The Reporter matches matching grant

Temple Concord has launched a matching campaign to preserve and restore the Kilmer Mansion. Donations will help restore the collapsed terrace that faces Riverside Drive and the adjacent covered porch.

“The campaign is off to an amazing start. In just a few days, 50 generous donors gave upwards of $7,700,” said Lisa Blackwell, Temple Concord president.

“It’s wonderful to see such an outpouring of support. The mansion is a community treasure, and it will take a community effort to ensure its future.”

“Kilmer Mansion is the most iconic building on Riverside Drive and people are always curious about it. To preserve it and make it available to the public would be good stewardship, as well as a way to show hospitality toward the community at large,” said Robin Hazen, Temple Concord trustee, noting this sentiment is shared by many members of Temple Concord and people across the Binghamton community. Prior to the pandemic, Temple Concord was offering regular tours and events to share the “historic gem” with the many people who have wanted to visit, and hopes to resume these activities soon.

All gifts given in December will be matched dollar for dollar up to $30,000. Donations can be made by check, payable to Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Vestal, NY 13850 (note Kilmer Mansion Fund). Gifts can also be made online at https://rb.gy/nozqdw or by texting GIVE to 607-228-8005.

By Reporter staff

The Reporter announced that it matched its $500 matching grant, raising more than $2,400. The grant is courtesy of the David and Virginia Eisenberg Fund.

“We are thrilled that we more than made the grant,” said Rabbi Rachel Esserman, executive editor of The Reporter. “We owe a special thank you to the David and Virginia Eisenberg Fund that was gracious enough to offer the grant.”

Esserman noted that “with so many newspapers – Jewish and secular – going under or appearing only online, we are thrilled with the support we have received from the community. I’d like to thank Shelley Hubal for helping us arrange the grant. My production associate, Christi Sturdevant, created a beautiful ad on our website, which allowed people to give easily online, and a wonderful ‘Giving Tuesday’ ad for the hard-copy paper that encouraged people to give.”

Esserman gave additional thanks to three community members who agreed to appear in the Giving Tuesday ad. “My thanks to Rachel Coben, Rebecca Kahn and Merri Pell-Preus for their kind words about the paper,” she added. “It’s wonderful to know our hard work is appreciated.”

Although the matching grant is over, Esserman noted that the paper is still accepting donations. “With the ongoing pandemic and the decrease in advertising it’s causing, every penny is appreciated,” she said. Donations can still be made online at thejournal.com, by mailing donations to The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.
When someone doesn’t understand Hebrew asks me that the most accurate translation of the Bible, I find it difficult to suggest just one work. If you are really interested in the meaning of the words, the best way to study it is to compare two or three translations. Where the translations agree, it’s fairly safe to assume that no one is arguing about the meaning of those verses. Seeing where they disagree - use different words or have a different sentence structure - means the text is more problematic and not everyone agrees on its meaning.

All translation is interpretation, something noted in two recent works: Leonard Greenspoon’s “Jewish Bible Translations: Perspectives, Politics, Progress” (The Jewish Publication Society) and “The Bible Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently” by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler (HarperOne). Greenspoon, a professor at Creighton University, examines a wide variety of Jewish translations from ancient Greek-Roman times to the present day. While Levine, a professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School, and Brettler, a professor at Duke University, agree that every translation is an interpretation, their focus is on how one’s worldview and religious beliefs affect one’s understanding of the text. In their work, they compare and contrast the different ways Jews and Christians see and interpret the Bible.

Although Greenspoon’s book has a narrower range in that it’s interested only in Jewish translations, he does note one large difference between the way Jews and Christians view the biblical text. Even though not every Jew can read the Bible in its original Hebrew, the use of Hebrew text is considered extremely important, with both traditional and nontraditional contemporary Jewish movements reading from a Hebrew Torah scroll for religious services. He believes that unlike “contemporary Christians for whom the Bible is a Bible, in translation, not the Bible in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek…”, the Jewish Bible translation is intended as a practical or implicit replacement of the original. Jewish Bibles point to the original rather than attempt to replace it. In other words, they supplement but never supplant the original Hebrew.

