday, December 7, from 7-8 pm; "Between the Lines: Commemorating the Hallmarks of Jewish Life" on page 12.

Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 26

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Milovich is a longtime art teacher, having graduated from Buffalo State College in 2005 with degrees in art education, ceramic design and a master’s in creativity. Milovich has taught for the last 16 years in a wide range of grade levels from kindergarten to college level classes. Additionally, she teaches private lessons in art, including ceramics, drawing, jewelry design and wood-working out of her home studios for individuals and small groups. Her group of T.I.E. students worked on a variety of lessons using Mother Nature as inspiration for their artwork. Students completed texture studies using colored pencil, oil pastels, marker, watercolor and handmade pottery pieces. Students also completed self-portraits in the style of Amedeo Modigliani using oil pastels. They also explored weaving and knotting techniques, and completed tessellated drawings.

A parent commented that their child looked forward to the T.I.E pod every week to be with other children – interacting and socializing while learning something new and creative. The parent was also happy to get their child away from screens. Another shared, “Thank you! It has been one of the highlights of the first trimester.”

Further comments included, “I wished it had been more than just once a week. They needed this!”

Parents have expressed interest in having another learning pod experience in the spring with a different focus.

Anyone interested in more information or having their child attend a spring and/or summer T.I.E pod should contact Elissa Brown at elissabrown21@gmail.com.

L-r: Jasmin Rosales, Zoe Friedman, Matan Bock and Ariella Kweller stood in front of windows decorated with student artwork.

L-r: Oliver Lahoda, Mika Friedman and Gil Choi. Not pictured from this group are Zev Rosales and Joshua Kweller.

L-r: Jasmin Rosales, Morgan Milovich, Matan Bock and Zoe Friedman.

Artwork done by the elementary group.
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Israel’s military inclusion program inspires new U.S. Corps of Honor

By Abigail Klein Leichman

Israel21c via JNS – Marsh Neely is a 5-year-old boy with Down Syndrome. His father, Chris, is starting an American version of Israel’s military inclusion program, Special in Uniform, so that young adults with intellectual and physical disabilities can serve their country.

“I want Marsh to know that when he’s old enough he can be the American flag on his shoulder, just like his older sister and brother,” says Neely. The South Carolina resident is a U.S. Army and Navy veteran, a major in the U.S. Army National Guard, a special-education administrator, and a member of the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Neely and his wife, Janie, came across Special in Uniform in March 2018 when researching inclusion programs around the world. “One place people with disabilities haven’t been included is the military,” says Neely. “When I saw what the Israel Defense Forces did to include them among their ranks, I realized this innovative approach could be a model for the United States.”

Neely, backed Special in Uniform’s director, IDF Major (ret.) Tiran Attia, through Facebook. Attia put Neely in touch with Yossi Kahana, who oversees the Jewish National Fund-USA’s task force on disabilities. JNF-USA supports Special in Uniform and the other special needs initiatives in Israel: LOTEM, Red Mountain Therapeutic Riding Center and ALEH-Negar.

Less than a year later, Neely accompanied the task force to Israel. He visited some of the 28 bases where about 450 Special in Uniform soldiers are stationed. “I was blown away,” says Neely. “I talked to the commanders about how the integration has helped relieve some of thearrison responsibilities like logistics, food services, medical services, transportation and administrative jobs so you can move soldiers without disabilities to the front line. I saw how the IDF trains young people with autism to read satellite imagery and see things you couldn’t before. I saw how they give disabilities to the front line. I saw how the IDF trains young people with autism to read satellite imagery and see things you couldn’t before. I saw how they give disabilities to the front line. I saw how the IDF trains young people with autism to read satellite imagery and see things you couldn’t before. I saw how they give disabilities to the front line. I saw how the IDF trains young people with autism to read satellite imagery and see things you couldn’t before. I saw how they give disabilities to the front line. I saw how the IDF trains young people with autism to read satellite imagery and see things you couldn’t before. I saw how they give disabilities to the front line. I saw how the IDF trains young people with autism to read satellite imagery and see things you couldn’t before. I saw how they give disabilities to the front line. I saw how the IDF trains young people with autism to read satellite imagery and see things you couldn’t before. I saw how they give disabilities to the front line. I saw how the IDF trains young people with autism to read satellite imagery and see things you couldn’t before. I saw how they give disabilities to the front line. I saw how the IDF trains young people with autism to read satellite imagery and see things you couldn’t before. I saw how they give disabilities to the front line.

Neely formed a friendship with Attia and left Israel determined to launch a sister program back home, to be called the Corps of Honor. “That was the name of a unit George Washington created for people with disabilities during the Revolutionary War. The Corps of Honor was last active in the Civil War,” he explains. “We’re launching it again in the United States based on the model of Special in Uniform in Israel.”

