

Reporter seeks e-mail addresses for e-mail blasts

By Reporter staff

The Reporter is about to launch its new website and will begin e-mail blasts with headlines, blurbs and website links for articles from the upcoming issue of the paper. Anyone interested in receiving these e-mail blasts should e-mail thebingreporter@gmail.com with the subject line "e-mail blast."

"Looking to check out the book review column or see what's appearing on our oped page?" said Rabbi Rachel Esserman,

Reporter executive editor. "Now you can find out ahead of time. The e-mail blast will include links to selected local articles so you can be ahead of the curve."

Jenn DePersis, Reporter production coordinator and webmaster, noted, "The e-mail blasts will be a sneak peek of what to expect every week. Our newly designed site will feature an easy-to-navigate design, as well as frequent content updates. We'll have some online-only

content coming after the new year. Besides our paper copy, we want www.thereporter.org to be your source for Jewish news and happenings. Our homepage will have up-to-the-minute 'World Jewish News' via a Jewish Telegraphic Agency news ticker. Our readers will find it easier to visit us online and share the articles they like with friends and family. We know this will not only benefit our organizations, but will

give our community a 'worldly reach.'" Esserman added, "We're looking forward to launching the new website and are very excited about the changes that are coming."

The e-mail blast will arrive a day or two before the paper arrives in people's mailboxes. It will also be easier to follow local events when people are away from home, or for readers to find a particular article they want to read or share.

Hanukkah House Museum to feature Marilyn Belford's art quilts

The Hanukkah House Museum of Temple Concord, a seasonal teaching museum, is now open to the public and will close on Tuesday, December 24. The museum is housed in the Kilmer Mansion, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. This is its 23rd year of operation. The museum hours are Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from noon-4 pm and Thursdays from 4-8 pm.

The museum is showcasing three of Marilyn Belford's art quilts this year: "Miriam's Dance," "Mordechai and Esther" and "Deborah Daydreaming." Organizers said, "Following a successful career in the art world, Marilyn brought her artistic talents and childhood sewing skills to a newly

discovered love – quilting. The results are breathtaking. Come see for yourself!"

Other exhibits feature the history of the Kilmer Mansion and family. The Kilmer Mansion was designed and built in 1898 by local architect Edward Vosbury in the Italian Renaissance and Queen Anne style. It was purchased from the Kilmers shortly after Temple Concord was established in 1950. Bobbie King's dollhouses will return again this year. Also returning this year is a miniature recreation of life on the Lower East Side of New York at the turn of the century.

Additional Hanukkah House Museum exhibits seek to give students and visitors

a sense of the historic aspect of the Hanukkah story with tableaus and models, descriptive information and a sense of how the holiday is celebrated around the world. The story of Hanukkah will be told in different mediums in the museum: fabric, written words, movies, dioramas and hands-on activities. There will be displays of antique oil burning menorahs, as well as traditional and contemporary menorahs, dreidels and yarmulkes. "The hands-on activities will delight all guests," said Hanukkah House organizers.

The "Kids Place" will have games, books and puzzles for kids of all ages. The Judaic Gift Shop will feature a selection of Judaica

for Hanukkah needs and other life cycle celebrations. The gift shop will be open during museum hours except Saturdays.

"Club advisers, leaders and teachers looking for an interesting outing should schedule a field trip to the museum for their group," said organizers. "Groups of all sizes are welcome. Tours can be scheduled mornings, afternoons or evenings any day of the week. Dates and times fill up quickly, so schedule early."

E-mail Lisa@KilmerMansion.org for tours or with any questions. There is no admission fee to visit Hanukkah House Museum. A non-perishable food donation to CHOW would be appreciated.

BD luncheon to feature "A Personal View of the Vietnam Era" on Dec. 14

On Saturday, December 14, the Vietnam War will be the focus of Beth David's Luncheon Speaker Series. Sharing his personal experiences, Dr. Charles Rubin will talk about his time as a major in the United States Air Force, when he was stationed during 1970-71 in Cam Rahn Bay. As chief of ophthalmology in the 483rd United States Air Force Hospital, Rubin was the only fully trained ophthalmologist in southeast Asia. He provided medical and consultation services for all United States Air Force facilities in Vietnam, as well as for a significant number of Army personnel. In a volunteer capacity, he also offered



Dr. Charles Rubin

his expertise in Cam Rahn Bay's hospital for the local population. For his service, Rubin received a Bronze Star Medal. The citation accompanying the award cites Rubin's "exemplary leadership, personal endeavor and devotion to duty," all of which "reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force."

Rubin received his bachelor of science degree at the City College of New York and completed medical school at SUNY Buffalo. He did his residency in ophthalmology at Albany Medical Center. A longtime Binghamtonian, he has been in private practice since 1972. He has held numerous professional and

community leadership positions.

"Many of us know Dr. Rubin through his ophthalmology practice, or through his involvement at Beth David or in other

community leadership positions," organizers said. "To our knowledge, this is the first time that he will be speaking publicly about See "BD" on page 3

Federation to send out invoices next week

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton announced that, in the next week, it will be sending out invoices with pledges promised from both the 2019 and 2020 Campaigns.

Tax receipts for any pledges paid in 2019 will be mailed after the first of the year.

"We thank you for your support and for kindly helping us to meet the community's needs by paying your pledge on time," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "Please feel free to call the office at 724-2332 with any questions."

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca to host Hanukkah Festival on Dec. 15

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca will once again open its doors to the community in celebration of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. The holiday begins this year on the evening of Sunday, December 22. The festival will take place the week before on Sunday, December 15, from 11 am -3 pm, and is free and open to the public. The temple is located at the corner of Court and Tioga streets in downtown Ithaca.

"Drop in and you'll find a lively indoor market where the scents of savory potato latkes and sweet apple fritters mingle with the beauty of handmade gifts for sale," said organizers of the event. Local artists will offer a wide range of gifts from jewelry and ceramics, to hand-bound books and local honey. Craft activities for all ages will be offered throughout the day. There will also be an "escape room" offered by



A chanukiah at a past Hanukkah Festival.

the temple youth community for a wide range of ages.

At noon, Rachel Lampert and friends will offer a Hanukkah presentation in the temple sanctuary. Lampert is a playwright, director and choreographer who has entertained Ithacans of all ages for many years.

For further information, call 607-257-9924.

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Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

I have never spearheaded a large fund-raising campaign before. Fund-raising is a critical skill for the director of the Jewish Federation and, I must confess, my lack of experience did worry me before the 2020 Campaign began at the end of October. After hours of preparing and organizing, the Campaign arrived and it has been a very good experience. There is lots to learn, but I want to share with you what I have come to know.

Over the last several weeks, there have been many volunteers in and out of the Federation office. It is no easy feat to organize community members willing to give their time to ask others for money. Some were Campaign veterans and others neophytes like myself. What I witnessed was a dedication to something larger than oneself. These volunteers were hardworking and a great pleasure to be around. I made an effort to learn what drove them to help.

One person reflected, "There is always a need and I feel I must do my part." Another shared his feeling that it is our duty to bring community members together, united for a common cause. One volunteer explained that not asking someone to give is leaving them out; even if they give a small sum, at least they are part of us. I never thought of it that way! Another true campaign veteran really spoke to my heart when she reminded me that, if we do not take care of ourselves, nobody else will. She is right. If we want to have a healthy, vibrant Jewish community now and for the next generation, we must all do our part. I want to thank the Campaign volunteers for sharing their motivations. Each one has helped me to clarify my inner dialogue on the importance of giving.

Twenty-four years ago, when I first moved to Binghamton, there were many challenges facing the Jewish

community. Those challenges remain. Our donor base is shrinking and our needs are not. This is a reality and I wish I had an easy way to change it. I do have faith that we will remain strong. I am uplifted by each generous spirit I meet.

Hundreds of Campaign calls have been made over the last several weeks and there is still more work to be done. With very little exception, our calls have been answered with kindness. To this I say to the community, "Thank you. Thank you for answering the call. Thank you for contributing to something larger than yourself. Thank you for keeping the Binghamton Jewish community healthy. Every contribution is meaningful."

If you have not pledged yet, please call the Federation office at 724-2332. I promise you, whatever your reason for giving, it will feel good to help.

Demi Lovato, the Portland Trailblazers and you

By Moshe Hill

(JNS)—Of all the enemies of the state of Israel, only one often harms more non-Israelis than Israelis: the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

The BDS movement is so ineffective at damaging the Israeli economy that it can more accurately be categorized as an anti-associated-with-Israel group, not an anti-Israel group. Every day, Israel-supporting Americans, now including singer Demi Lovato and the Portland Trailblazers basketball team, become the targets of the BDS movement's hate-filled agenda.

Lovato, a Christian with Jewish ancestry, traveled to Israel in early October, where she was baptized in the Jordan River, visited the Western Wall, met with special-needs children and toured Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. She posted pictures about these experiences to her 74 million Instagram followers.