Greenspoon discusses two major styles of translation - formal vs. functional - although the division is not complete since translators often use both styles in their work. Formal translations were once called literal translations - those that try to keep the same grammatical and sentence structure as the original Hebrew. Functional translations first look to understand what the text meant to its original readers and then use modern language to obtain that meaning even if their translation differs in syntax. Greenspoon notes that some translations add material that was not in the original text in order to explain the meaning of a verse, or change the format of the text to fit poetry, or poetry to prose. He wonders whether these works should be called translations rather than reinterpretations, but offers a few examples from so many readers can see just how greatly they differ from other types of translations. See “Bible” on page 7.
The 2021 YIVO-Bard Winter Program on Ashkenazi Civilization, “At the Turning Point,” will be held online from January 5-22. The deadline for registration is Monday, December 28. It will explores moments of critical transformation throughout the 20th century and beyond, while considering key inflection points in the realms of politics and culture. Among the topics to be cover are Stalin’s seizure of power and the growth of tyranny throughout the world; Yiddish children’s literature; the work of Argentine writer, essayist and poet Jorge Luis Borges; Ashkenazi heritage at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and the deliberate destruction of books across millennia. For more information or to register, visit https://yivo.org/Winter-Program.

The Jewish Publication Society will offer its “New Authorized Webinar Series, Part II: ‘Antisemitism and the Holocaust: New Dimensions’” free on Zoom. The second session, which will be held from 7-8:15 pm, will feature Rabbi Eva Sax-Bolder. “To sign up for the Sunday, December 20, session, which will be held from 7-8:15 pm, visit www.nmajh.org/registration. Link to those activities will be made available on that day at www.nmajh.org/ December25. This year’s event is called “Being ---- at Christmas.”

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of her husband, G. Paul Cohen

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Shirley Gilinsky
Israeli ventilation system may give COVID-19 the “smart” treatment

By Israel Hayom staff

Israel Hayom via JNS – An Israeli startup’s groundbreaking innovation may provide a much-needed remedy to the shortage of ventilators and the overwhelming of staff in COVID-19 wards.

“Yehonatan Medical, in collaboration with Professor Ori Efrati, director of the Pediatric Pulmonary Unit at the Sheba Medical Center at Tel HaShomer, devised a system that can treat between three and five patients simultaneously. “That means more patients treated by fewer ICU staff,” the company said in a statement.

“Conventional ventilators, aside from being very costly, are limited in that they can only be used with one patient at a time,” explained Efrati. “Their capacity factor and programming functions were designed for single-patient use, and there is also the danger of cross-contamination.”

According to Efrati, “we were able to use the relatively simple and inexpensive Bipap non-invasive ventilation machine as the basis for the Advanced Ventilation Technology.” He added that “thanks to the high-power output and built-in disinfecting mechanism, the new system can safely treat three to five patients simultaneously.”

Efrati declared the new development a “tremendous breakthrough is nothing less than a game-changer.”

The startup said that additional features based on artificial intelligence technology include the ability to create a hierarchy and classification of alerts, the ability for automatic, parameter correction according to set criteria and respiratory rehabilitation for the patient by adjusting to changes in the patient’s responsiveness.

Yehonatan Medical is the medical department of Mofet Ettzion, a company that for more than two decades has developed various security and military innovations for the Israel Defense Forces.

This article first appeared in Israel Hayom.

It pays to prep your tires for winter roads

(NewsUSA) – Driving safely in the winter can be a challenge, even for the most experienced driver. In fact, an alarming three in five winter drivers (61 percent) have lost control of their car during winter weather, according to a new winter driving survey by Michelin.

It comes as no surprise, then, that three-quarters of respondents reported feeling nervous on winter roads (77 percent), with 64 percent of drivers saying they avoid winter driving altogether if the forecast predicts snow. But you don’t have to avoid getting in your car in the winter. With a little preparation – starting from the ground up literally – you can travel safely even when the weather is less than ideal.

“Tires are one of the least-discussed safety devices on your vehicle, so many consumers aren’t aware of just how much they contribute to keeping you safe on the road,” says Ron Margadonna, Michelin winter tire expert.

Michelin urges all drivers to use the proper tires for their seasonal climate. Most cars these days come outfitted with all-season tires, but if you live in an area with severe winter conditions (heavy snow, ice or freezing temps), they may not be sufficient.

All-season tires are designed to perform well in a large range of conditions, but aren’t built to handle winter’s worst. Alternately, winter tires are designed to perform better in a wide range of wintry conditions, such as wet roads, snow, ice and freezing temps. They also improve your vehicle’s grip and performance in these conditions and shorten your braking distances for better safety.