The Corps of Honor will begin at the South Carolina Army National Guard. While Special in Uniform soldiers serve for a limited time like other Israeli soldiers, the National Guard is a part-time auxiliary supporting anything from traffic control to emergency evacuation. Therefore, Corps of Honor participants can serve indefinitely, while leveraging their new skills in the civilian workforce. “No one wants to give internships [to people with disabilities], nor do they want to hire them without intern- ship experience,” notes Kahana, the father of a child with autism. “This could be the solution: An internship where they really can feel they are contributing to society and that will make it easier for them to get a real job. So we will help Corps of Honor in any way we can.”

JNF-USA National Vice President Alan Wolx also is helping Neely plan the Corps of Honor. “It’s not a JNF project, but we’re providing guidance and co-branding,” says Wolx, chairmain of the Special in Uniform in Israel task force in the U.S. number of JNF-USA’s Task Force on Disabilities.

He notes that another version of the Israeli program was started in Virginia among first responders. It’s “doesn’t matter if it’s police or national guard or first responders, I think it’s important that leaders that you enable these young people to be included and for the community to see these people can do more than bag groceries at Kruger’s,” says Wolx. “It’s a thumbnail of a much bigger issue to discuss.”


“The program focuses on the unique talents of each individual to find a job with-in the IDF that is perfect for that person’s abilities and provides support, therapy and counseling throughout the participant’s time in the program,” he says. Wolx used his expertise in running large businesses to help Attia formulate a long-term plan for funding, growth and risk mitigation.

“I don’t know what their name is,” says Wolx. “It’s a thumbnail of a much bigger issue to discuss.”

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Mon. - Sat. 9:00am - 11:00pm

Special in Uniform soldiers with program director IDF Maj. Tiran Attia (right). (Photo courtesy of JNF-USA)

Resources . . . . . . . Continued from page 9

acuse will hold the virtual program “Dis- guised as Clark Kent: Jews, Comics and the Creation of the Superhero” featuring author, historian and comics industry veteran Dan- ny Fingerhot on Sunday, December 6, at 3 pm. For more information or to register, visit https://jewishweek.timesofisrael. com/event/disguised-as-clark-kent-jews-comics-and-the-creation-of-the-superhero /

The Katz Center at the University of Pennsylvania will present a webinar with Dr. Todd Gitlin, co-author of the 2013 book “The Chosen Peoples: America, Israel, and the Ordeal of Divine Election,” discussing his admitted failure to redeem the claim of chooseness as a concept that might be parlayed into a humane and universalistic vision on Wednesday, December 9, from 5-6 pm. For more information or to register, visit https://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/ event/the-pathos-of-choosenness-who-are-the-jews-if-not-exceptional -.

The Town and Village Synagogue will celebrate the third night of Hanukkah with a community lighting and community singing on Saturday, December 12, at 7:30 pm. The concert will feature Yiddish vocalist Anthony Mordechai Tsvi Russel, Town and Village’s Cantor Shayna Postman and the synagogues’ choir and Junior Singers. Regis-tration is required. The cost is $25 for early bird tickets (by Friday, December 11); $36 general admission; $10-15 students; and free for those under 18. For more information or to register, visit https://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/event/sh-anskys-der-dibek/ for a link to the Facebook page that will feature a link to the play.

For additional resources, see previous issues of The Reporter or on its website, www. therepor.org.
During World War II, when Britain was battered and bombed by Nazi Germany, people were able to be together, to sympathize with hugs and shoulders to lean on. Not so during COVID, but we create that feeling virtually, as we also light the candles from afar.

Turn often with a slotted spoon. Drain on paper towels. Toss in powdered or cinnamon-sugar.

Serve hot.

Safer Baking Method:
With floured hands, roll the dough into 2-inch balls. Brush with oil, then roll in cinnamon-sugar. Place on a greased baking tray.

Bake in a preheated 375°F oven for 15-18 minutes. When done, sufganiyot will sound hollow when tapped on the side.

My Best Brisket (Meat)

Serves 6.

Cook’s tips:
1. Three secrets for perfect brisket: marinate first; braise slowly in well-seasoned liquid, and let rest overnight in the gravy before reheating and serving.
2. Use a disposable oven-roasting bag – a kitchen item that Bobbe never had.
3. Flat beer is fine.

Cook:
½ cup beer
½ cup chili sauce
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
10-12 prepared baby carrots
12-14 button mushrooms, halved
10-12 small leeks
1 tsp. bottled minced garlic
3½-4 pound brisket, trimmed of excess fat
Salt and pepper

Prepare a large size oven-roasting bag according to package directions.

Pour the beer, chili sauce, onion, carrots, mushrooms, bay leaves and garlic into the bag and mix. Sprinkle the brisket with salt and pepper. Add to the bag spooning the beer mixture over top. Tie bag and place in a roasting pan large enough to hold the brisket without it flopping over the sides. Refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 325°F. Bake for 2½ hours or until a fork easily pierces the thickest part of the meat.