She did not take a political position, meet with Israeli leaders or discuss regional issues. There are unconfirmed reports that she was paid approximately \$150,000, partly by the Israeli Foreign Ministry, to take the trip in exchange for posting on Instagram.

For these actions, she was excoriated on social media. CodePink, a "women-led grassroots organization," claimed

on Twitter that Lovato's actions were "unacceptable" and that she was "legitimizing apartheid." Lovato, whose career hinges on her likeability, rushed to apologize.

"I'm extremely frustrated. I accepted a free trip to Israel in exchange for a few posts," she wrote on Instagram. "No one told me there would be anything wrong with going or that I could possibly be offending anyone. With that being said, I'm sorry if I've hurt or offended anyone, that was not my intention. Sometimes people present you with opportunities and no one tells you the potential backlash you could face in return. This was meant to be a spiritual experience for me. NOT A POLITICAL STATEMENT and now I realize it hurt people and for that I'm sorry. Sorry I'm not more educated, and sorry for thinking this trip was just a spiritual experience."

Lovato, like others before her, had suffered the wrath of the pro-BDS left for her association with Israel. In 2017, Nick Cave received public criticism from fellow musicians Roger Waters and Brian Eno for scheduling two (sold out) concerts in Tel Aviv. In 2018, activists in New Zealand pressured pop star Lorde into canceling her scheduled performance in Israel.

Indeed, praise for or association with Israel is a sure-fire way to show up on the radar of the militant anti-Israel BDS

movement. Visits to Israel are not the only unforgivable sin, either – merely working with a company that sells to Israel is verboten.

A few weeks ago, for instance, it was reported that the Portland Trailblazers had disassociated from Oregon-based manufacturer Leupold and Stevens, which produces rifle scopes for the Israel Defense Forces. The team had partnered with the company as a sponsor with the aim of honoring U.S. service members, as part of the "Hometown Hero" program. The partnership was widely criticized by BDS activists in Portland, the streets of which have been taken over multiple times by Antifa protesters.

The Trailblazers deny that the disassociation was related to BDS pressure, saying in a statement that "Leupold's sponsorship contract officially expired at the end of last season and Leupold & Stevens made the decision not to renew." It was not the conservative right that scoffed at the Trailblazers' claim of innocence, but rather the socialist left.

The Portland chapter of the Democrat Socialists of America tweeted a mocking reply to the Trailblazers statement, along with a victorious statement of their own.

"We are grateful for the hard work of the many community groups, activists, Blazers fans, and veterans See "Lovato" on page 6

In My Own Words

Being thankful

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

When I was visiting a friend in November, I not so jokingly said that if people asked what we did during the vacation, I was going to say that we spent most of our time complaining. We each are facing family and financial problems, and it was good to talk to someone who truly understood what I am going through. We both also acknowledged how lucky we really are, or at least have been. But even though our problems are first world problems, they are still real and pressing.

Both of us are watching family members decline as they age. My friend and I had both hoped our mothers would remain at home until they died; that no longer is possible. Her mother doesn't recognize her or her siblings. It's no longer safe for my mother to be at home alone and we don't have the money for someone to live with us. This was something I'd been refusing to see and, in fact, had to have it pointed out to me by the staff in the rehabilitation center my mom went to after an illness.

At age 64, my friend and I look ahead to retirement, if we can afford it. She is still putting one child through college and would like her daughter to have as few loans

as possible, so she plans on working until her daughter is out of school. But times are harder and it's not as easy to find employment at our age. I now have one income to support a house that used to have two incomes, so am looking to spend wisely. However, neither of us are destitute – we should be able to keep our very nice places to live, even if we can't, for example, afford expensive vacations (something neither of us does anyway). Believe it or not, our conversations were not depressing because we both have a sense of humor.

It's funny to look back and realize the twists and turns my life has taken. I expected to get married someday and I'm sure under other circumstances I would have had children. But that didn't happen and I am the person I am today because of the experiences and changes I went through. To be honest, there were some experiences I could have lived without. I once had someone say to me that I might have been a real witch (well, he used a different word that rhymes with that) if I hadn't learned from those experiences. I was tempted to say that I would rather have been a witch, but there's no way of knowing what walking an alternate path would have been like, or

how I would have felt about my life.

What I do know is that I'm grateful for what I have had: loving and supportive family and friends, a true community and the advantages of living in the 20th and 21st centuries. I'm not certain I would have survived childhood if I hadn't lived in the age of antibiotics. I certainly would not have become a rabbi or be writing this on a computer or wearing a cochlear implant. It is kind of amazing to, on the one hand, recognize the problems I'm facing and, on the other, still realize how wonderful my life has been – warts and all – because of the good people who have helped make me who I am.

It's also important to note as we approach the holiday season – whether you celebrate secularly or religiously – that not everyone is as lucky as we are. So, this is the season to be thankful not for what we will get, but what we have. It's also time to remember those who have less than us – financially, socially or personally. May we all find peace, friendship and love as the days grow shorter. Let us remember our blessings as the winter solstice arrives and we prepare to celebrate a holiday of light.



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OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

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

LETTERS

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

ADS

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

DEADLINE

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www.thereporter.org

Cornell U. Jewish Studies Program to present a staged-reading of "Enough to Go" on Dec. 11

The Cornell University Jewish Studies Program will present a staged-reading of the new-old play "Enough to Go" by former Ithaca resident Fred Peretz Cohn on Wednesday, December 11, at 7 pm, in Barnes Hall on the Cornell campus. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. The public is invited and while tickets are not required, reservations can be made at www.tinyurl.com/enough-to-go.

The reading will be directed by Cornell alumnus and Visiting Lecturer David Winitsky '94, and will feature former Kitchen Theater Artistic Director Rachel Lampert, local arts activists Marjorie Hoffman and Lenny Rosenfield, and Professor Jonathan Boyarin, the Paul and Bertha Hendrix director of Jewish studies at Cornell.

"Enough to Go" asks: What will happen to the last decaying tenement building on a once-vibrant New York

City block? Where will the super, the old super and the last few residents go? Why are there Jaffa oranges falling out of the cabinets? And has anyone checked on that faulty fuse in the basement?

"Though not autobiographical," says Peretz Cohn, the playwright, "'Enough to Go' is deeply rooted in my life-long exposure to and appreciation of Jewish humor, family and culture. I am deeply grateful to Jonathan Boyarin, David Winitsky, the actors and staff who have made this production possible."

Winitsky, who directed his undergrad thesis production in Barnes Hall 25 years ago, says he is thrilled to return to Cornell. "If you've ever been to the Bronx, or had a pastrami on rye from an authentic New York deli, then this play is for you," said Winitsky.

Winitsky is a Broadway, off-Broadway and regional

theater veteran, and the founder of the Jewish Plays Project, a development center for 21st century Jewish theater. He currently teaches "Sitcom Jews: Ethnic Representation on Television" at Cornell.

The cast will also include Eric Brooks in the lead role of Irving Cohen. Brooks is a veteran of many productions at Ithaca's Kitchen Theatre Company, and is a member of the Cherry Collective. Soap opera fans may remember him as Dr. Louis Darnell on "Guiding Light."

The production is sponsored by the Cornell Jewish Studies Program. For more information, visit jewishstudies.cornell.edu.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Gail Goldberg on the death of her husband and Keri Hogan on the death of her father,
Kenneth Goldberg

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of
Selma Spector

Scribe to speak to TI on Dec. 8

Sofer (scribe) Neil Yerman will be at Temple Israel, 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, on Sunday, December 8, at noon, to talk about his work as a scribe. Yerman writes and restores Torah scrolls. To become a *sofer*, a Jewish person must master the art of Hebrew calligraphy, document restoration, and the many rules and traditions governing

the writing and restoring of a Torah. The *sofer* must also lead a religious life.

"*Sofer* Neil Yerman will be dazzling the eyes and minds with *sofer* anecdotes," said organizers of the event. "Please join us at noon to experience the amazing goodness and knowledge and practice that *Sofer* Neil wields with his feather quill."

TI Sisterhood to celebrate Hanukkah on Dec. 10

Temple Israel Sisterhood will host a Hanukkah celebration on Tuesday, December 10, from 7-9 pm, in the social hall. Members and guests are welcome to attend. The program will include a mystery gift exchange, an idea that Lois Levitt had several years ago. People should bring a wrapped gift (\$10 price range) of general interest with no identifying information. Gifts will be placed on a table and participants will be given instructions to pick a gift, open it and trade with someone if desired. Refreshments

will be served, and Steve Gilbert will provide music and songs (sing-alongs welcome).

The cost to attend will be \$5 per person to cover the cost of food.

RSVP to Tammy Kunsman in the temple office at 723-7461 as soon as possible so organizers know how much food to prepare. Comments or questions should be directed to Co-chairs Barbara Gilbert, Lynne Green or Kathy Hurwitz.