For winter driving safety at all times, practice these tips:
1. Inspect your lights: Examine your headlights and brake lights to ensure that they’re fully functioning. This is especially important during winter fogs or heavy snow.
2. Make sure your wipers are in proper working condition. Buy washer fluid with antifreeze solution to protect visibility and ensure that windshield blades are in good working order.
3. Always have an emergency kit. Carry an emergency kit with gloves, blanket, flares, a shovel, flashlight, water, extra See “Tires” on page 5

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

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When it comes to the weather, the safety of your tires is a no-brainer. Michelin winter tires are designed to perform better in a wide range of wintry conditions, such as wet roads, snow, ice and freezing temps. They also improve your vehicle’s grip and performance in these conditions and shorten your braking distances for better safety.

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As discussed in a previous issue of The Reporter, Benny Friedman emerged in the 1920s as football’s first Jewish superstar. College sentiments at Michigan and the NFL’s first great pass, he subsequently accepted the position as head football coach at CCNY at the bequest of New York state senator and Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia. At CCNY, Friedman did as well as he probably could have with a resource-scanty football team at an institution better suited for track and field, lifting publicists and the then more Jewish-centric game of basketball. In his last 30s, Friedman left CCNY to enter the Navy. Rising to the rank of lieutenant commander, his three years of World War II service included duty aboard the aircraft carrier Shangri-La in the Pacific. Friedman still only 40 by war’s end, found invigorating business and coaching opportunities beckoning. Achievement and celebrity had defined the first half of Friedman’s life. Triumph and then tragedy would punctuate the second as well.

The year 1948 was a momentous one in Jewish history. For the first time in nearly 1,900 years, a Jewish homeland took its place in the nations of the world. Another dream was also realized. Named after the groundbreaking Jewish Supreme Court justice, Brandeis University – America’s first Jewish-sponsored, liberal arts university – opened its doors in Waltham, MA. Previously, American Jews had founded yeshivas and rabbinical schools, but never before a non-sectarian college that would welcome qualified faculty and students regardless of their religious backgrounds. Abram Sachar, the founding president of Brandeis University, believed that a viable athletic program was essential to the new school. Sports, Sachar felt, would underline Brandeis’ American identity, providing an antidote to the then popular image of an over intellectual, physically indifferent Jewry. Just as Sachar recruited big names to give the college were honored. As a result, in 1959, the football team in calisthenics. Confident of his own abilities and the direction of the program, Friedman dreamed that Brandeis would develop into a major athletic power. Despite the aspirations of Benny Friedman, others feared that the continued growth of athletics would weaken the academic atmosphere at Brandeis. Critics voiced misgivings about Friedman’s fund-raising activities. On the small Brandeis campus, special attention to athletes created re- sentment amongst many faculty and students. Support for football was curtailed. Athletic scholarships were limited, then abolished, although commitments to students already at the college were honored. As a result, in 1959, the football team, which had gone 6-1 only two years before, suffered through a miserable0-7-1 season. For the proud and talented, Friedman, autumn 1959 inflicted considerable pain. Friedman, however, remained vocal in his support for the football program, arguing that “a new generation of Jewish athletes...” would continue to wear the Blue and White. The historian Richard Hofstadter wrote that “the life of a man does not end as a series of propositions that can simply be assessed and found true or false, but as a set of lingering resonances that for our own sake we must be attuned to hear.” It is well to remember the pride that fellow Jews took in Benny Friedman’s collegiate and professional football heroics, as well as his pivotal role in establishing Brandeis as the first non-sectarian university founded by the Jewish-American community.

Benny Friedman, part II: The Jewish football superstar turned tragic hero

BIL SIMONS
**Facial recognition**

RABBI SUZANNE BRODY, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING, TEMPLE BETH-EL, ITHACA

Our ability to recognize others, however, is not foolproof. We sometimes mistake one person for another and even when we are certain that we recognize someone else, we may be wrong. For example, if someone is wearing a new pair of glasses or a new scarf, it can be difficult to recognize them.

One of the most important skills for forming and maintaining relationships is facial recognition. It is crucial for us to be able to distinguish one person from another. In addition, facial recognition is also important for personal and social interactions. For example, recognizing someone we know can help us feel more comfortable and connected.

Facial recognition is the process of recognizing a person from their face. This can be done using different methods, such as biometric recognition, which uses facial features such as the shape of the eyes, nose, and mouth to identify a person. Facial recognition technology is widely used in security applications, such as facial recognition systems in airports, and can also be used in social networking platforms to verify the identity of users.

However, facial recognition technology is not perfect and can sometimes fail. This is because facial recognition is based on the comparison of facial features with a database of facial images. If the image is not of high quality, or if the person's appearance has changed since the last time their facial features were recorded, the facial recognition technology may not be able to correctly identify the person.