Cool slightly, then slice and arrange in a baking dish along with the vegetables and gravy. Remove the bay leaves. Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight.

Shortly before serving, skim off any fat. Cover tightly with heavy foil. Heat through in a preheated 375°F oven, about 20 minutes. Or reheat in a pot over medium heat, covered.

Potato Latkes From Normandy (pareve)

Serves 2. Ifirst tasted these latkes in Normandy, where butter was used instead of oil. Either way, these two-in- one treats look like a crunchy, thin pancake. They are addictively delicious.

Cook’s tips:
1. Recipe may be doubled. Use two skillets for faster cooking.
3. 1 large baking potato
2 Tbsp. olive or vegetable oil
Salt and pepper

Scrub the potato. No need to peel. Shred on the large holes of a box grater or better still, grate in the food processor using the grating blade.

In a 7-inch skillet, melt 1 tablespoon oil over medium heat.

Spoon half of the potatoes into the hot oil. With a spatula, fry until the bottom begins to brown. Turn often with a slotted spoon. Drain on paper towels.

Next year may we all be free!
Bicyclists pedal thousands of miles across America to aid sick kids in Israel

By Simone Masha

(JNS) – For 20 years, the “Wheels of Love” charity bike ride has created a community of riders from all over the world whose end goal is to raise funds for ALYN Hospital in Jerusalem, Israel’s only pediatric rehabilitation hospital.

Last year, the bike ride raised nearly $3 million. This year, the coronavirus pandemic made it impossible for riders from the United States to travel to Israel for the five-day cycling event, and the American Friends of ALYN Hospital had to adapt the concept to meet the needs of the new reality.

And so MyALYNRide was created to permit personal challenges that can be completed from home and in their communities while continuing to fund-raise to benefit the hospital with participants committed to riding hundreds of miles. So far, as much as $1.3 million has been raised with more than 300 riders have taken to their bikes in October. ALYN depends on these funds to help cover the financial gap between the money it receives from referring agencies and the actual costs of its best-in-class and innovative interdisciplinary care of children.

“COVID-19 has impacted everyone, and yet our ALYN community has remained engaged and committed,” assures Maayan Ariv, executive director of American Friends of ALYN Hospital in New York City. “The purposeful support of our donors and volunteers has been both unexpected as well as validating. Fund-raising is challenging every year – and this year even more so – and yet they have embraced the cause with passion. We are filled with gratitude for their endeavors.”

Brad Sokol, board chair of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, and his wife, Lauren, are longtime supporters. When Israel became out of the question, they set up their own #MyALYNRide and will have completed 250 miles by the end of October. Says the couple: “We are committed to the children, so how can we take a year off?”

Dan Blumenthal from Chicago, who cycled 700 miles in October, feels that it’s more challenging to raise the funds this year for two primary reasons. “First, some of the patients can’t come to MyALYNRide and will have completed 250 miles by the end of October. Says the couple: “We are committed to the children, so how can we take a year off?”

The pandemic has shaken health-care systems worldwide. At ALYN, none are more susceptible to the infectious disease than children with respiratory complications. As the data began to mount, it became clear that one should of the patients contract COVID-19, it could be life-threatening. In a matter of days, the hospital built a new wing to house the three departments of high-risk patients, including the Respiratory Rehabilitation Department with restricted entrance only. It was a major medical and logistical endeavor requiring hours of planning, purchasing of materials, laying out infrastructures, teleworking offices, installing advanced monitoring systems, creating two negative-pressure isolation rooms and more.

Children with severe brain injuries or devastating neurological diseases, as well as those recovering from complex orthopedic procedures or any number of other severe medical conditions, need to receive the rehabilitation that is vital to their recovery. As the second lockdown in Israel started this fall, hundreds of the hospital’s patients required their rehabilitation treatments remotely in ALYN’s various multidisciplinary Outpatient Clinics.

“ALYN is and always will be on the front of innovation in serving their patients,” says Bryan Gartenberg of New York City. “The hospital sets the gold standard for practices and revolutionary thought in supporting children in dire medical and neurology and therapy. Much of what is developed in the hospital is adopted around the world.”

In October, he joined with another 18 members of “The Grumpy Roadsters” after having completed Day 1 of their MyALYNRide in October. “The purpose of support of our donors and volunteers has been both unexpected as well as validating,” assures Ariv. “Fund-raising is challenging every year – and this year even more so – and yet they have embraced the cause with passion. We are filled with gratitude for their endeavors.”

When you need us. Every step. We’re with you now. We’re with you always.

The third point to consider is the mainstream media, social media and the need for instant gratification. For years people were accustomed to media outlets that merely reported the news. They did not present half-baked stories that were presented in tweet form before the details were properly vetted to enable a story to go live ahead of the closure of a news hole. There was barely a need for “fact checkers.”