BD Sisterhood meeting on Dec. 11 to feature Shelley Hubal

Beth David Sisterhood will hold its December meeting on Wednesday, December 11, at 7 pm, at the synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The program will feature Shelley Hubal, the new executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. Hubal will speak of her plans for the Federation and give her perspectives on the importance of the Federation.

out to me," said Hubal. "One of my favorite parts of being Federation director is getting to know community members. My plan is to share my vision for the Federation's future, to share my background and listen to feedback."

"We all look forward to her presence at our *shul*," said organizers of the event. "Come and bring a friend."

Light refreshments will be served. Those attending are asked to bring an item of non-perishable food for CHOW.

"I am delighted that the Beth David Sisterhood reached

TC Religious School held consecration ceremony

At right: The Temple Concord Religious School held a consecration ceremony on November 23. Three new students began their religious school studies this year and were welcomed to the school (in front, l-r): Brody Whiting, Madison Streger and Tara Drake. In back (l-r) are their teachers, Michele Artus and Karen Hammer.



BD.Continued from page 1

his personal experiences in Vietnam. It is sure to be a talk that will give all of us the opportunity to revisit a period of time that continues to generate much controversy and which many consider of prime importance even now."

Beth David's luncheon speaker series takes place the second Saturday of the month after Shabbat morning services, and is open to the community. There is no charge for the luncheon. Since the monthly series' continuation depends on the generosity of contributors, Beth David welcomes and appreciates donations to the Luncheon Fund in order to keep the program going. Donations can be made in honor of or in memory of someone, or to mark a special occasion. Those wishing an acknowledgment to be sent to the person being honored or to the family of someone being remembered can indicate that, along with the necessary information. Donations can be sent to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905, Attention: Luncheon Fund.

Moving any time soon?
Whether you're moving across town or across the country, please let *The Reporter* know so you can stay up to date on community news! E-mail treporter@aol.com with "Reporter Address change" in the subject line, or call 607-724-2360, ext. 254, to let *The Reporter* know about your new address.

Early deadlines for The Reporter

Due to holiday closings, the deadlines for the following upcoming issues of *The Reporter* are as follows. No exceptions will be made.

Issue	Deadline
Friday, December 20	Wednesday, December 11
Friday, December 27	Monday, December 16
Friday, January 3	Monday, December 23
Friday, January 10	Monday, December 30

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Off the Shelf

Romance, contemporary style

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

One reason people like reading traditional romance novels is that they're guaranteed to have a happy ending. That's not necessarily true of literary romance novels because, unlike traditional romances, there's no guarantee that all will end well. That thought occurred to me when reading two recent novels, ones that could only have been published in contemporary times. "Love at First Like" by Hannah Orenstein (Atria Paperback) and "Very Nice" by Marcy Dermansky (Alfred A. Knopf) show that the course of true love doesn't always run smooth and, sometimes, its ending can be very messy.

Orenstein's novel is a more traditional romance in that readers will wonder which male character will be Eliza Roth's true love. However, elements of the plot could only take place during contemporary times. Eliza and her sister, Sophie, co-own a jewelry shop in Manhattan. Eliza handles the financial part of the business and the social media aspects. When she learns that her ex-boyfriend is engaged, she's so upset that she drinks too much. When under the influence, she takes a picture of her hand with the largest diamond ring in the shop on her ring finger and saves it as a draft. Well, she thinks she does, but the post accidentally made it to Instagram. The number of the store's Instagram followers jumps and more people are ordering their jewelry online than ever before. Eliza decides this is good for business, even though Sophie is unhappy with the deception. Now all Eliza has to do is find someone to pose as her fiancé.

With the help of a friend, Eliza meets several men, but decides to pursue Blake for a variety of reasons, including the fact that he's handsome. As publicity mounts and questions arise about her engagement, Sophie boxes herself into a corner. She has to get Blake to agree to marry her on a particular timeline, but she doesn't want to tell him the whole truth about why. Plus the store's landlord is raising their rent and it might have to close if people discover the deception and stop buying their jewelry. To complicate matters, Sophie and her lawyer wife need money for fertility treatments their insurance will no longer cover. Blake seems like a terrific guy and is perfect on paper, but Eliza might be forced to admit that someone else is a better fit.

What makes "Love at First Like" feel different from other romances is that Eliza is not always likeable, something she admits when she finds herself doing things for business purposes that she otherwise would never have done. At one point, she acknowledges this, noting how the financial pressures of the business, and the disaster that would occur if she revealed her deception on Instagram, make her seem underhanded and unfeeling. Frequent readers of romance novels will guess which character Eliza ends up with, but even that has a contemporary twist; revealing that would spoil the fun, though. On the one hand, parts of the novel can seem a bit silly; on the other, it was a pleasure to read, especially when Eliza's carefully made plans began to fall apart.

While Orenstein's novel is narrated by her one character, Dermansky offers a variety of first-person narrations, including three people caught in a love triangle. Rachel Klein, a 19-year-old college student, is in love with her writing teacher, Azhid Azzam, who has written an award-winning novel. Azhid asks Rachel to take care of his dog while he visits his dying grandmother in Pakistan. Rachel brings the dog home with her when she travels to Connecticut to spend the summer with her mother, Becca Klein. Becca, a recently separated school teacher, seems to be mourning the loss of her late dog more than the split from her husband, who left her for another woman. When Azhid arrives in Connecticut to check on his dog, Becca doesn't want the dog to leave and invites Azhid to stay. Life suddenly gets complicated when both women vie for Azhid's attention.

What makes the story different is that Azhid is not the stereotypical writer whose ego is so big he pursues every woman in sight. Instead, he's a bit of a nebbish who stumbles into relationships after women make the first move. That's certainly true with Rachel, with whom he slept only once at the end of the semester. However, he believes he truly loves Becca, or at least loves the life that Becca helps him lead. Becca is surprised to find herself attracted to someone younger, but ultimately, she is the one to pursue Azhid. Of course, neither woman talks to the other about their feelings for Azhid, which creates problems since Rachel believes

See "Romance" on page 5

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Access Auto Mart LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/11/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 32 Chenango Bridge Rd., Binghamton, NY 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Harvey's Karate Studio, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is October 29, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 1837 Haighs Pond Road, Rome, PA 18837.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Carol A. Clark Farm, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/17/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 98 Tide Point Ln., Kilmarnock, VA 22482. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of JEDMF LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/31/2019. Office Location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom service of process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: James E. Farrell, 9 Crestmont Road, Binghamton, NY 13905. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Next Level Hospitality Group, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was November 5, 2019. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process

against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Ste. 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Soulon Education LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 10/26/2019. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Gisela Xiangdong Jia, 2 W. 32nd St., Ste. 503, New York, NY 10001. General Purpose.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is HEATH C-TOWER, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is November 7, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: PO Box 658, Binghamton, NY 13902.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Bonniemills LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is November 8, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served

upon him or her is: PO Box 2039, Binghamton, NY 13902.

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

Sevak LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 11/7/2019. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 1000 Front St., Binghamton, NY 13905. General Purpose.

Notice of Formation of Buckler Security Products, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/31/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 53 Highland Rd., Binghamton, NY 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Elsmere Island Partners, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/01/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 320 N. Jensen Rd., Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of AJEM Group LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/22/2018. Office Location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom service of process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Alan Anzaroot, 98 Main Street, Binghamton, NY 13905. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Carol A. Clark Farm Operations, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/30/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 98 Tide Point Ln., Kilmarnock, VA 22482. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY



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

UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is MCREY FARM, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is NOVEMBER 12, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 3599 STATE ROUTE 26 GLEN AUBREY, NEW YORK, 13777.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is At Home Rentals - Binghamton, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is November 15, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 570 Caldwell Hill Road, Lisle, NY 13797.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Cacciatore's Brand, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/15/2015 and Certificate of Correction of Arts. of Org. filed on 08/05/2015. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, c/o Leasure, Gow, Munk & Rizzuto, 101 Jefferson Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760. Purpose: any

lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is SHL Transportation, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is November 21, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: PO Box 330, Whitney Point, NY 13862.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is 147 Industrial Drive LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is November 22, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 498 Conklin Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Oasis Stone Works LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/12/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o John Sacco, 100 Oakdale Rd., Johnson City, NY 13790. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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Maccabee Task Force to boost campus presence, funding, trips to Israel and fact-finding in Europe

By Sean Savage

(JNS) – In the past two decades, one of the most critical frontlines of pro-Israel advocacy has been the college campus. Today, a number of organizations work in this space to counter the anti-Israel movement found at many universities in North America. With this presence, some U.S.-based pro-Israel organizations are now turning their sights on Europe in an attempt to tackle what many feel is a significantly more difficult environment for supporters of Israel.

The Maccabee Task Force has recently announced that it will expand into 11 universities in Europe in six countries. “This year, we will be on over 100 North American campuses; we are almost on all the campuses that meet our criteria of support. What we saw abroad was a significant need,” said CEO David Brog, noting that MTF focuses on campuses with a “serious” BDS threat and ones that will produce “tomorrow’s leaders and influencers.”