In conclusion, facial recognition is an important skill for forming and maintaining relationships, but it is not foolproof. We should be aware of the limitations of facial recognition technology and use it responsibly.
Bhutan, Morocco to form diplomatic ties with Israel

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Israel and the Kingdom of Bhutan for the first time established diplomatic relations on December 12, 2020, in a process led by the foreign ministry.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Ne-
tanu announced the announcement, calling it “additional fruit of the peace agreements” concluded by Israel in Sep-
tember with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, according to a statement from his office.

In the context of the partnership, we are in contact with additional countries that want to join and establish relations with us,” he added.

The signing ceremony took place on December 12 in New Delhi, India, at the Israeli embassy, with the Israeli and Bhutanese ambassadors to India. A joint press release emphasizing the Bhutanese Foreign Ministry’s website said: “The establish-
ment of diplomatic relations would not only allow the existing close relations between their own scriptures and Christian interpre-

tations, but also open the path to greater cooperation and further strengthen relations between the two countries and peoples.”

Just a few days earlier, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that Morocco had agreed to normalize relations with Israel, following in the footsteps of the UAE and Bahrain. “Another HISTORIC breakthrough today! Our two GREAT FRIENDS, Israel and the Kingdom of Morocco, have agreed to full diplomatic relations – a massive breakthrough for peace in the Mid-
dle East!” tweeted Trump December 10.

The agreement is part of a deal in which the United States will recognize the disputed territory of Western Sahara as part of Mo-
rocco, becoming the only Western country to do so. The deal also includes agreeing to allow overflights and also direct flights to and from Israel for all Israelis.

White House senior adviser Jared Kush-
er told Reuters, “They are going reopen their liaison offices in Rabat and Tel Aviv immediately with the intention to open emb-
assies. And they are going to promote economic cooperation between Israeli and Moroccan companies.”

The development makes Morocco the fourth Arab country this year to recognize the Jewish state after the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan. These nations follow in the wake of the Egypt and Jordan, which made peace with Israel in 1979 and 1994, respectively.

December 18-31, 2020

Bhutan, Morocco to form diplomatic ties with Israel

Group of U.S. senators push for quadrupling nonprofit security funding

A group of U.S. senators is pushing for a fourfold increase in security funding for Jewish and other nonprofit institutions. Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY.), Rob Portman (R-OH.), Gary Peters (D-MI), Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and James Lankford (R-OK) sent a letter the week of Dec. 10 to the leaders of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittee on Homeland Security, calling for up to $360 million in fund-
ing for the National Strategy for Protecting Nonprofit Organizations from Terrorist Violence (NSGP). The NSGP, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, provides grants of up to $100,000 each to nonprofits at risk of terrorist attacks so they may improve building security by acquiring and installing items ranging from fences, lighting and video surveillance to metal detectors and blast-resistant doors, locks and windows.

Funding may also be used to train staff and pay for contracted security personnel.

These funds have become critical for the Jewish community in the aftermath of the 2018 mass shooting at the Tree of Life*Or L’simcha Synagogue in Pittsburgh, where 11 Jewish worshippers were killed; six months later, the April 27, 2019 shooting at the Chabad of Poway in Southern California, where one woman was killed and three others injured; and in the aftermath of a string of antisemitic attacks last year in New York and New Jersey.

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Lithuanian ambassador presents Netanyah with coin, stamps honoring Vilna Gaon

Lithuanian ambassador to Israel Lina Antonaviciene presented Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with a new Lithuanian coin on Dec. 8 bearing the name of the Vilna Gaon, Rabbi Eliezer ben Solomon Zalman. The ambassador also presented Netanyahu with a Lithuanian stamp honoring the Vilna Gaon. The stamp was released as part of the “Year of the Vilna Gaon.” Netanyahu accepted the gift on behalf of the Israeli government.

A song inviting Palestinians to carry out terrorist attacks against Israelis was aired in recent weeks on official Palestinian Authority TV, according to a Palestinian Media Watch report published on Dec. 8. “The Tune of the Homeland” is a Palestinian TV quiz show about Palestinian history.

Israel had initially expressed objections about the sale over concerns it could undermine its Qualitative Military Edge in the Middle East, it recently gave its approval to the sale. By law, U.S. arms sales to foreign countries can proceed unless Congress blocks it within 30 days of formally being notified of the proposed sale. The White House had notified Congress on Dec. 9, saying that Palestinian politics needed a “renewal.” Ashrawi said she was a critic of Israel in the international media and was involved in peace talks with the Jewish state. She has also been critical of the Palestinian leadership.

Lithuanian TV show features song explicitly calling for murder of Israelis

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