Today, social media can be more influential than traditional media, as the boundaries between them have been broken. Those who surf and scroll no longer know what is true and what has been falsified.

The public is exposed to a confusing array of real news and fake news, real data and fake data. Not surprisingly, the pseudo-anonymity of social media discourse has become extreme. It has crushed one’s ability to be attentive to the other side – to the claims and the needs of those with whom one disagrees.

Social-media networks have become a place of strife and confusion, where there are no police to separate the hawks. The social-media titans ended up intervening in the closing days of the U.S. election, which only heightened the extreme. It has crushed one’s ability to be attentive to the other side – to the claims and the needs of those with whom one disagrees.

The wars that broke out in the Middle East, the rise of ISIS and the killing that erupted in the Middle East and Africa led to a rise in human migration that has not been seen since World War II. This has had many consequences. The arrival of foreigners directly impacts separatism and senses of nationalism. Yet there is also an instinct to be compassionate and help the vulnerable, while on the other hand there remains a concern that foreigners will take jobs and damage one’s society.

The second point is related to the demographic issue. The wars that broke out in the Middle East, the rise of ISIS and the killing that erupted in the Middle East and Africa led to a rise in human migration that has not been seen since World War II. This has had many consequences. The arrival of foreigners directly impacts separatism and senses of nationalism. Yet there is also an instinct to be compassionate and help the vulnerable, while on the other hand there remains a concern that foreigners will take jobs and damage one’s society.

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Breakthrough in research could influence treatment of leukemia spreading to brain

By JNS staff

(JNS) – An international research group from Israel and Scotland has reported in *Nature* a breakthrough that may influence the treatment of metastatic leukemia spreading to the brain. The researchers include hematological-oncological experts from Schneider Children’s Medical Center and Tel Aviv University, as well as scientists from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and the University of Glasgow.

Their research focuses on acute lymphoblastic leukemia (or ALL), the most common type of cancer among children. Although recovery rates for this disease are relatively high, the treatment is harsh and accompanied by numerous side effects that can persist years after the patient is cured. Since one of the main risks of ALL is that the cancer will metastasize to the brain, children diagnosed with this disease receive a prophylactic treatment that protects the brain from metastasized cells.

Currently, this treatment consists of injecting chemotherapy drugs into the spinal fluid and sometimes also into the bone marrow and blood, but when they travel to the brain in a metastatic process, they reach an area that is very poor in such acids.

According to the recently published research, in order to continue to thrive and flourish in the brain, the ALL cells develop an ability to produce fatty acids on their own. Based on these findings, the researchers infer that treating the patient with drugs that block the production of fatty acids will prevent the leukemia cells from producing these acids, and thereby “starve” them and stop them from flourishing in the brain. The use of such drugs in mice has stopped the spread of metastatic leukemia to their brains.

The drugs used in the current research are still being developed and therefore not yet approved for use in humans. However, the research findings provide hope for a more precise treatment that will most likely be less toxic for preventing the spread of leukemia to the brain.

The work was carried out by three young female scientists: Dr. Angela Maria Savino from Professor Shai Izraeli’s lab in the Department of Hematology-Oncology at the Schneider Children’s Medical Center, part of the Clalit Group, and the Department of Human Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry at Tel Aviv University’s Sackler Faculty of Medicine; Sara Isabel Fernandes (a Ph.D. student) from the lab of Professor Eyal Gottlieb from the Rappaport Institute and Rappaport Faculty of Medicine at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology; and Dr. Orianne Olivares from the lab of Professor Christina Hulseby at the Wolfson Wehl Institute of Technology; and Dr. Orianne Olivares from the lab of Professor Christina Hulseby at the Wolfson Wehl Institute of Technology.
**Netanyahu, Abu Dhabi crown prince nominated for Nobel Peace Prize**

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Former First Minister of Northern Ireland Lord David Trimble has nominated Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize, according to a statement from Netanyahu’s office.

Trimble won the prize himself in 1998 for his efforts to find a solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland. As a Nobel laureate, his nomination of Netanyahu and Prince Bin Zayed will lead the Norwegian Nobel Committee to discuss the issue.

The announcement comes less than a month after a ministate delegation from the United Arab Emirates landed in Israel for the first-ever official visit from the Gulf state following the September 15 signing of the U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords with the UAE and Bahrain at the White House.

In a November 20 letter to the Nobel Committee, Trimble explained that he was nominating Netanyahu and bin Zayed “in recognition of their historic achievements in advancing peace in the Middle East.”

Noting that U.S. President Donald Trump “has already been nominated for the prize for his contributions to this cause,” he said that therefore the Israeli and UAE leaders deserve the same recognition.