Launched in 2015, the Maccabee Task Force goal is focused on combating the BDS movement by investing directly in Jewish and pro-Israel organizations, while building a broader consensus supporting Israel on campus. After its initial foray into six campuses in 2016, the Maccabee Task Force has expanded each school year, with a current presence on 80 campuses across North America.

“We had another very good year last year. We were able to support more than 1,200 pro-Israel events on our 80 campuses,” said Brog. “We were able to bring 1,500 campus leaders and influencers to Israel. That, to us, is a significant investment. Nobody else is bringing that number of campus leaders to Israel, and these are primarily non-Jews as well.” Brog said of the 80 campuses they operated on last year, just seven schools held BDS votes, with only one passing a BDS resolution.

The success comes as Israel-related antisemitism is becoming more prevalent on North American college campuses. In September, the AMCHA Initiative found that

the number of Israel-related, antisemitic incidents against Jewish students on campuses increased 70 percent from 2017 to 2018.

MTF’s expansion into Europe likely comes with challenges not seen in North America. For starters, the Jewish population in Europe is much smaller than it is in the United States, with much larger Muslim communities in some Western European countries that are typically less sympathetic to Israel. While antisemitism is on the rise in North America, many Western European countries have been dealing with record numbers of anti-Jewish sentiments and attacks for a long time now.

The task force is funded by Sheldon and Dr. Miriam Adelson, mega-philanthropists who have given millions to Birthright Israel, the Israeli-American Council and other Jewish organizations.

At the same time, overall pro-Israel public sentiment in the United States is much higher than it is in Europe. Ireland, for example, has one of the strongest pro-BDS movements in Europe, and similarly in the United Kingdom, where students face a “very virulent” BDS movement and an antisemitism scandal within Labour Party. All this translates into a more hostile environment on campus for pro-Israel students and less established organizational support.

“When we analyzed the situation abroad, many said it was too late for Europe and that BDS has won. But what we found is that it is much more nuanced than that,” said Brog.

“Actually, to their credit, at a lot of the most prestigious schools in Europe, they are actually better and more subtle to their approach on issues related to Israel than U.S. campuses,” he said. “They behave how I would expect elite students to behave; they say ‘nothing is black and white, I am not going to be sheep led by propaganda, I want to learn more about this complex region’ than the BDS supporters would claim. BDS is not as far ahead as one might expect over there; in fact, there is a real opportunity to compete in the marketplace of ideas.”

Brog also noted the potential to make a real impact with pro-Israel students and Jewish organizations in Europe. “We found that most Israel groups had incredibly low budgets and were resource-poor. We saw immediately an opportunity that we didn’t realize exists. We hope to have an outsized influence for our investment,” he said. “We are going to test it; we are going to start on 11 campuses in six foreign countries. And if these investments bear fruit and are productive, I can see us expanding abroad.”

Brog declined to name the six countries and campuses ahead of time, citing the desire to avoid “inadvertently making life more difficult for our partners abroad.”

In North America, one of the signature initiatives of the task force has been its sponsored trips to Israel. Unlike Birthright, which is exclusively for people with Jewish heritage, the MTF trips include recruiting emerging non-Jewish campus leaders to see Israel and Palestinian areas first-hand on fact-finding trips that include a visit to Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria, as well as to the Palestinian Authority. This is part of an effort to establish a broad-based coalition of support for Israel on campus beyond just Jewish or pro-Israel organizations.

“We are investing in changing the attitudes of those who dominate the politics on campus,” said Brog, “not only to create a situation where supporters of Israel can do so publicly, but to also to do so publicly with critical support from other campus organizations and leaders.”

As such, he hopes to replicate the success of the Israel trips in Europe.

Brog, who said he will be departing soon on a “fact-finding” trip to European schools, says he is looking forward to hearing firsthand how his organization can help. “I am very curious to learn about the situations on their campuses,” he said, “to hear what they think will be effective on their campuses. And like North America, to fund the groups for what they want to do. Of course, the one big thing we are doing in North America, the Israel trip, is that they are excited about.”

First “artificial meniscus” transplant performed in Israel

By JNS staff

(JNS) – The world’s first successful “artificial meniscus” transplant was just performed in Israel, i24News reported on November 18.

The surgery was performed by Dr. Gabriel Agar from the Yitzhak Shamir Medical Center in Be’er Ya’akov and Dr. Ron Arbel from Ramat Aviv Medical Center in Tel Aviv, who were both involved in the development of the “NUsurface Implant,” which passed clinical trials in Israel and is made from medical-grade plastic in Israel by Active Implants LLC. It was given a Breakthrough Device Designation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The implant is inserted into the knee joint with a small incision and made to mimic the movement of the body’s natural meniscus. It does not require any fixation on the bones or soft tissues, which allows patients to return home not long after the operation is complete.

Patients with damaged or torn menisci can have the transplant surgery as a replacement for previous treatments, such as pain management and physical therapy, according to i24News.

The Jerusalem Post noted that the implant is “intended for people who have regular knee pain following medial meniscus surgery; have failed meniscus repair; are not



Israeli surgeons performed the artificial meniscus implant on November 11. (Photo by Active Implants LLC)

suitable candidates for a meniscus allograft transplant; or are too young for knee replacement.”

Agar said, “This is an exciting time to finally put the NUsurface implant at the disposal of Israeli patients. Persistent pain after repair of meniscus tears is a very common orthopedic problem and, until now, we did not have effective treatment options.”

Romance... Continued from page 4

Azhid is still attracted to her. More complications occur when Jonathan Klein, Rachel’s father and Becca’s husband, becomes less than happy with his new girlfriend and worries about what’s actually happening in Connecticut. A fourth character, Khloe, with connections to Azhid and Jonathan, adds yet another dimension to these unusual relationships.

In some way, “Very Nice” is almost an anti-romance novel, with some characters falling in love and then discovering that love is far from perfect, or even what they want in life. The ending was a bit odd: the novel seemed to just stop, leaving several loose ends for readers to ponder. However, readers may enjoy watching these characters try to juggle their complex lives and unexpected challenges.

Community Calendar

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



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Community Hanukkah Celebration

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5:30pm - ENTERTAINMENT
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Jerusalem's "Tomb of the Kings" opens to the public for the first time in a decade

By JNS staff

(JNS) – French authorities have opened Jerusalem's ancient "Tomb of the Kings" to the public for the first time in 10 years, the AP reported in November.

Limited numbers of visitors are now being allowed to visit the site, which was closed in 2009 for a \$1.1 million restoration, following several abortive attempts to open it to the public in recent months.

The tomb, which is located in eastern Jerusalem, is believed to be the burial site of Queen Helena of Adiabene, a Mesopotamian monarch who converted to Judaism in the first century B.C.E. While access to the burial chambers remains prohibited, visitors can now tour the tomb's courtyard, which dates back more than 2,000 years.

There is an ongoing dispute over ownership of the site between France and Israeli religious and nationalist groups, according to the report. In addition, religious Jewish

Israelis have protested outside the tomb's gates since 2009, demanding it be opened for those who want to pray at the site. French officials have voiced concern regarding the possibility of the tomb, which is located in the primarily Arab eastern Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, becoming a Jewish holy site.

Entrance to the site is currently limited to 60 people on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and visitors, including those intending to pray, must pre-purchase tickets online and register with a passport or ID card. According to some Orthodox Jews, these rules are designed to deter worshippers, as many ultra-Orthodox Jews avoid Internet use and object to paying entry fees to a place of worship.

The site was first excavated by Frenchman Felicien de Saulcy in 1863, who mistakenly identified the tomb as belonging to biblical kings. He took two sarcophagi

At right: The "Tomb of the Kings" in Jerusalem is believed to be the burial site of Queen Helena of Adiabene, a Mesopotamian monarch who converted to Judaism in the first century B.C.E. (Photo by Library of Congress Catalog, Wikipedia Commons)



found inside, as well as human remains, back to Paris, despite protests by the local Jewish community. They remain in the collection of the Louvre. A French Jewish woman, Amalya Bertrand, bought the site in 1878 through the French consul in Jerusalem, and one of her heirs later donated it to the French government.

France's Consulate General said in a statement that the reopening was the

"fruit of restoration and security work conducted by the French authorities over the past 10 years," and that it was committed to "visits by small groups in accordance with the rules," according to Israel Hayom.

Israel's Foreign Ministry hailed the move as a product of "long and strenuous" negotiations with French authorities, but did not elaborate, according to the report.

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Hanukkah news briefs

From JNS.org

Jack Black, Flaming Lips and Haim among those to join Hanukkah album

A holiday-inspired music album titled "Hanukkah+" was to be released on Nov. 22. It features a collection of Jewish classics and originals from various artists, including Haim, the Flaming Lips, Jack Black and Yo La Tengo, The Rolling Stone reported. The album, produced by Grammy-winning music supervisor Randall Poster, will be released via Verve Forecast, with a vinyl release following on Dec. 13. Among the songs will be a rendition of Leonard Cohen's 1984 track "If It Be Your Will" by Haim and Woody Guthrie's "Hanukkah Dance" sung by Watkins Family Hour. Other artists wrote and recorded original songs for the album. The collection was inspired in part by Yo La Tengo's annual eight-night concert series "Hanukkah Run." "When our old friend Randy Poster asked us to contribute to an album of Hanukkah songs he was putting together, we were kind of stumped," Yo La Tengo said in a statement. "As non-practicing Jews (and non-Jews), truthfully the holiday has little meaning for us, but we were open to inspiration. We thought maybe another friend, Sam Elwitt, could crack the code, and we think he did a fantastic job with his composition 'Eight Candles.'"

Hallmark Channel set to premiere movies featuring Hanukkah for first time

The Hallmark Channel will premiere its first two Hanukkah-themed movies in December in honor of the eight-day Jewish holiday, which this year starts on Dec. 22, the New York Post reported. "Our audience is very vocal and they tell us when they'd like to see more of something," said Michelle Vicary, Crown Media's executive vice president of programming. "We've heard over the years that they would like to see [a Hanukkah movie] if a script came in that we liked. And that happened this year – twice." The first film, "Holiday Date," will air on Dec. 14 and follows Brooke, a woman who experiences a breakup shortly before a trip to introduce her boyfriend to her family for Christmas. She instead goes home with Joel, a Jewish actor who will pose as her boyfriend since he has never celebrated Christmas, drama, of course, ensues. "Unfortunately, they have not discussed if he knows all the traditions," said Vicary. "As the family becomes more suspicious whether he knows how to celebrate, our two leads begin to fall for each other." The second movie, "Double Holiday," will air on Dec. 22. It's about a Jewish woman named Rebecca whose Hanukkah plans are disrupted when her boss asks her to team up with her rival to plan their office holiday party together. Vicary said about the characters, "They learn that while the traditions and celebrations are different, the feelings of holiday and celebration and family and togetherness are the same."

Lovato. Continued from page 2

who united around this important issue to stand up for Palestinian human rights," Portland DSA Co-chairwoman Olivia Katbi Smith said in a statement. "We are relieved that the Blazers have done the right thing and finally ended this completely unnecessary partnership with a company that has provided sniper scopes to a brutal occupying force."

This is not the DSA's only experience with the Trailblazers. They organized a boycott of the team's exhibition game against Maccabi Haifa, a visiting Israeli team. They proudly post a picture of their members holding a large banner outside the arena reading "Don't Play Apartheid." These incidents highlight the harsh realities of the antisemitic and anti-Israel BDS movement.

They cannot effectively target Israel itself, so they target anyone who dares associate with Israel, however remotely. Israel, thankfully, has not felt strong economic repercussions since the modern boycott movement was founded in 2005. Boasting an impressive 3.6 percent unemployment rate, the "Start-Up Nation" is fairing far better than its Palestinian neighbors in Judea

and Samaria and Gaza (31 percent and 52 percent unemployment, respectively).

When an Israeli company needs to cut costs to combat BDS, it is the Palestinian laborers who are affected. When an Israeli company does business with Americans, it is the American organization or individual that is targeted. This is the danger of the BDS movement, which claims to be tolerant and pro-Palestinian. It is not pro-Palestinian, it is anti-Israel. It is not tolerant, it is antisemitic.

The BDS movement takes any association with the Jewish state as an excuse to attack. Israel is unaffected because it will not bow to its pressure. Those in America should follow that example and be unapologetic in our support for the only free democracy in the Middle East.

Moshe Hill is a political analyst who has written for The Daily Wire, The Queens Jewish Link, The Jewish Link of New Jersey and JNS.org. He is regularly featured on "The Josh M Show" podcast. Subscribe to aHillwithaview.com for more content from Moshe Hill. Like him on Facebook at facebook.com/ahillwithaview and follow him on Twitter @TheMoHill.

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Reporter's Notebook

Visiting the "Mountain Jews" of Azerbaijan, one of the world's last remaining shtetls

By Eliana Rudee

(JNS) AZERBAIJAN – Affectionately called “Mountain Jews,” the Jewish community of the Red Village in the Quba district of Azerbaijan is home to nearly half the Jews living in this Muslim-majority country. Believed to be the world’s only all-Jewish village outside of Israel and the United States – and the last surviving shtetl – the Red Village is situated in the northeast of the country, close to the border with Russia.

It is also historically one of the few places in the world unaffected by antisemitism. According to the Jews of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the country is an “oasis of tolerance,” protecting all religious minorities (Jews included) in a world where persecution has become a norm.

A visit to the “Six Dome Synagogue” (“The Grand Synagogue,” designed by architect Hillel Ben Haim in 1888), one of three synagogues in Quba, illustrated such freedom. Invited by the Caucasus Muslims Office and ahead of the second World Religious Leaders’ Summit in Baku, a group of Jewish leaders recently visited the Red Village and Six Dome Synagogue.

Unlike synagogues throughout Europe, the United States and Muslim-majority countries in the Islamic world, there is no need for armed guards or high-tech security measures. Unlike many synagogues where, before entering, guests are asked a barrage of questions to verify their Jewish identity, the only request at Six Dome is that guests remove their shoes before entering. With no women’s section (women do not usually attend services at the synagogue outside of the Jewish holidays, explained a worshipper at the synagogue), the women entering were simply asked to cover their heads, whether married or unmarried, and prayed with the congregation.

Approximately 25 men were present at recent Wednesday afternoon and evening services, with at least 10 boys lining up following the prayer services to be blessed by visiting Rabbi Yitshak Ehrenberg of the Central Orthodox Synagogue of Berlin.

“If we see children here, it’s a sign of the future,” Ehrenberg told worshippers in Hebrew. “Follow in the steps of Abraham,” he said. “Follow his tradition to be Hebrew.”

It seems that’s exactly what the Mountain Jews are doing. “For a Jew in Azerbaijan, spending Shabbat in the Red Village is like returning to your most essential home... for over 2,000 years, Azerbaijan has been the kind of homeland that most Jews have always hoped for,” wrote leader of the Mountain Jewish Community Milikh Yevdayev in the *Jewish Journal*. “Historically, Jews that settled here in Azerbaijan have been far better off than those that were eventually able to return to Israel; those that were massacred by Romans, pushed in and out of Spain, to eventually suffer Hitler’s atrocities in Europe in the 1930s and ‘40s,” he added.

The history of Jewish settlement in the Red Village, named for the red tiling used on many of the roofs, is believed to date back at least 2,600 years, though many claim that it dates back 2,800 years – 150 years before the destruction of Jerusalem and the First Temple by Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king, in 586 B.C.E.

Following this wave of Jewish settlement, others came with the Persian Empire, and throughout the Mongolian and Islamic conquest of the region. The Red Village was officially established in 1742 when the Azerbaijani Muslim leader of Quba gave permission for the Jewish community to establish its own town there without fear of persecution. Today, approximately 8,000 Jews live in Quba. The community is comprised of Mountain Jews, as well as Georgian Jews who arrived in the early 20th century, and Ashkenazi Jews who arrived in the late 19th century and during World War II.

All of Azerbaijan is home to 30,000 Jews in eight Jewish communities with seven synagogues. Outside of the Red Village, Jews have largely settled in the eastern

city of Baku, the nearby city of Sumgayit and the Oguz district in the north.

According to Yevdayev, in the context of a region with extremist violence and the rise of antisemitism around the globe, the unusual story of Jews in Azerbaijan is a rare blessing that becomes, in this context, that much more important.

See “Mountain” on page 11

At right: The view outside of the “Six Dome Synagogue” (“The Grand Synagogue,” designed by architect Hillel Ben Haim in 1888), one of three synagogues in Quba, Azerbaijan. (Photo by Eliana Rudee)



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Rabbi Yitshak Ehrenberg of the Central Orthodox Synagogue of Berlin blessed a worshipper at the “Six Dome Synagogue” in Quba, Azerbaijan. (Photo by Eliana Rudee)

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Greek woman reunited with siblings she saved during Holocaust and their 40 descendants

By Eliana Rudee

(JNS)—“There is no way to describe the acts of heroism and the danger they took upon themselves and all those around them to shelter an entire family,” said Sarah Yanai upon reuniting with the Greek woman who, along with her two sisters, hid her and five other members of her family during the Holocaust. “The feeling is very emotional and very exciting. I cannot describe it,” said the 86-year-old. “What can I say? They saved our lives.”

At the Hall of Names at Jerusalem’s Yad Vashem on November 3, Greek rescuer Melpomeni Dina, 92, now living in Thessaloniki, Greece, was reunited with two survivors she saved during the Holocaust: Yanai, who now lives in Ramat Hasharon, and her brother Yossi Mor, 77, now living in Beersheva.

Melpomeni Dina (then Gianopoulou) was just 14 when she and her two orphaned sisters, Efthimia and Bithleem, decided to hide the Jewish family in their home. For more than two years, they hid and provided for the Mordechai family, including Sarah and Yossi; their parents (Mentes and Mari); and siblings Asher, Shmuel and Rachel. Due to

the heroism and sacrifice of the Gianopoulou sisters, most of the family survived the war.