He went on to state: “Despite decades of intensive efforts, until now peace between Israel and Arab nations has proved elusive. Four major wars have been fought between Israel and Arab states, and there has been subjected to countless terrorist attacks, leading on four further occasions to major conflicts between Israel and Palestinian Arabs. In the 72 years since the foundation of the modern state of Israel in 1948, until recently only two Arab countries made peace with Israel: Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994. In the last few weeks, three more countries, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of the Sudan, have all agreed to normalize relations with Israel: the first such peace deals in 25 years.

“These far-reaching achievements are the result of the courageous leadership, diplomatic energies and relentless pursuit of peace by Prime Minister Netanyahu and Crown Prince bin Zayed. There is every likelihood that the work of these two leaders, which continues, will encourage further Middle Eastern states to join them in normalising relations, leading to much needed prosperity and peace for peoples across the region.”

In conclusion, Trimble wrote that despite resistance from the Palestinian leadership, the “changing paradigm” in the region resulting from the Abraham Accords stood the best chance of encouraging the Palestinians to reach a lasting accommodation with the state of Israel.

“I know from my own experience how dangerous, demagogic and corrosive are decades of violent ill-will between close neighbours and I wish for nothing more than to see peace between Israelis and Palestinians. I believe this comes within closer reach as a direct result of Prime Minister Netanyahu’s and Crown Prince bin Zayed’s leadership.”

“Award of the Peace Prize will not only recognise the achievements of these two men, but will also serve to encourage a widening and deepening peace in the Middle East. I strongly urge governments everywhere and international bodies such as the United Nations and European Union to play their own roles by supporting and advancing the foundations laid by Prime Minister Netanyahu, Crown Prince bin Zayed and the others involved in the Abraham Accords,” he wrote.
Israel’s Deni Avdija gets picked to shoot for Washington Wizards

By Howard Blas

(JNS) – Israeli basketball fans had to stay up very late or rise very early to witness the Washington Wizards taking 20-year-old Deni Avdija No. 9 overall in the NBA Draft 2020. Just after NBA Commissioner Adam Silver called his name at 9:02 pm Eastern Time from ESPN’s studios in Bristol, CT, ESPN commentators highlighted the Maccabi Tel-Aviv standout’s basketball IQ and his versatility, calling him “the steal of the draft.”

They noted his "tremendous versatility in the open court" and said he was "a fiery competitor." "It means a lot to me," said Avdija when asked what it means to be the highest-rated Israeli in history. "Israel is a small country and to represent Israel is amazing. I am super excited to get my game to the next level and to see what happens."

The 6-foot-9, 220-pounder becomes the third Israeli to play in the NBA after Omri Casspi and Gal Mekel. "Omri has been in touch with me. We talked a lot about his route here, what I can do as a rookie, travel and more."

The emotional Avdija thanked his friends and family for their support. "I truly love them. I love the support and will make you proud. I will work 100 percent!"

ESPN commentator Mark Jackson playfully noted that Avdija, who addressed the media in fluent English, "gets by in two-and-a-half languages." They noted that he had learned English by "watching TV and playing ‘Call of Duty,’" the video game. "He is quite fluent in basketball, thanks to his dad." His Muslim father, Zufer Avdija, was born in Yugoslav-occupied Croatia. His Jewish mother, Sharon Artzi, was a competitive gymnast and club volleyball player for Vi- basketball team. He played a big part in my journey," said his son. "It was great to have another competitive sportsperson in the house. He taught me how to act on the court, small tricks, how to be a professional and how to have a good work ethic."

His Jewish mother, Sharon Artzi, was a competitive track-and-field athlete. Avdija grew up in Biet Zera, a kibbutz in northern Israel, and currently lives in Herzliya. Soon, he’ll move to Washington, DC.

"My American agent is from DC, and he has said great things!" reported Avdija during the post-draft Zoom media conference, attended by more than 150 journalists from around the world. "Washington, DC, is the capital - I heard it is a great place."

Not only are the Wizards a "great organization," he will play with such future hall-of-famers as point guard John Wall. Avdija doesn’t expect to have a difficult time making the transition from playing in Israel to playing in the NBA. "I am easy to adjust. I think it won’t be hard to adjust to the NBA style. I will be asking questions to get better every day and have the best environment around me to help me make sure I fit and get better in the NBA."

He will likely play small forward for the Wizards. Avdija averaged 12.9 points per game, 6.3 rebounds and 2.7 assists in his senior year at Maccabi Tel Aviv. His stats were slightly less impressive in the more competitive Euroleague. "At Maccabi, I was at 6'3" point guard and fellow Israeli, is likely to be taken later in the NBA draft. Madar, who played for Hapoel Tel Aviv, is a skilled playmaker and strong shooter."

Israelis haven’t been this pumped about the NBA since fellow Maccabi Tel Aviv player Casspi was drafted No. 23 by the Sacramento Kings in the 2009 draft. He played for several teams during his 10-year NBA career.