According to Yad Vashem, Gianopoulou’s connection to the Mordechai family was through Melpomeni’s sister, Efthimia (married name Xanthopoulou), who before the invasion of Greece had studied to become a seamstress at Mari Mordechai’s studio in Veria. Since Efthimia was an orphan and very poor, Mari did not charge her for the lessons.

Efthimia became attached to the Mordechais and visited them regularly after they went into hiding. When a new place was needed, she arranged for them to move to her home in Veria, where she lived with two younger sisters, 15-year-old Bithleem (later Sumbasi) and 14-year-old Melpomeni. There, in one room, they accommodated seven members of the Mordechai family. “They loved my mother very much because of her good heart,” recalled Mor, “so they took upon themselves the dangerous mission to hide us in their home.”

The three sisters shared their food rations with the Mordechai family and sheltered them despite the risk. As supplies were scarce and expensive, Bithleem and Melpomeni cultivated a piece of land they owned in a swamp near Yiannitsa, about 25 miles from Veria, and when they would return from working the land, they would carry on their backs provisions for all 10 people.

After illness took the life of Yossi’s older brother, Shmuel, the family’s hiding was discovered and reported to the authorities. Melpomeni’s family helped the Mordechai family flee to the Vermio Mountains, continuing to provide for the family until the end of the war.

On April 12, 1994, Yad Vashem recognized Melpomeni Dina as one of the Righteous Among the Nations.



At the Hall of Names in Yad Vashem in Jerusalem on November 3, Greek rescuer Melpomeni Dina, 92, reunited with Sarah Yanai, 86 (left), and Yossi Mor, 77 (right), two of the survivors she saved during the Holocaust. (Photo by Eliana Rudee)



Greek rescuer Melpomeni Dina, 92, reunited with descendants of Sarah Yanai, 86, and Yossi Mor, 77, two of the survivors she saved during the Holocaust, at the Hall of Names in Yad Vashem in Jerusalem on November 3. (Photo by Eliana Rudee)

At the meeting, which was made possible by a partnership between U.S.-based Jewish Foundation for the Righteous and Yad Vashem, Dina was introduced to nearly 40 descendants of Yanai and Mor. After meeting all these relatives, Dina declared that she sees every member of their families as her own. “I am very happy to be here and to see you,” she told Yanai and Mor with tears in her eyes, again inviting them and their family to live with her in her home in Greece.

“We will stay together day and night for two days,” Yanai told Dina. “We have a lot to talk about.”

Yanai continued, saying, “It’s very hard to describe my feelings in words; it’s something deep in my heart. It brings me back many years, [thinking] how they kept us and how they worried about us. We hid in her house; she saved all my family. Now she can see our large family – all this thanks to her because she saved us. She did such a great thing! You cannot imagine how dangerous it was for her and for her whole family to keep our whole family.”

See “Greek” on page 9

CHANUKAH Greetings

Deadlines: December 12 (December 20 issue) **and December 19** (December 27 Health Care Greetings issue)

Once again this year, *The Reporter* is inviting its readers and medical professionals to place personal Chanukah greetings to the community. These Chanukah greeting ads will appear in our December 20 and 27 issues.

You may choose from the designs, messages and sizes shown here - more are available. You may also choose your own message, as long as it fits into the space of the greeting you select. (Custom designs available upon request.) The price of the small greeting is \$18 (styles B, E and F), the medium one is \$36 (style A, C and D) and the largest one (style G) is \$72.

To ensure that your greeting is published or for more information on additional styles, sizes & designs, please contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereporter.org. Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter* and sent to: *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

CHANUKAH Greetings

Please indicate which issue you'd like your ad to appear:
 Dec. 20 issue (Dec. 12 deadline) Dec. 27 Health Care issue (Dec. 19 deadline)

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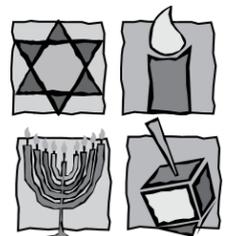
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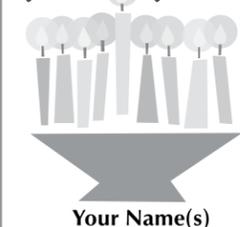
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Style G - \$72 • Actual Size: 3.22" x 3.95"

Jewish astronaut Jessica Meir shares photos of Israel captured from space

By JNS staff

(JNS)—Jewish astronaut Jessica Meir, 42, shared photos of Israel she took from space in a tweet. Meir joined the crew of the International Space Station in September and in October became part of the first-ever female space-walking team. Meir, who is the fourth Jewish woman and 15th Jewish astronaut overall to be part of a space mission, brought an Israeli flag to the space station as one of her allowed personal items.

Meir's late father, born in Iraq, immigrated with his family to pre-state Israel as a young child and later fought in Israel's War of Independence in 1948, according to JTA. He became a doctor and took a job in Sweden, where he met Meir's mother; together, they moved to Maine when Meir's father was offered a job there.

"My father's globe spanning journey as a surgeon from the Middle East, to Europe, and eventually to the U.S. was

an inspiration to many in my immediate and extended family. #TheJourney," Meir tweeted earlier in November, along with the photos of Israel (pic.twitter.com/wBN1Iz7O5O).

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin responded to the photos in a tweet, saying, "Dear Jessica, that you for taking us with you on your space voyage. We are proud of you and send warm regards from Israel."

Meir is expected to stay on the ISS until the spring of 2020.



NASA astronaut Jessica Meir waved at the camera during a spacewalk with fellow NASA astronaut Christina Koch (out of frame). They ventured into the vacuum of space for seven hours and 17 minutes to swap a failed battery charge-discharge unit with a spare during the first all-woman spacewalk on October 18. (Photo by NASA via Wikimedia Commons)



At right: Jessica Meir in her official NASA portrait. (Photo by Robert Markowitz/NASA)

GreekContinued from page 8

This was the first time that the JFR, which provides monthly financial assistance to more than 265 aged and needy Righteous Among the Nations living in 18 countries, has reunited Holocaust survivors and their rescuers in Israel. "The beauty of [making this reunion] in Israel is we got to have the whole family, *l'dor v'dor*," Stanlee Stahl, executive vice president of JFR, told JNS. "You get to see the generations, including two grandchildren in uniform."

Mor's grandson – Imri Dor, 22, currently serving in the paratrooper's unit in the Israeli Defense Forces – arrived in uniform to meet his grandfather's rescuer. "It's a huge event," he told JNS. "We heard a lot about [Dina] and everything she did for our family; she has inspired me as a person and it means so much [to meet her]. It fulfills you and gives you perception."

Dor noted that his army service, in the context of the story of his grandfather, is "always on my mind; it's why I'm doing what I'm doing."

"We don't have another place to be other than Israel," he said. "This is our only country, and we must be strong because [the Holocaust] could happen again if we are not."

According to Stahl, this is likely JFR's last reunion "because of age and frailty" of the survivors, and even more of those who helped save them, like Dina.

Joel Zisenwine, director of Yad Vashem's Righteous Among the Nations Department, spoke of the rareness of such a meeting. "As time passes, we have fewer survivors and even fewer rescuers," he told JNS. "This coming together of the offspring and descendants in Yad Vashem, which is authorized to commemorate the Holocaust in the presence of monuments" like the Hall of Names, which commemorates the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust who did not survive, "makes it even more meaningful."

As the work of Zisenwine's department often occurs past the death of the Righteous Among the Nations, he said, "To see a living testimony of someone who took part in a rescue mission is even more moving."



Holocaust survivor Sarah Yanai (left) and her Greek rescuer, Melpomeni Dina, were accompanied through the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum and memorial in Jerusalem by Yanai's grandchildren, both soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces, on November 3. (Photo by Eliana Rudee)

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 January 3 (deadline December 27)
 January 31 (deadline January 23)
 February 28 (deadline February 20)
 Contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereporter.com
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Weekly Parasha

Vayetze, Genesis 28:10-32:3

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RABBI ZALMAN CHEIN, EDUCATION COORDINATOR, THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDENT LIFE AT BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

This week's Torah portion, Vayetze, begins with an account of a journey. Seeing Esau's wrath upon his brother Jacob receiving the blessing of the firstborn, Jacob's parents, Isaac and Rebecca, instructed him to leave Canaan and visit his Uncle Laban in Haran for his safety and to look for a wife there. The Torah tells us that Jacob obeyed his parents: "And Jacob left Beersheba, and he went to Haran."

In his classic commentary on the Torah, Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki (Rashi) points out that the first part of the verse seems to be superfluous. Surely it is obvious that in order

to travel to Haran, Jacob had to first leave Beersheba. Why did the Torah mention his departure?

Rashi explains that Jacob's travels were not merely his private affairs. As a *tzadik*, a righteous man, his departure from Beersheba was noticed by the inhabitants of the city and had an impact on them. "When he departs from there, its *hod* [aura] has departed, its *ziv* [guiding] light has departed, its *hadar* [honor] has departed." Jacob's righteousness was recognized to the extent that the townspeople were honored to live in his vicinity. A guiding light,

Jacob was an inspiration to others, encouraging them to increase in doing good. He brought an aura of respect to the city, raising the bar and inspiring the people to have fear of heaven.

Our forefather Jacob teaches us that we, too, can positively impact those around us. In our own unique fashion, we can each set an example by living a life of good and positivity, and inspiring others to do the same. May our neighbors and acquaintances feel honored to call us a friend.

Congregational Notes

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
 Rabbi: Zev Silber
 Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Phone: 722-1793
 Rabbi's Office: 722-7514
 Fax: 722-7121
 Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm
 Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
 Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
 Website: www.bethdavid.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton
 Shabbat Services:
 Shabbat, Dec. 7 9 am
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., Dec. 8 8:30 am
 Mon.-Fri., Dec. 9-13 7 am
 Evenings:
 Sun., Dec. 8 4:15 pm
 Mon.-Thurs., Dec. 9-12 7 pm
 Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

Congregation Tikun v'Or

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

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

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

Temple Brith Sholom

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



Temple Concord

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

On Friday, December 6, at 8 pm, there will be a Human Rights Shabbat evening service led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

On Saturday, December 7, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study; at 9:30 am, there will be Tot Shabbat; and at 10:35 am, there will be a Shabbat morning service with birthday blessings. Hanukkah House Museum will be open from noon-4 pm.

On Sunday, December 8, from 10 am-2 pm, there will be a Temple Concord Sisterhood rummage sale. Hanukkah House Museum will be open from noon-4 pm.

On Monday, December 9, at 7 pm, the Temple Concord Evening Book Club will meet.

On Tuesday, December 10, Hanukkah House Museum will be open from noon-4 pm. At 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew school.

On Thursday, December 12, Hanukkah House Museum will be open from noon-4 pm. At 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew school. From 5-7 pm, the CHOW pantry will be open.

On Friday, December 13, at 8 pm, there will be a Shabbat evening service.

Penn-York Jewish Community

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

Norwich Jewish Center

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

Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch
 Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors
 E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu, rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com
 Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
 Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095
 Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com
 Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education
 E-mail: zchein@Jewishbu.com, rchein@Jewishbu.com
 Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Downtown and Development
 Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton
 E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com
 Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming
 E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com
 Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.
 To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

Friday, December 6, light candles before 4:13 pm
 Saturday, December 7, Shabbat ends 5:14 pm
 Friday, December 13, light candles before 4:14 pm
 Saturday, December 14, Shabbat ends 5:14 pm

Temple Israel

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

On Friday, December 6, there will be a family pot luck dinner and services beginning at 5:30 pm. Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu, Judaic studies teacher at Hillel Academy and cantor, will sing during the services.

On Saturday, December 7, at 9:30 am, there will be Shabbat services led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Genesis 28:10-32:3. The haftarah will be Hosea 12:13-14:10. A kiddush luncheon will be sponsored by the Turner family. A baby naming will take place during the services. Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu, Judaic studies teacher at Hillel Academy and cantor, and students from Hillel Academy will sing during the services.

On Sunday, December 8, at noon, *Sofer*-scribe Neil Yerman will talk about his work as a writer of Torah scrolls. (See article on page 3.)

On Tuesday, December 10, from 7-9 pm, there will be a Sisterhood Hanukkah celebration with refreshments and a gift exchange. The cost of \$5 per person will be collected at the door. RSVP to the office. (See article on page 3.)

On Saturday, December 14, at 10 am, there will be a Learners Service and baby naming.

There will be a Hebrew school Hanukkah party for students and parents on Sunday, December 15, at 10 am.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

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

The annual Hanukkah Festival will be held on Sunday, December 15, from 11 am-3 pm. At noon, there will be a storytelling presentation for all ages by Rachel Lampert. The event is free and will feature handmade arts and crafts, Hanukkah items, a café and craft activities for the family. (See article on page 1.)

Kol Haverim

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

Carlebach *moshav* rises from the ashes

By Deborah Fineblum

(JNS)—The first thing you notice when you pass through the gate and into the *moshav* is the smell. Like a campfire that was doused with water and left to sputter. The second thing: just how many of the trees look like they've survived an inferno. Because they have.

Back in May, Moshav Mevo Modi'im (aka Me'or Modi'im or just "the *moshav*") lost nearly all of its 60 homes to a fire so intense that it fried the electrical and plumbing systems. And though the investigation was inconclusive, many insiders still suspect arson.

But against the odds, surrounded by a landscape of burnt-out homes and the scorched skeletons of trees, it was business as usual for the Moshav Mevo Modi'im Country Fair on October 16, just like it has been every Sukkot since 2006.

Founded in 1975 by "singing rabbi" Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach and friends, the *moshav* has long been home to the "Chevra," a clan of counterculture artists, musicians, aromatherapists, rabbis, yoga teachers and poets practicing an amalgam of Chasidic Judaism in the spirit of the rabbi's House of Love and Prayer in San Francisco. The rabbi, who split his time between Israel and New York, died a quarter-century ago, on October 21, 1994.

The intermediate days of Sukkot is a time when Israelis



A view of burnt homes after a forest fire wiped out most of the houses in Mevo Modi'im, near Ben Shemen Forest, on May 26. (Photo by Hadas Parush/Flash90)

—both the native-born and the newest arrivals—are reborn as tourists, crisscrossing their own country as if seeing its sights for the first time. And for many, the Moshav Fair is a much-anticipated part of their holiday (as well as their Passover) travel plans.

Where else can you have your hand henna-ed, learn how to tap your way to health and happiness, and buy tie-dyed T-shirts for toddlers, painted tambourines, feathered earrings and a range of spiritual books with authors primed to engage visitors in a myriad of other-worldly topics? Where else can you take in the likes of Shlomo Katz, Nuriel and the Solomon Brothers, and assorted other musical favorites while munching organic kosher foods? Not exactly your average country fair.

After the fire, with nearly everyone evacuated and scattered around the country—and only the silent army of gutted homes cordoned off with plastic sheeting standing guard—few people expected to see a fair this year. "But the strange thing was in the center of the *moshav*, in the fairground filled with highly flammable trees, not a blade of grass was burnt," says organizer Leah Sand. "Nor were any of the communal buildings. So, really, how could we not hold the fair this year?"

And some 4,500 responded, more than any previous year, says Sand. "We had splendid weather, and we never had this many people. Everyone wanted to give us support, and everyone was happy. It was like a family reunion."

For those who have called this place home, the trauma remains fresh. "It still seems surreal to me that my mom's home is gone, reminding me that you can't ever go home again," says Miriam Leibowitz of Jerusalem, on hand to sell her watercolors. "With so many people here today, it's a lot of beauty and a lot of pain all mixed together." One surprise: In sifting through the ruins of her mother's home, she found a few special pieces of her grandmother's jewelry. "With that extreme heat," she adds, "it's a miracle it didn't melt."

Another insider put it this way: "Only four months after the devastating fire, this day was not only a huge success, but an important marker on the way to rebuilding the *moshav*," said Rabbi Avraham Arie Trugman, who with his wife, Rachel, were *moshav* founders back in 1976.



People took part in the Moshav Fair during Sukkot in Moshav Mevo Modi'im, which was devastated by a wildfire in May. (Photo by Deborah Fineblum)

"Further, it is a testament to the members' determination to not only carry on, but to forge ahead despite the daunting work that lies ahead... and just how important the *moshav* is for *Klal Yisrael*."

"It cheered us up to have all these people here," says Shira Shapiro, whose home was completely consumed, and who now lives in temporary housing with her two children and mother in nearby Modi'in. "All you have to do is look around you at the devastation; until today, the place has been a ghost town." One thing that keeps up their spirits, she notes, is the "absolutely phenomenal" moral and financial support that's poured in.

"The day was an amazing opportunity for everyone associated with the *moshav* and everyone who cares about it to come together, reconnect and inspire each other," says Orah Moshe of Pardes Hanna, who's helped Sand with various aspects of the fair over the years. "The backdrop of the burnt-out homes, the smell of the fire, they're unavoidable reminders, but I felt so much love for the *moshav* here today."

As singer Shlomo Katz said from the stage: "If these people are able to pull off this festival and live with such determination, then the least we can do it pull ourselves up and dance and sing, and learn from them to strengthen our own lives, too."

And, speaking of strength, if you look very carefully, you could see a few green shoots making their way through patches of charred earth. "It won't be easy, but I believe they'll make a comeback here," says Shapiro's sister-in-law, Bracha Amster. "There's something special about the place that makes people want to raise their kids here."

"Don't give up on us. We're going to be back," adds Shapiro. "We're going to come home, we're going to rebuild this place; there's no question about it."