Aliza Haas, who lives in Jerusalem, is the mother of two boys who grew up playing in the Hapoel Youth League. “People here are so excited and proud that there are two outstanding Israeli players in the 2020 NBA draft. Sports has always been a place where people campaigning hope to show that anything is possible if a person works hard enough and believes in themselves. I can’t wait to see Avdija or Madar wearing an NBA team jersey!”

David Wiseman, originally from Australia and who now lives in Israel, maintains the Facebook Group “Follow Team Israel.” While he didn’t stay up to watch the draft, he and his group have been following Avdija for a long time. “Follow Team Israel” has been sharing his exploits for a while and can’t wait for the rest of the world to get to know him. As much as a champion he is on the court, he is off it as well. Given his obvious talent from a very young age, people have been waiting for this day for a long time. We are excited to see Deni show his stuff on the highest stage and also to see where he will end up.

Yariv Amiraz, 26, grew up playing at Maccabi Tel Aviv youth club and has been playing basketball professionally for the past nine years. He currently plays for Hapoel Hevel Modi’in. Amiraz feels he could be "a very good fit" in the NBA. "I think Israeli basketball is a great place." He adds, "I’m sure he will do it great!"

Amiraz said he is delighted that Avdija will help “make kids believe more that they can make it so high and go far. And in the future, it will open more doors for everyone.”

The sports news brought a dose of optimism to the two countries amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. And when travel finally resumes, Israelis will no doubt be off to Washington, DC, to see their young up-and-coming superstar in action.

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The Reporter Group is seeking a part-time Advertising Representative.

Resumes should be e-mailed to: rachel@thereportergroup.org with “advertising representative” in the subject line.
In this week’s Torah portion, we continue following Jacob’s life as he is moving into the patriarchal in whose name we pray. Jacob has struggles throughout his life, even in Rebecca’s womb. It has been 20 years since he left home, fleeing the wrath of his brother Esau whose birthright and blessing he took through various means. He struggled with Laban in Aram and now prepares to meet Esau in the land of Canaan. How this meeting will work out, and knows Esau has good reason to harm him because of their shared past. He fears for his life and the well-being of his children, as well. So, after sending off his family and possessions into the Promised Land ahead of him, he settles down next to a well named Jacob’s Well. The text tells us he wrestled with a man, possibly a messenger from God or something in himself throughout the night. Perhaps he was struggling not to run from his fate or to face his brother in the morning. Jacob was filled with fear until that night. Jacob is still there in the morning, the wrestling having continued all night without a winner or loser. The only way Jacob was willing to stop wrestling and let the man go was if the man would give him a blessing. The messenger from God gave him a blessing and Esau was spoke of as God having an intimate relationship with Jacob. We will explore this theme together to explore and celebrate Jewish identity, history, culture and shared values.

RABBI BARBARA GOLDMAN-WARTEL, TEMPLE CONCORD

Temple Concord
Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm
Phone: 722-7078
Fax: 722-0785
Website: www.templeconcord.org
Regular service times: Friday, 6 pm; Saturday, 10:35 am when religious school is in session.
Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm when religious school is in session.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca
Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Address: 302 Riverbend Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850
Mailing address: PO Box 383, Ithaca, NY 14850
Phone: 607-432-5522
Website: www.templebethel.org
E-mail: BethEl@BethelofIthaca.org
Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.

Beth David Synagogue
Affiliation: Orthodoxy Union
Address: 239 Broadway, Binghamton, NY 13901
Phone: 607-722-1793
Services: Friday, 5:16 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am.
Rabbi Emeritus: Scott L. Glass
Website: www.bethdavid.org
E-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.

Penn-York Jewish Community
Address: 1011 North Main St., Sayre, PA 18840
Phone: 570-289-0592
Services: Friday, 6:30 pm; Saturday, 10 am.
Rabbi: Dr. Rebecca Brown
Website: www.penyork.org
Purpose: To provide Jewish identity through religious, cultural, educational and social activities in the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, including Waverly, Ithaca, Sayre, Athens and Towanda, PA, and surrounding communities.

Kol Haverim
Affiliation: Society for Humanistic Judaism
Address: PO Box 4972, Ithaca, NY 14846-4972
Phone: 607-277-1072
Website: www.kolhaverim.org
E-mail: abbym@kolhaverim.org
Kol Haverim: The Finger Lakes Community for Humanistic Judaism is an inclusive, pluralistic organization that brings people together to explore and celebrate Jewish identity, history, culture and ethics within a secular, humanistic framework. It is part of the international movement for Secular Humanistic Judaism, and is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism. As humanistic Jews, we recognize that we need to maintain a strong connection with our Jewish identity and tradition.

Temple Israel
Affiliation: Conservative
Address: 4373 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 723-7461 and 213-3746
Services: office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8 am-3 pm; Fri., 8 am-3 pm.
Website: tittamy@stny.com
Website: www.templeisrealiste.org
Services: Tuesday, 6:30 pm; Friday, 5:30 pm;
Saturday, 10 am. On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom.

On December, 5th, Shabbat services will be held at 10:30 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Genesis 49:14-50:26 and Obhadiah 1:1-21. At 5:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. On December 12th, Shabbat services will begin at 9:30 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Genesis 47:1-40:23 and the haftarah is Zechariah 2:14-4:7. At 5:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein.

On December 13, at 12:30 pm, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Torat study services via Zoom.

Norwich Jewish Center
Affiliation: Inclusive
Rabbi: David Regenspan
Address: 72 South Main St., Norwich, NY 13815
Contact: Giulia Greenberg, 336-1523
Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.

Temple Brith Sholom
Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.

Temple Temple B’nai Jeshurun
Affiliation: Reform
Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.

Rohr Chabad Center
Affiliation: Unaffiliated
Address: 392 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016
Website: www.chabad.org
Purpose: To provide Jewish identity through religious, cultural, educational and social activities in the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, including Waverly, Ithaca, Sayre, Athens and Towanda, PA, and surrounding communities.

Chabad Downtown Center
Address: 8865 154th St. (the corner of Court and Tioga), Binghamton, NY 13901
Website: www.chabad.org/binghamton
Purpose: To provide Jewish identity through religious, cultural, educational and social activities in the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, including Waverly, Ithaca, Sayre, Athens and Towanda, PA, and surrounding communities.
Bahraini delegation arrives in Israel to sign bilateral tourism agreement

Israeli Tourism Minister Orit Farkash-Hacocho on Dec. 1 welcomed to Israel the first Gulf Air flight from Bahrain, along with a high-level delegation of tourism industry representa- tives and businessmen from the Gulf state, led by Bahraini Economy and Tourism Minister Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani. “I am honored to welcome H.E. Minister Al Zayani, who arrived with the head of the Tourism Author- ity and members of the business sector to promote mutual tourism between the countries,” said Farkash-Hacocho following the reception. “The opening of direct flights, and the travel of people between the countries, is an essential step toward building peace and prosperity in our nations. I look forward to hosting the minister and his delegation, showing them a taste of Israel’s scenes and heritage, and introducing them to Israel’s unique tourism sector,” she said. Al Zayani and 2 ministers Farkash-Hacocho and Al Zayani were to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of tourism, which includes the establishment of a bilateral forum to promote mutual tourism, with representatives from both governments and the public sector of each country.

Slovenia labels Hezbollah in its entirety as terrorist group

Slovenia’s government announced on Nov. 30 that it “adopted a decision on treating the Hezbollah Group as a criminal and terrorist organization posing a threat to peace and security.” The government noted that “Hezbollah’s activities are intertwined with organized crime and the conduct of terrorist or paramilitary activities on a global scale. Hezbollah has already been named a terrorist or organization by a number of countries and organizations.” Slovenia becomes the sixth European Union member after the Netherlands, Germany, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia to recognize the Islamic Resistance Movement Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. Others who have taken similar action include Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Honduras, Israel, Kosovo, Paraguay, Serbia, United Kingdom and the United States, as well as the Arab League and Gulf Cooperation Council.

Saudis officially OK Israeli airliners to fly over airspace to UAE, Bahrain

Saudi Arabia announced on Nov. 30 that Israeli airliners can use its airspace on route to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Until now, Israeli airliners did not have permanent approval for direct flights to revitalize Saudi airspace. Reportedly, the change was made following a visit to Saudi Arabia by White House senior officials Jared Kushner and Avi Berkowitz. Airline Airways was scheduled to conduct the first such flight to Doha on Dec. 4. The announced agreement is the result of the U.S.-brokered normalization agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

Israeli advocate for disability rights to serve on expert U.N. committee

Following an international diplomatic campaign, Odelia Fitoussi was elected on Nov. 30 to represent Israel on the U.N. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (or CRPD). Fitoussi, 41, who was born with muscular dys- trophy (SMA2), will become the first Israeli elected to serve on this committee, which is among the most sought-after U.N. expert committees. The CRPD is the leading U.N. body responsible for formulating a global policy for the 182 signatory states to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In the election held on Nov. 30 at U.N.

Fears... Continued from page 18

that Jacob had wanted to be Esau his whole life. He wrote, “That night, about to meet Esau again after an absence of 22 years. Jacob…so Jacob set up a monument at the place where he wrestled that night and named it Beth El, House of God. He acknowledged his experience and transformation being with God and marked it for others to see, as well. In their wrestling, the man wrenched Jacob’s hip, so Jacob walked away with a limp, which we are told he had for the rest of his life. I was thinking about Jacob’s limp and how it was only when he had this limp that he became Israel. We have learned much from our life experiences and are continuing to learn from our current circumstances. We can strive to live our lives more wisely, embracing not only the wisdom we have gained, but also the limps, scars and other challenges that could distract us in such a way as to have us compromise in the relationship, uncertainty if they can trust one another. As they go their separate ways from this encounter, the past is left behind, a door wide open for white supremacy, neo-Nazism and conspiracy theories that range from Holocaust denial to charge that COVID-19 is a hoax.
By JNS staff

(JNS) – The Israel Antiquities Authority announced on August 4 that it had uncovered evidence of an advanced flint-working technique at a tool “factory” in the Negev Desert, in the most recent indication that the Negev was on the early modern human route out of Africa.