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Report: Hezbollah uses Germany as hub for terror

As many as 1,050 Hezbollah members and supporters reside in Germany, and the organization uses the country as a major hub for its activities, German daily *Tagesspiegel* reported in late November, citing security sources. The Lebanese Shi'ite terrorist group's operations in Europe include drug-trafficking, with the ports of Rotterdam, Antwerp and Hamburg serving as the main entry points, according to the report. The sources also said that Hezbollah engages in money-laundering, recruitment and fund-raising on the continent, and sends the money it raises in these ways to Lebanon to buy weapons and fund the group's operations, according to *Tagesspiegel*. Around 30 mosques and culture centers in Germany have ties to Hezbollah, the report said. According to a report on Nov. 28 in German newspaper *Der Spiegel*, the German government is planning to ban all Hezbollah activity in the country. Sources in the German foreign, interior and justice ministries told the news outlet that the ban could happen as early as the week of Dec. 6. Such a move would put Hezbollah on the same level as terrorist groups such as Islamic State and the PKK Kurdish militia. Following the ban, all activities of Hezbollah would

Mountain...Continued from page 7

Azerbaijan's history of intercultural and interreligious dialogue dates back centuries, including its early exchange with the Jewish kingdom of the Khazars in the north, from the eighth to 13th century. The country is known to be an island of religious multiculturalism and interreligious dialogue, with radial Shia Islam on its southern border with Iran and radical Sunni Islam on its western border with Turkey.

Azerbaijan's Constitution (Item No. 3 of Article No. 25) ensures equality of rights and freedom, irrespective of race, nationality, religion, language and gender. Under Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, the nation has offered substantial financial assistance to promote religious acceptance, protection and interreligious dialogue. This has resulted in flourishing Jewish life in the Red Village and beyond.

"We are a nation of tolerance, living in peace and dignity with all in our area," said Mubariz Gurbanli, chairman to the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, at a meeting with the Jewish delegation in Azerbaijan on November 13.

"There are no religious conflicts in Azerbaijan, and it is a priority of the state to promote tolerance," he said. "Here, people refer to people's humanity, not their religion, so Jews can wear a *kippah* in the street and nobody will ask or bother them. Azerbaijani Jews say that other than Israel, Baku is their second home where they feel safe and free."

be forbidden in the country, including the public display of the group's flag. The European Union has to date outlawed only the so-called military branch of Hezbollah, but not the entire group.

Netanyahu warns Europe over Iran sanctions relief efforts

(*Israel Hayom* via JNS)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned European nations on Dec. 1 that they were making a big mistake by trying to salvage the nuclear deal with Iran through a special mechanism that would bypass U.S. sanctions on the Islamic republic. In a video message posted on YouTube, Netanyahu implored European nations to abandon their efforts to strengthen economic ties with Iran and instead join the U.S.-led "maximum pressure" effort, launched by the Trump administration a year ago after Washington withdrew from the nuclear deal. "These European countries should be ashamed of themselves. Have they learned nothing from history? Well, apparently not. They are enabling a fanatic terrorist state to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, thereby bringing disaster to themselves and upon everyone else," said Netanyahu. "Now is the time to change course. Now is the time to ratchet up the pressures on Iran, not to lessen them. Now is the time to join the United States and increase sanctions against Iran. To those who favor appeasement of Iran, I say this: History and your own people will judge you harshly. Change course."

Israeli defense minister approves new Jewish neighborhood in Hebron

Israeli Defense Minister Naftali Bennett on Dec. 1 approved the planning of a new Jewish neighborhood in the city of Hebron. The decision comes after years of legal battles between the city's Jewish and Arab residents over the fate of a marketplace in the city that has been vacant for years, according to Israel National News. The new neighborhood would create territorial continuity from the Cave of the Patriarchs to the Avraham Avinu neighborhood, doubling the number of Jewish residents in the city, according to the report. The market buildings, which were owned by Jews prior to the 1929 Hebron Massacre, would be destroyed in order to make way for the new buildings, the report noted. Separately on Dec. 1, during the weekly Security Cabinet meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu requested approval of a NIS 40 million (\$11.5 million) security budget for Judea and Samaria, Israel National News reported. Netanyahu cited the success of the Israeli security establishment in the region, calling them "very impressive." Cooperation between the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) and the Israel Defense Forces, he said, "is bearing marvelous results for the state of Israel. Simultaneous with the fight against terrorism, we are strengthening the security components in the communities in Judea and Samaria, of the Israeli citizens there."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

IDF humanitarian-aid team heads to Albania following devastating earthquake

An Israel Defense Forces emergency humanitarian-aid delegation has left for Albania following the 6.4-magnitude earthquake that devastated the country on Nov. 26, the IDF announced on Dec. 3. "We just dispatched an IDF humanitarian aid delegation to Albania following the devastating earthquake that took 50+ lives and left thousands injured," the military posted on the official IDF Twitter feed, adding the hashtag "#IDFinAlbania." The Israeli team will join disaster experts from the United States, France, Italy, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Serbia. The 10-member IDF team will focus on determining the structural soundness of the buildings still standing after the natural disaster, and is led by Israel's Home Front Command and supported by the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Authorities have estimated that as many as 7,900 buildings have been damaged throughout Albania by the quake, with some 6,000 people having been left homeless. An estimated 1.9 million people have been affected by the quake. Israel sent humanitarian aid teams to Haiti in 2010, Nepal in 2015, Mexico in 2017 and Brazil following the Minas Gerais dam collapse earlier this year. Though Albania is a Muslim-majority country, it maintains good diplomatic relations with Israel, having established formal ties in 1991.

Report: Brazil to open trade mission in Jerusalem

Brazil plans to open a trade mission in Jerusalem later in December, with Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's son, Eduardo Bolsonaro, scheduled to attend the Dec. 15 ceremony, according to Israeli officials. Honduras is scheduled to open its embassy in Jerusalem in the coming weeks, the officials added, according to a report in *The Times of Israel*. The Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (Apex-Brasil), which operates under the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, will open the trade office. However, unlike the trade offices of Hungary and Honduras, the Brazilian one will not have diplomatic status, Apex-Brasil's Clarissa Furtado told the *Times*. Eduardo Bolsonaro, who is a "big supporter" of Israel, will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's President Reuven Rivlin, Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein and other senior officials, according to Modi Ephraim, who heads the Latin America Division at Israel's Foreign Ministry, the report said. The United States and Guatemala have moved their embassies to Jerusalem, and several other countries have trade offices in the city, including the Czech Republic and Australia.

Jewish prof at Syracuse U. receives antisemitic e-mails

A Jewish professor at Syracuse University in New York received a threatening anonymous e-mail the week of Nov. 22 containing antisemitic language and references to the

Holocaust. The e-mail that Genevieve Garcia de Müller – a professor of writing, rhetoric and composition – got on Nov. 19 had a subject line that read "Jew," and in the body of the e-mail she was told to "get in the oven where you belong, you monstrous looking kike." She tweeted a screenshot of the message. Müller called the Department of Public Safety after receiving the e-mail, and DPS directed her to the Syracuse Police Department because the incident occurred while she was off-campus. She said on Nov. 21 via Twitter that the FBI and local police are working on the case, and they have increased police patrols in her neighborhood. The professor added that she has barely left her home and cannot return to campus yet. "Immediately, I thought of the safety of my family," Müller said of the e-mail. "I don't know who would've sent it. I don't know who knows I'm Jewish. It's not something I talk about in class necessarily, but it was very personal to me." The week of Nov. 22, the university suspended all fraternity activities for the rest of this semester following a series of at least 12 hate crimes or bias-related incidents that have been reported since Nov. 7, according to campus student newspaper *The Daily Orange*. Müller added, "This is not something that's new to campus. So, this may feel very threatening and very real and a moment of panic, but this is deeply embedded in the culture and history of SU. ... I'm not the only one who receives threats like this. So yes, I want a personal response, but more important than that, I want to see something happen."

P.A. TV marks World Children's Day by calling on kids to become "martyrs"

(PMW via JNS) – The Palestinian Authority marked World Children's Day in late November by calling on Palestinian children to become "martyrs." On the Nov. 20 episode of the children's program "The Best Home," which aired on P.A. TV, two children recited poems encouraging martyrdom for "Palestine." One poem, recited by a girl of around 10 years old, told youngsters they had "the blood of the martyrs" in their veins, reminding them that according to Islam, the 72 virgins of Paradise – "the Dark-Eyed" – are waiting for them, "yearning," and appreciate them when they die as martyrs. Another child recited a poem that also stressed the goal of death, stating that "with blood we have woven the shrouds" and that their "soul" was a "gift" for "the homeland." The show's host, Wala al-Battat, called Israelis child killers and said Palestinian children needed to "be able to defend themselves" against them. She claimed that Israelis "are trying to reach us everywhere in order to kill us," and that they are "killing children on an almost daily basis." According to Nan Jacques Zilberdik, senior analyst at media watchdog NGO Palestinian Media Watch, "Aside from being simply sickening, the P.A.'s continuous promotion and endorsement of child martyrdom is diametrically opposed to one of children's most basic rights – the right to life – as stipulated in the U.N.'s Convention on the Rights of the Child." She called on the United Nations to hold the P.A. accountable.

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