According to the IAA, evidence of a flint-knapping technique known as “Nubian Levallois,” which is exclusively associated with biologically modern humans, was found at the site. Researchers trace the path of this technique in order to understand the migration of modern humans took from Africa to the rest of the world some 100,000 years ago.

“This is the first evidence of a ‘Nubian’ flint industry in an archeological excavation in Israel,” said Amit Baram of the National Parks Authority, which conducted the excavation in which the gem seal was found.

According to Amorai-Stark, an expert on Jewish law, Apollo’s image represents light, purity, health and success. “At the end of the Second Temple period, the sun god Apollo was one of the most popular and revered deities in Eastern Mediterranean regions. Apollo was a god of manifold functions, meanings and epithets. Among Apollo’s spheres of responsibility, it is likely that association with sun and light (as well as with logic, reason, prophecy and healing) fascinated some Jews, given that the element of light versus darkness was prominently present in Jewish worldview in those days.”

“The fact that the craftsman of this gem left the yellow-golden and light brown layers on the god’s hair probably indicates a desire to emphasize the aspect of light in the god’s person, as well as in the aura that surrounded his head,” Amorai-Stark continued. “The choice of a dark stone with yellow coloring of hair suggests that the creator or owner of this intaglio sought to emphasize the dichotomous aspect of light and darkness and/or their connectedness.”

The Archaeological Sifting Project at Tzurim Valley National Park, sponsored by the City of David and the Nature and National Park Authority, is a large-scale archeological project that offers the public an opportunity to experience and appreciate archeological activity without the need for advanced training or specialized knowledge. The project is supervised by archeologists and allows participants to become “archaeologists for a day” as they process material unearthed in City of David excavations.

Discoveries made by the project thus far include an imprint of King Hezekiah, coins from various periods, arrowheads and jewelry.

Seal bearing portrait of Apollo unearthed in soil around Kotel

By JNS staff

(JNS) – A 2,000-year-old gem seal (intaglios) bearing the portrait of the Greek god Apollo has recently been unearthed in soil removed from the foundation of Jerusalem’s Western Wall during the Tzurim Valley National Park sifting project, the City of David announced in a statement.

According to archaeologists, this is only the third such gem seal ever found in Jerusalem from the Second Temple period. The gem is cut from dark brown jasper, considered a precious stone in antiquity, and has remnants of yellow-light, brown, and white layers. Oval-shaped, it is also extremely small, being half an inch in length, two-fifths of an inch wide and only about one-ninth of an inch thick.

Because the gem is an intaglio (that is, a gem with a design carved into its upper-facing side), its main function was the stamping of a seal on soft material, usually beeswax, for use as a personal signature. The gem features an engraving of Apollo’s head in profile to the left.

According to archeologist Eli Shukron, professor Shira Amos-Sarkar and senior archaeologist Malka Hirshkovitz, although Apollo is an Olympian deity of the Greek and Roman cultures, it is “highly probable” that the owner of this ring was a Jew.

In the opinion of Shukron, who conducted the excavation in which the gem was found, “It is rare to find seal remains bearing the image of the god Apollo at sites identified with the Jewish population. To this day, two such gems (seals) have been found in Masada, another in Jerusalem inside an ossuary (burial box) in a Jewish tomb on Mount Scopus, and the current gem that was discovered in close proximity to the Temple Mount.”

He added, “When we found the gem, we asked ourselves what is Apollo doing in Jerusalem? And why would a Jew wear a ring with the portrait of a foreign god? The answer to this, in our opinion, lies in the fact that the owner of the ring did so not as a ritual act that expresses religious belief, but as a means of making use of the impact that Apollo’s figure represents: light, economic downturn due to the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the IAA, this is only the second wave of the coronavirus outbreak and was even on the verge of lockdown. After wondering what to do about summer holidays, local youths from Dimona came to the excavation to work and help their families, and to uncover a site of special importance. All of this is part of a project promoted and directed by the Israel Antiquities Authority in recent years, which seeks to bring our youth closer to their own cultural heritage.

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This 2,000-year-old gem seal bearing the image of Apollo was found in earth excavated from the foundations of the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem.

(Photos by Eliyahu Yanai-City of David)

The discovery was made during an archeological excavation undertaken by the Israel Electric Company to facilitate the construction of a solar-energy field. Another aim of the project was to bring local youths to work amid the migration routes modern humans took from Africa to the rest of the world some 100,000 years ago.

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